

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**ENDORSEMENT THE FOURTH ROUND HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE
PLAN PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-44

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope (hereinafter the "Township") has a demonstrated history of voluntary compliance regarding its affordable housing obligation as evidenced in its Third Round record; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 5:96 and 5:97, 221 *N.J.* 1 (2015) (Mount Laurel IV) on January 23, 2015, the Township of Hope filed a Declaratory Judgment Complaint in the Superior Court, Law Division, seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, to be amended as necessary, satisfied its "fair share," of the regional need for low- and moderate-income housing pursuant to the "Mount 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 entered on September 30, 2022, which precluded all Mount Laurel lawsuits including builder's remedy lawsuits until July 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Township continues to actively implement the Court approved Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and,

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2004, c.2 which amended the 1985 New Jersey Fair Share Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 25:27D-301, et seq.) (hereinafter the "Amended FHA"); and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs issued a report on October 18, 2024 (hereinafter "DCA Report") wherein it reported its estimate of the Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligations for all municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculates the Township's Fourth Round (2025-2035) obligations as follows: a Present Need (Rehabilitation) Obligation of 0 and a Prospective Need Obligation (New Construction) of 31; and,

WHEREAS, the Township adopted a binding Resolution accepting the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) calculated present need and prospective need obligations as required by the Amended FHA on January 22, 2025, establishing the Fourth Round present need obligation at 0 and the prospective need obligation at 31; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Amended FHA and the Administrative Office of the Court's Directive #14-24, the Township filed a timely Fourth Round Declaratory Judgment Complaint ("DJ Complaint") with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the "Program") along with its binding Resolution on January 23, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the filing of the DJ Complaint gave the Township automatic, continued immunity, from all exclusionary zoning lawsuits including builder's remedies lawsuits which is still in full force and effect; and,

WHEREAS, the Township did not receive any objections to its present or prospective need numbers by February 28, 2025, resulting in a statutory presumption of validity of the Township's Fourth Round obligations on March 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2025, the Court entered an Order establishing the Township's Fourth Round present need obligation of 0 and prospective need obligation of 31; and,

WHEREAS, now that the Township has its Fourth-Round obligations established, and the Amended FHA requires that the municipality adopt 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, Michael Davis, of Heyer, Gruel & Associates, drafted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and,

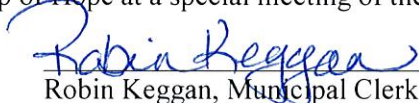
WHEREAS, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D -13, the Land Use Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 17, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Land Use Board determined after hearing testimony from its Planner and the public, that the attached Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan was consistent with the goals and objectives of the Township's current Master Plan, as well as in compliance with the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.) and the Mount Laurel doctrine, and that adoption and implementation of the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan was in the public interest and protects the public's health and safety and promotes the general welfare and therefore adopted the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan at its special meeting on June 17, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this day 17th of June 2025, by the Mayor and governing body of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that it hereby endorses the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan previously adopted by the Land Use Board of the Township of Hope on June 17th, 2025. A copy of the adopting resolution by the Land Use Board of the Township of Hope is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

CERTIFICATION

I, Robin Keggan, the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren, and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Hope at a special meeting of the Township of Hope on June 17, 2025.


Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mayor McDonough

Roll Call: Kruk - absent

Urfer - yes

McDonough - yes