TOWNSHIP OF WILLINGBORO COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #2025 - 169 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILLINGBORO ENDORSING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Township of Willingboro (hereinafter the "Township" or "Willingboro") 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 June 12, 2015, the Township of Willingboro 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 <u>Mount Laurel</u> lawsuits, including builder's remedy lawsuits, until July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township 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 Township adopted a "binding resolution" accepting the DCA-calculated Present Need and Prospective Need, as required by the Amended FHA, on January 21, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of 16 and Prospective Need of 77; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA and the Administrative Office of the Court's Directive No. 14-24, the Township 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 23, 2025; and

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

WHEREAS, the Township did not receive any objections to its Present and Prospective Need numbers by February 28, 2025, resulting in the statutory automatic acceptance of the Township's Fourth Round obligations on March 1, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, on April 8, 2025, the Court entered an order establishing the Township's Fourth Round Present Need of 16 and Prospective Need of 77; and

WHEREAS, now that the Township 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 Township's affordable housing planner drafted a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 9, 2025 and adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan via a resolution on that same night; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Administrative Director of the AOC issued Directive #14-24 on December 19, 2024, which stated that the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan should be endorsed by the municipal governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to endorse the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Willingboro, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The Township Council hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, which was adopted by the Township's Planning Board on June 9, 2025.
- 2. The Township Council hereby directs the Township's Affordable Housing Counsel to (a) file with the Program and the Court, the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan if it has not done so already, along with any additional documents the professionals deem necessary or desirable and (b) seek Program and Court approval of the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan via a Compliance Certification.
- 3. The Township reserves the right to further amend the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.

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CERTIFICATION

I, SAMANTHA SAVINO, DO HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution that was adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Willingboro at the Regular Meeting on **June 17, 2025.**

Samantha Savino, RMC

Township Clerk

APPROVED:

Samantha E. Whitfield

Mayor

RESOLUTION 2025-169						
COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABST	ABSENT
Councilwoman Perrone			X			
Councilman Anderson		X	X			
Councilwoman McIntosh			X			
Deputy Mayor Dr. Worthy	X		X			
Mayor Whitfield			X			