

# EXHIBIT A

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE TOWNSHIP'S PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE FAIR SHARE OBLIGATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE FOURTH 10-YEAR PERIOD OF 2025-2035 AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACTION SEEKING A CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAIR HOUSING ACT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20**

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2024, Governor Philip D. Murphy signed into law amendments to the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:37D-301 et. sec., requiring the Department of Community Affairs (hereafter "DCA") to conduct a calculation of regional need and municipal present and prospective fair share obligations for affordable housing in accordance with the formulas established in N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.3 beginning with the fourth 10-year round of housing obligations beginning July 1, 2025, (hereafter "Fourth Round") and to render a report with regards to the same; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs published its report in October 2024, (hereafter "DCA Report"); and,

**WHEREAS**, the DCA Report calculated the Township's Fourth Round (2025-2035) fair share affordable housing obligation as a present need of 0 and a prospective need of 31; and,

**WHEREAS**, the DCA Report is not binding upon the municipalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Amended Fair Housing Act further provides that "[a]ll parties shall be entitled to rely upon regulations on municipal credits, adjustments and compliance mechanisms adopted by the Council on Affordable Housing ("COAH") unless those regulations are contradicted by statute, including P.L. 2024, c.2, or binding court decisions" (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311(m)); and,

**WHEREAS**, COAH regulations also empower municipalities to secure vacant land adjustments, durational adjustment and other adjustments; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(3)(f)(1), with consideration of the calculation contained in the aforesaid DCA Report, each municipality must determine its present and prospective fair share obligation for affordable housing in accordance with the formulas established in sections N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.3 by resolution, which describes the basis for the municipality's determination and bind the municipality to adopt a housing element and fair share plan pursuant to paragraph 2 of N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(3)(f); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township has reviewed the DCA Report titled Affordable Housing Obligations for 2025-2035 (Fourth Round) Methodology and Background, and its supporting documents; and,

**WHEREAS**, based upon the foregoing, Hope Township accepts the DCA calculations of Hope Township's fair share obligations and commits to its fair share of 0 present need units and 31 prospective need units subject to any vacant land and/or durational adjustment it may seek as part

of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan it subsequently submits in accordance with the Amended Fair Housing Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township is aware of certain litigation before the Courts and potential additional changes to the Fair Housing Act, and therefore reserves the right to adjust its obligation based upon any adjudication in the Courts, change in legislation, change in methodology or DCA Report, in the event of a Third-Party challenge, and commits to the within obligation numbers subject to all reservations of rights; and,

**WHEREAS**, in light of the above, the Township Committee of Hope Township finds it is in the best interest of Hope Township to declare its commitment to the Present Need obligation and Prospective Need Obligation reported in the DCA Report, subject to the reservations set forth herein; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Directive #14-24, a municipality seeking a certification of compliance with the Fair Housing Act shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint in which the municipality is located within 48 hours after adoption of this resolution in Warren County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. All of the above Whereas Clauses are incorporated into the operative clauses of this resolution.

2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(3)(f)(1) and in conformance with the formulas set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2 and N.J.S.A. 52:37D-304.3, the Township Committee of Hope Township commits to the present fair share obligation for affordable housing of 0 units and prospective fair share obligation for affordable housing of 31 units based upon the DCA Report, for the Fourth Round, subject to all reservation of rights, including but not limited to the following:

- a. The right to a vacant land adjustment, durational adjustments, and all other applicable adjustments permitted.
- b. The right to comply with any future changes in legislation that changes its obligations under current law including any additional changes to the Fair Housing Act.
- c. The right to adjust the fair share obligations in the event of any future legislation that adjusts the fair share obligations as set forth in the DCA Report calculations.
- d. The right to adjust its fair share obligation based on any future adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- e. The right to adjust its fair share obligation in the event of a Third-Party challenge to the fair share obligations and Hope Township's response, including that its prospective need obligation should be lower than described herein.



3. The Township Attorney is hereby authorized to file a Declaratory Judgment action with Warren County seeking a certification of compliance as to the Township’s Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligations, which action shall be filed within 48 hours of the adoption of this resolution and attaching this resolution as an exhibit.

4. A certified copy of this resolution along with the filing date of the Declaratory Judgment action shall be published on the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program or any other such entity a may be determined to be appropriate. A certified copy of the resolution shall be posted on the municipal website.

5. The Township shall adopt a housing element and fair share plan based upon the need obligations as determined in this resolution and as may be adjusted by the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(3)(f)(2) or as may be subsequently adjusted based upon the reservation of rights.

6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

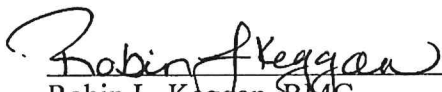
Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

CERTIFICATION

I, Robin L. Keggan, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Township of Hope Committee on January 22, 2025.

  
Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Hope Township Clerk