

July 17, 2025

Resolution #2025.69

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT
AND FAIR SHARE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Township of Bethlehem (hereinafter the “Township”) has a demonstrated history of voluntary compliance with its affordable housing requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:96 and 5:97, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (Mount Laurel IV), the Township filed a Declaratory Judgment Complaint in the Superior Court, Law Division, Hunterdon County, seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, to be amended as necessary, satisfied its “fair share,” of the regional need for low and moderate housing pursuant to the “Mt. 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 Township continues to incorporate and 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 Fair Share Housing Act (hereinafter the “Amended FHA”); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA in the Administrative Office of the Courts Directive #14-24, the Township filed a timely Fourth Round Declaratory Judgment Complaint (“DJ Complaint”) with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the “Program”) on February 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in a binding Resolution and the DJ Complaint the Township did not dispute the 4th Round prospective need obligation calculated by the Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, an Order was entered by The Honorable William G. Mennen of the Superior Court establishing same on April 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township authorized the preparation of a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan to be prepared by the Board Planner, Michael Davis, P.P. of Heyer, Gruel & Associates; and

WHEREAS, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13 that the Land Use Board of the Township held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on the 23rd day of June 2025, the Land Use Board adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and recommended it to the Mayor and Council for endorsement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 17th day of July 2025, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Bethlehem, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan as adopted by the Township of Bethlehem Land Use Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Bethlehem, pursuant to the Amended FHA and NJAC 5:97-2.1(a), submit this Resolution for compliance certification for its Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligation.

Introduced	Seconded	Township Committee	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
	✓	Richard Cotton	✓			
		Robert Kenny	✓			
		Paul Lenzi				✓
✓		Judy Nelson	✓			
		Paul Muir	✓			



PAUL MUIR, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Christine Dispenza, Municipal Clerk

CERTIFICATION

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM AT A MEETING OF SAID COMMITTEE HELD ON JULY 17, 2025.


Christine Dispenza, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

