

Individual Resolutions Meeting of the Municipal Council Wednesday, January 29, 2025 RESOLUTION SUMMARY

<u>2025-89</u>

The first municipal deadline regarding affordable housing is January 31, 2025, by which the City must declare its fourth round affordable housing obligation via a Governing Body Resolution. We have 0 new construction obligation, but a rehab obligation of 214



City of Asbury Park County of Monmouth State of New Jersey

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK COMMITTING TO ROUND 4 PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the City has a demonstrated history of voluntary compliance as evidenced by its Round 3 record; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to <u>In re N.J.A.C. 5:96 and 5:97</u>, 221 <u>N.J.</u> 1 (2015) (<u>Mount Laurel</u> <u>IV</u>), on February 20, 2020, the City of Asbury Park (hereinafter "Asbury Park" or the "City") filed a Declaratory Judgment Complaint in Superior Court, Law Division seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (hereinafter "Fair Share Plan"), to be amended as necessary, satisfies its "fair share" of the regional need for low and moderate income housing pursuant to the "<u>Mount Laurel</u> doctrine;" and

WHEREAS, that culminated in a Court-approved Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and a Final Judgment of Compliance and Repose, which precludes builder's remedy lawsuits until July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law <u>P.L. 2024, c.2</u> (hereinafter "A4" or "Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, A4 determines the size of the regional need, but does not calculate allocation of the need to individual municipalities; and

WHEREAS, instead, A4 required the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") to produce non-binding estimates of need on or before October 20, 2024, which it did provide on October 18, 2024 ("DCA Report"); and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculates the City's Round 4 (2025-2035) obligations as follows: a Present Need or Rehabilitation Obligation of 214 units and a Prospective Need or New Construction Obligation of 0 units, as the City is a Qualified Urban Aid Municipality ("QUAM"); and

WHEREAS, A4 further provides that, irrespective of the DCA's calculation, municipalities are to determine "present and prospective fair share obligation(s)...by binding resolution no later than January 31, 2025"; and

WHEREAS, this resolution satisfies the requirements of A4 by accepting the DCA estimate of need as described in the DCA Report; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of A4 provides that: "the municipality's determination of its fair share obligation shall have a presumption of validity, if established in accordance with sections 6 and 7" of A4; and

WHEREAS, City's calculation of need is entitled to a "presumption of validity" because it complies with Sections 6 and 7 of A4; and

WHEREAS, the City specifically reserves the right to adjust those numbers based on one or any of the foregoing adjustments: 1) a windshield survey or similar survey which accounts for a higher-resolution estimate of present need; 2) a Vacant Land Adjustment predicated upon a lack of vacant, developable and suitable land; 3) a Durational Adjustment (whether predicated upon lack of sewer or lack of water); and/or 4) an adjustment predicated upon regional planning entity formulas, inputs or considerations, including, but not limited to the Highlands Regional Master Plan and its build out, the Pinelands or Meadowlands regulations and planning document; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, the City reserves the right to take a position that its Round 4 Present Obligation is lower than described herein in the event that a third party challenges the calculations provided for in this Resolution (a reservation of all litigation rights and positions, without prejudice); and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Mayor and Council finds that it is in the best interest of City to declare its obligations in accordance with this binding resolution and in accordance with the Act and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, the Acting Administrative Director issued Directive #14-24, dated December 13, 2024, and made the directive available later in the week that followed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Directive #14-24, a municipality seeking a certification of compliance with the Act shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint ". . . within 48 hours after adoption of the municipal resolution of fair share obligations, or by February 3, 2025, whichever is sooner"; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this Resolution shall be interpreted as an acknowledgment of the legal validity of the AOC Directive and the City reserves any and all rights and remedies in relation to the AOC Directive; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks a certification of compliance with the Act and, therefore, directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to file a declaratory relief action within 48 hours of the adoption of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. All of the Whereas Clauses are incorporated into the operative clauses of this resolution.

2. The Mayor and Council hereby commit to the DCA Round 4 Present Need Obligation of 214 units and the Round 4 Prospective Need Obligation of zero (0) units as described in this resolution subject to all reservations of rights, which specifically include:

a) The right to adjust the number based on a windshield survey, lack of land, sewer, water, regional planning inputs, or any combination thereof;

b) As described in the WHEREAS section, all rights to revoke or amend this resolution in the event of a successful legal challenge, or legislative change, to A4;

c) All rights to take any contrary position in the event of a third party challenge to the obligations.

- 3. The City hereby directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to file a declaratory judgment complaint within 48 hours after adoption this resolution attaching this resolution.
- 4. The City hereby directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to file this Resolution with the "Program" pursuant to the requirements on A4.
- 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

I, ANTHONY CUCCI, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, New Jersey, DO HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of RESOLUTION NO. 2025-89 which was finally adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on the 29th day of January, 2025

CERTIFIED BY ME THIS 30th DAY OF January, 2025.

Anthony Cucci, Deputy City Clerk

1/30/2025

ANTHONY CUCCI DEPUTY CITY CLERK

✓ Vote Record - Resolution 2025-89						
AdoptedAdopted as Amended			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
□ Defeated	Angela Ahbez-Anderson	Voter	V			
□ Tabled	Eileen Chapman	Seconder	V			
U Withdrawn	Yvonne Clayton	Mover	V			
□ Second Reading	Amy Quinn	Voter	V			
Resolution Failed for Lack of Seconder	John Moor	Voter	V			