#25-276

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENDORSING THE 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 ("Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Amended FHA and the Administrative Office of the Court's Directive No. 14-24 ("Directive 14-24"), the Township of Manchester ("Township") Council adopted Resolution #25-80, accepting the DCA-calculated Present Need and Prospective Need, on January 27, 2025, establishing its Fourth Round Present Need of one hundred and fifty-four (154) units and Prospective Need of four hundred and twelve (412) units; and

WHEREAS, the Township filed a timely Fourth Round Declaratory Judgment action ("DJ Action") with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("Program"), along with its binding resolution, on January 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the filing of the DJ Action 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 numbers by February 28, 2025, resulting in the statutory automatic acceptance of the Township's Fourth Round obligations on March 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2025, the court prepared an order fixing the Township's obligation and authorizing the Township to proceed with preparing and adopting its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for the Fourth Round; and WHEREAS, the Township's Affordable Housing Planner, Daniel Bloch, PP, AICP, EADA, has prepared a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("Fourth Round HEFSP") pursuant to the Amended FHA and Directive 14-24, that addresses the Township's Fourth Round affordable housing obligation; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Manchester Planning Board ("Board"), at a duly noticed meeting held on June 18, 2025, reviewed the Fourth Round HEFSP and determined that it was consistent with the Master Plan and that implementation of the Fourth Round HEFSP is in the public interest and would promote the general welfare and, by Resolution No. 2025-10, dated June 18, 2025, adopted the Fourth Round HEFSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Manchester, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, on this 23rd day of June 2025, that:

- 1. The Township Council hereby endorses the Fourth Round HEFSP as adopted by the Board as an amendment to the Township's Master Plan and agrees to implement the Fourth Round HEFSP by adopting applicable ordinances.
- 2. The Mayor and Township Clerk, together with all other officers, professionals and employees of the Township are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.
- 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Teri Giercyk, Clerk of the Township of Manchester, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be at true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council on the 23rd day of June 2025.

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC

Municipal clerk