

RESOLUTION

R-121-2025

BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL ENDORSING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Caldwell (hereinafter the "Borough" or "North Caldwell") 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 North Caldwell 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 28, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of Zero ("0") and Prospective Need of 118; 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 Court and the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("the Program"), along with its binding resolution, on January 29, 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 Obligations 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 24, 2025, the Court entered an order establishing the Borough's Fourth Round Present Need of Zero ("0") and Prospective Need of 118; and

WHEREAS, now that the Borough has its Fourth Round Obligations, the Amended FHA requires the municipality to adopt and file 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, the Borough Planning Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 16, 2025, and adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share

Plan via a resolution on that same night; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to endorse the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan that was adopted by the Planning Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

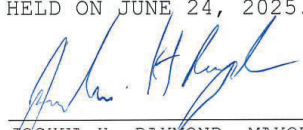
1. The Borough Council hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, which was adopted by the Borough Planning Board on June 16, 2025.
2. The Borough Council hereby directs the Borough's Affordable Housing Counsel to seek Program and Court approval of the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan via a Compliance Certification, and to take whatever actions are necessary to maintain the Borough's immunity from all Mount Laurel exclusionary zoning lawsuits.
3. The Borough reserves the right to further amend the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.

Moved By: Council President Floria-Callori
Seconded By: Councilman Atlas

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
ATLAS	X				STROEVER				X
FLORIA-CALLORI	X				TILTON	X			
REES	X				WEINSTEIN	X			

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL AT A MEETING OF SAID COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 24, 2025.


TAMI MICHELOTTI, BOROUGH CLERK


JOSHUA H. RAYMOND, MAYOR