

**WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 231**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD ENDORSING A FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN**

**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 of West Deptford (hereinafter "Township" or "West Deptford") adopted a "binding resolution" accepting the DCA-calculated Present Need and Prospective Need, as required by the Amended FHA, on January 15, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of 42 and Prospective Need of 260; 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 Court and the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("the Program"), along with its binding resolution, on January 16, 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 Obligations by February 28, 2025, resulting in the statutory automatic acceptance of the Township's Fourth Round obligations on March 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2025, the Court entered an order establishing the Township's Fourth Round Present Need of 42 and Prospective Need of 260; and

**WHEREAS**, now that the Township 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 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 24, 2025 and adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan via a resolution on that same night; and


**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee 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 Committee of the Township of West Deptford, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, as follows:


1. The Township Committee hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, which was adopted by the Township's Planning Board on June 24, 2025.
2. The Township Committee hereby directs the Township'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 Township's immunity from all Mount Laurel exclusionary zoning lawsuits.
3. The Township reserves the right to further amend the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.

**ADOPTED** at the meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford held on June 25, 2025.

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD**

  
JAMES P. MEHAFFEY, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Lee Ann DeHart, Registered Municipal Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Lee Ann DeHart, Registered Municipal Clerk, of the Township of West Deptford, in the County of Gloucester, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting of the Township of West Deptford held on June 25, 2025.

  
Lee Ann DeHart, Registered Municipal Clerk