BOROUGH OF WEST WILDWOOD CAPE MAY COUNTY NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 2025-086

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST WILDWOOD ENDORSING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Wildwood (hereinafter the "Borough" or "West Wildwood") 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 April 2, 2019, the Borough of West Wildwood 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 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 16, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of 8 and Prospective Need of 4; 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 17, 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 8 and Prospective Need of 4; 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; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on May 15, 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 Board of Commissioners wishes to endorse the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Wildwood, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, as follows:
 - 1. The Board of Commissioners hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, which was adopted by the Borough's Planning Board on May 15, 2025.
 - 2. The Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Borough'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 Borough reserves the right to further amend the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Matthew J. Ksiazek	X		Х			
Commissioner Jane E. DiMattia			X			
Commissioner Joseph D. Segrest		Х	Х			

I, **Donna L. Frederick, RMC, Municipal Clerk** for the Borough of West Wildwood in the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Wildwood, New Jersey at a **Regular Meeting** held on **June 6, 2025.**

Donna L. Frederick, RMC Municipal Clerk