

RESOLUTION NO. 09-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING/ZONING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH
OF WEST CAPE MAY ADOPTING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING
ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Cape May (hereinafter the “Borough” or “West Cape May”) 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 West Cape May 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” accepting 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 zero (“0”) and Prospective Need of 11; 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 did not receive any objections to its Present and Prospective Need numbers by February 28, 2025, resulting in the statutory automatic acceptance of the Borough’s Fourth Round obligations on March 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2025, the Court entered an order establishing the Borough’s Fourth Round Present Need of zero (“0”) and Prospective Need of 11; 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/Zoning Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning/Zoning 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.

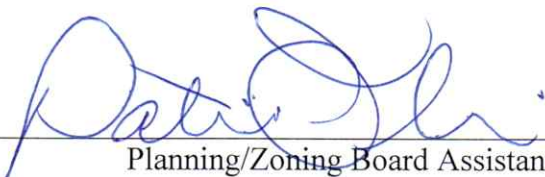
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning/Zoning Board of the Borough of West Cape May, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that the Planning/Zoning Board hereby adopts the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A.



Chair of the Planning/Zoning Board

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Planning/Zoning Board of Borough of West Cape May at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of June, 2025.



Planning/Zoning Board Assistant