



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION 25-045

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, COMMITTING TO COMPLY WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS FOR ROUND 4

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law an Amendment to the Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.) (hereinafter "Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA requires the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") to produce non-binding estimates of fair share obligations on or before October 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the DCA issued a report on October 18, 2024 ("DCA Report") wherein it reported its estimate of the obligation for all municipalities based upon its interpretation of the standards in the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report identifies the Borough's Present Need, also referred to as its Rehabilitation Obligation, as 0 and its Round 4 Prospective Need as 30; and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA provides that the DCA Report is non-binding, thereby inviting municipalities to demonstrate that the Amended FHA would support lower calculations of Round 4 affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA further provides that "[a]ll parties shall be entitled to rely upon regulations on municipal credits, adjustments, and compliance mechanisms adopted by COAH unless those regulations are contradicted by statute, including P.L. 2024, c.2, or binding court decisions" (N.J.S.A 52:27D-311 (m)); and

WHEREAS, COAH regulations authorize vacant land adjustments as well as durational adjustments; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the Borough of Highlands accepts the DCA calculations of its fair share obligations and commits to its fair share of 0 units present need and 30 units prospective need for Round 4 subject to any vacant land and/or durational adjustments it may seek as part of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan it submits by the June 30, 2025 deadline the Amended FHA establishes; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands reserves the right to comply with any additional amendments to the FHA that the Legislature may enact; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands also reserves the right to adjust its position in the event of any rulings in the Montvale case (MER-L-1778-24) or any other such action that alters the deadlines and/or requirements of the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a third party challenges the calculations provided for in this Resolution, the Borough of Highlands reserves the right to take such position as it deems appropriate in response thereto, including that its Round 4 Present or Prospective Need Obligations should be lower than described herein; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Borough of Highlands finds that it is in the best interest of the Borough to declare its commitment to the obligations reported by the DCA on October 18, 2024 subject to the reservations set forth herein; 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 FHA shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint in the county in which the municipality is located within 48 hours after adoption of the municipal resolution of fair share obligations, or by February 3, 2025, whichever is sooner” and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands seeks a certification of compliance with the FHA and, therefore, directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to file a declaratory relief action within 48 hours of the adoption of this resolution in Monmouth County and with the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 15th day of January, 2025 by the Borough of Highlands as follows:

1. All of the above Whereas Clauses are incorporated into the operative clauses of this resolution.
2. The Borough of Highlands hereby commits to the obligations the DCA reported on October 18, 2024, 0 units for the Present Need or rehab obligation and 30 for the Round 4 Prospective Need subject to all reservations of rights, which specifically include:
 - a. The right to a vacant land adjustment or a durational adjustment in accordance with COAH regulations;
 - b. The right to comply with the NJILGA Legislation or any other legislation that modifies its rights and obligations under current laws;

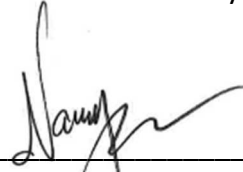
- c. The right to adjust its obligations based upon any ruling in the Montvale litigation or any other litigation; and
 - d. The right to adjust its obligations in the event of a third party challenge to the obligations of the Borough of Highlands and the Borough defends itself.
3. The Borough of Highlands hereby directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to file a declaratory judgment complaint in Monmouth County within 48 hours after adoption of this resolution attaching this resolution.
 4. The Borough of Highlands authorizes its Affordable Housing Counsel to attach this resolution as an exhibit to the declaratory judgment action that is filed and to submit and/or file this resolution with the Program or any other such entity as may be determined to be appropriate.
 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

Motion to Approve R 25-045:

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CERVANTES			X			
CHELAK		X	X			
MELNYK			X			
OLSZEWSKI			X			
BROULLON	X		X			

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF VOTE: January 15, 2025



Nancy Tran, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Highlands