RESOLUTION OF THE LAND USE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALEXANDRIA, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, APPROVING AND ADOPTING A HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN TO SATISFY THE TOWNSHIP'S FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATION

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2024, c.2, which amended the 1985 New Jersey Fair Housing Act ("Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, the Township adopted a "binding resolution" committing to a Present Need obligation of zero (0) units and a Prospective Need obligation of forty-nine (49) units based on the Township's Affordable Housing Planner, David Banisch, P.P., A.I.C.P. ("Planner")'s calculations using the methodology in the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA and the Administrative Office of the Court's Directive No. 14-24 ("Directive #14-24"), the Township filed a timely Fourth Round Declaratory Judgment complaint ("DJ Complaint") with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("Program"), along with its binding resolution, on January 31, 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 New Jersey Builders Association ("NJBA") filed a timely challenge to the DJ Action; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Thomas C. Miller, J.S.C. (Ret.) was assigned to manage the proceedings, host settlement conferences, and make recommendations to the Mount Laurel Judge of Hunterdon Vicinage; and

WHEREAS, the Township was unable to reach a settlement agreement with NJBA after a settlement conference and a session hosted by Judge Miller; and

WHEREAS, Judge Miller conducted a hearing on March 25, 2025 and took testimony from the Township Planner, David J. Banisch, P.P., AICP, and heard argument from the Township's Affordable Housing Counsel, John C. Gillespie, Esquire, and Steven P. Goodell, Esquire; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2025, Judge Miller provided a Statement of Reasons recommending that the Township's Prospective Need obligation be set at forty-nine (49) units with a caveat that should the Salvation Army's "Camp Tecumseh" property become available for development by virtue of a change in use or sale within the period of the Fourth Round, that the Township's Prospective Share be revisited; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2025, the Honorable William G. Mennen, J.S.C., the designated Mount Laurel Judge for the Hunterdon Vicinage, issued a decision and order adopting Judge Miller's Statement of Reasons; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Amended FHA and Directive #14-24, the municipality must adopt a housing element and fair share plan as provided for by the "Fair Housing Act," P.L. 1985, c. 222 by June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township Planner has drafted a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("HEFSP"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28, the Township of Alexandria Land Use Board ("Board") may prepare and adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, after a public hearing, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects health and safety and promotes the general welfare; and

WHEREAS, upon notice in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13, the Board held a public hearing on June 26, 2025, on the adoption of the Fourth Round HEFSP as required by the Municipal Land Use Law. Said hearing was attended by the Planner, who was duly sworn, and provided testimony regarding the Fourth Round HEFSP; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was opened to the public, and the opportunity for comments and questions was provided; and

WHEREAS, during the hearing, Mr. Banisch testified that the Fourth Round HEFSP as presented ought to be amended with respect to a mathematical error on Table 4, page. 10. Specifically, the column pertaining to the total remaining zone capacity allocatable to Round 4 should read "78" (which is the conservative number, as explained at the hearing) instead of 88, and the Board agrees with this amendment;

WHEREAS, the Board determined that the Fourth Round HEFSP is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Township's current Master Plan, and that adoption and implementation of the Fourth Round HEFSP is in the public interest and protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Land Use Board of the Township of Alexandria, acting in its capacity as Planning Board, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

- 1. That the above recitals are incorporated and made a part hereof as if set forth at length herein.
- 2. That the Land Use Board hereby adopts the Fourth Round HEFSP, attached hereto as Exhibit A, with the afore-described amendment to Table 4 on page. 10; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land Use Board of the Township of Alexandria adopts this resolution to memorialize the action taken by the Board following the close of the public hearing on June 26, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of the adopted Fourth Round HEFSP and a certified copy of this Resolution to the governing body together with this Board's request that the governing body endorse the adopted Fourth Round HEFSP.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN AFTER FINDING THAT IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE MASTER PLAN.

(June 26, 2025)

Moved By: Rochelle Seconded By: Savacool

Those in Favor: Rochelle, Pauch, Canavan, Kiernan, Arancio, Giannone, Hahola, Savacool,

Miller.

Those Opposed: None

Those Absent or Recused: Papazian, Freedman, Tucker, Gara.

I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Land Use Board of the Township of Alexandria, Hunterdon County, New Jersey at a public meeting held on June 26, 2025.

Leigh Gronau, Secretary

Alexandria Township Land Use Board

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