

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF
RAMSEY ADOPTING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND
FAIR SHARE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Ramsey (hereinafter the “Borough” or “Ramsey”) has a demonstrated history of voluntary compliance as evidenced by its Third Round record; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to In re N.J.A.C. 5:96 and 5:97, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (Mount Laurel IV), on July 2, 2015, the Borough of Ramsey filed a Declaratory Judgment Complaint in Superior Court, Law Division seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, to be amended as necessary, satisfied its “fair share” of the regional need for low and moderate income housing pursuant to the “Mount Laurel doctrine;” and

WHEREAS, that culminated in a Court-approved Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and a Final Judgment of Compliance and Repose, which precludes all Mount Laurel lawsuits, including builder’s remedy lawsuits, until July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough continues to actively implement its Court-approved Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2024, c.2, which amended the 1985 New Jersey Fair Housing Act (hereinafter the “Amended FHA”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough adopted a “binding resolution” challenging the DCA-calculated Present Need and Prospective Need, as required by the Amended FHA, on January 22, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of 51 and Prospective Need of 351; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA and the Administrative Office of the Court’s Directive No. 14-24, the Borough filed a timely Fourth Round Declaratory Judgment complaint (“DJ Complaint”) with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (“the Program”), along with its binding resolution, on January 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the filing of the DJ Complaint gave the Borough automatic, continued immunity from all exclusionary zoning lawsuits, including builder’s remedy lawsuits, which is still in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received objections to its Fourth Round affordable housing obligations established in the DJ Complaint and resolution on February 28, 2025 from Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”) and the New Jersey Builder’s Association, which required settlement negotiations between the Borough and the objectors; and

WHEREAS, the settlement negotiations resulted in the entering into of a Mediation Agreement between the Borough and the objector, FSHC, that established agreed upon adjusted Fourth Round obligations, which was subsequently approved via a resolution adopted by the Borough on March 26, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2025, the Court entered an order establishing the Borough’s Fourth Round Present Need of 51 and Prospective Need of 450; and

WHEREAS, now that the Borough has its Fourth Round Obligations, the Amended FHA requires the municipality to adopt a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan by June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA, the Borough's affordable housing planner drafted a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board determined that the attached Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Borough's current Master Plan, and that adoption and implementation of the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan is in the public interest and protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Planning Board hereby adopts the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A.



Joseph Carey, Vice Chairman of the Planning Board

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Planning Board of the Borough of Ramsey at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of June 2025.



Judith Cusick, Planning Board Secretary