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Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: June 18, 2025

Borough of Washington, Warren County

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: WARREN COUNTY

DOCKET NO.: WRN-L-41-25

Civil Action

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

FILING OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH LAND USE BOARD ON JUNE 16, 2025

On behalf of plaintiff, the Borough of Washington, the following is filed with eCourts and pursuant to the Program's Administrative Directive #14-24:

1. The Borough of Washington Resolution 2025-108, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, endorsing the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan adopted buy the Borough Land Use Board on June 16, 2025 with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program and incorporating herein in its entirety the Borough's Land Use Board's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with Appendix adopted by the Land Use Board on June 16, 2025 and previously filed with eCourts by the Borough Attorney on June 18, 2025.

Law Offices of Erik C. Peterson, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff,

Borough of Washington

By:

Erik C. Peterson. Esq.

## BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON County of Warren

## **RESOLUTION 2025-108**

RESOLUTION ENDORSHING THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH LAND USE BOARD ON JUNE 16, 2025 AND AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY TO FILE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM THROUGH eCOUORTS PURSUANT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE 14-24, DOCKET NO. WRN-L-41-25

WHEREAS, recent legislation created a new process for municipalities to come into constitutional compliance with their affordable housing obligations under the Fair Housing Act ("FHA"), and the new law, <u>L</u>. 2024, <u>c</u>. 2 (the "Law"), also established the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("the Program") within the Judiciary for the purpose of resolving disputes associated with the FHA; and

**WHEREAS**, as authorized by the Law, the Administrative Director of the Courts has established the procedures for the Program's operation, as set forth in the Administrative Directive #14-24 ("Directive #14-24") ("Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program – Implementation of  $\underline{L}$ . 2024,  $\underline{c}$ . 2"); and

WHEREAS, the Program procedures address initiating actions and challenges using the Judiciary's electronic filing systems, criteria for assignment of a case to the Program, appointment of special adjudicators by Program members, settlement conferences and sessions, appeals, codes of conduct, and public access to filings; and

WHEREAS, after the entry of an Order determining present and prospective fair share obligations, a municipality, such as the Borough, must file with the Program its adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (which must include the elements set forth in the Addendum attached to Directive #14-24) within 48 hours after adoption by the Planning Board or by June 30, 2025, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, actions that do not meet the statutory deadline will not be considered by the Program; and

WHEREAS, by Order dated March 25, 2025, the Honorable William G. Mennen, J.S.C. accepted the Amended Program Settlement Present Need and Prospective Need recommendation of the Honorable Thomas C. Miller, A.J.S.C. (Ret.) establishing the Borough's present need obligation as 0 affordable units and its prospective need obligation as 27 affordable units; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington Land Use Board held publicly noticed hearing on June 16, 2025, and by *Resolution Adopting "Fourth Round Housing Plan Element & Fair Share Plan Element Plan"* dated June 16, 2025, adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("HEFSP")

attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and the Borough Attorney filed both with the Program on June 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council, at its public meeting on June 17, 2025, considered the HEFSP adopted by the Borough Land Use Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Council, pursuant to the Law and Directive #14-24, now endorses the HEFSP and directs the Borough Attorney to, within 48 hours of adoption of this Resolution #2025-108, file this Borough Council Resolution with the duly adopted Land Use Board Resolution Adopting "Fourth Round Housing Plan Element & Fair Share Plan Element Of The Borough Master Plan", and the HEFSP, with the Program through eCourts and further to provide a copy of the HEFSP to Fair Share Housing Center via eCourts, Docket No. WRN-L-41-25.

## Certification:

I, Laurie A. Courter, Clerk of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance is a true and exact copy adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington on June 17, 2025.

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Laurie A. Courter, RMC

Borough Clerk

Signed by: e6b8ace5-a628-410e-a933-111f1ec968b9

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Borough this

<sup>17th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025.