## **RESOLUTION NO. 112-25**

## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON ENDORSING THE FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN AS ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON PLANNING BOARD

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:27D-301, <u>et seq</u>. ("FHA") was amended on March 20, 2024 pursuant to P.L. 2024, c. 2, and required the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") to calculate the Fourth Round Present and Prospective Need Obligation of municipalities within the State and established the New Jersey Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the "Program"); and

WHEREAS, the DCA issued a Fourth Round Report in October 2024 calculating each municipality's present and prospective affordable housing need obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts issued Directive #14-24 dated December 13, 2024 ("AOC Dir. #14-24) promulgating procedures and guidelines implementing the Program; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2025, the City Council of the City of Bridgeton (the "City") adopted Resolution No. 45-25 accepting the DCA's calculation of the City's Fourth Round Present Need (Rehabilitation) Obligation of 290 affordable units and Fourth Round Prospective Need Obligation of zero (0) affordable units as a qualified urban aid municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the FHA, AOC Dir. #14-24, and Resolution No. 45-25, the City filed a Declaratory Judgment action with the Program under Docket No. CUM-L-93-25 requesting the Court to confirm its aforesaid present and prospective affordable housing obligations, to declare the City's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan constitutionally compliant, and seeking protection and repose against exclusionary zoning litigation for a ten (10)-year period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2035; and

WHEREAS, no parties challenged the City's present and prospective need obligations; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2025, the Honorable Robert G. Malestein, P.J.Ch. entered an Order establishing the City's Present Need Obligation as 290 affordable units and prospective need obligation as zero (0) affordable units; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AOC Dir. #14-24, after the entry of an order determining present and prospective fair share obligations, the City is required to file its adopted Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with the Program within 48 hours after adoption (or endorsement by City Council) or by June 30, 2025, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, the City's Planning Board adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a true copy of the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, a true copy of the Resolution of the Planning Board adopting the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan is annexed hereto as Exhibit "B";

**NOW, THEREOFRE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Cumberland County, State of New Jersey, hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan as adopted by the City of Bridgeton Planning Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this adopted resolution and Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan be filed in the Cumberland County Superior Court and with the Program within 48 hours after adoption of this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City's professionals are directed to continue to take the actions necessary to continue participating in the Program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Bridgeton that this resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage, and that the original resolution shall be filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

**ATTEST:** 

Nichole Almanza, RMC, CMR Municipal Clerk

Edward Bethea, Council President

**APPROVED:** 

Albert B. Kelly, Mayor

EXHIBIT "A"

City of Bridgeton's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

(separately filed)

## EXHIBIT "B"

Bridgeton Planning Board Resolution Adopting Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

(filed with Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan)