MEDFORD TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

RESOLUTION 14 - 2025

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2025 HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Supreme Court, in Mount Laurel II, ruled that each municipality in New Jersey has a constitutional obligation to provide its fair share of the region's affordable housing needs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S. 40:55D-1 et. seq. (MLUL) provides that a Municipal Planning Board has jurisdiction to adopt a Master Plan consisting of a report or statement of land use and development proposal with maps, diagrams and text which must contain a statement of the objections, principals, assumptions, policies and standards for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the MLUL, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28 (2) provides that the Master Plan must contain a "land use element" and, under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28 (3), must further contain a Housing Plan Element; and

WHEREAS, as contemplated by the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in Mount Laurel IV, Medford Township filed a Declaratory Judgement Action (DJA) in the New Jersey Superior Court, Burlington County, Law Division (the "Court") under Docket Number L-2596-15, to establish and finalize Medford Township's Third Round (1999-2025) obligation for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, by Court Order in the above action entered on September 15, 2020, Medford Township was granted a Final Judgment of Compliance and Repose (Without Conditions), for the Township's Present Need or Rehabilitation Obligation, the Township's Prior Round Obligation (1987-1999), as well as its Third Round Obligation, consisting of both its Gap Obligation for 1999-2015 and its Prospective Need Obligation for 2015-2025; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said Court Order, by adoption of Resolution 12-2020, the Planning Board approved the Medford Township Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, dated August 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law an Amendment to the Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 *et seq.*), P.L. 2024, c. 2. (hereinafter "Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA required the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") to produce non-binding estimates of each New Jersey municipal fair share obligation for the Fourth Round Affordable Housing Cycle; and

WHEREAS, the DCA issued a report on October 18, 2024 ("DCA Report") wherein it reported its estimate of the obligation for all municipalities within each affordable housing region based upon its interpretation of the standards in the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.3, a municipality's average allocation factor is comprised of the equalized nonresidential factor, income capacity factor, and land capacity factor and shall be averaged to yield the municipality's average allocation factor, and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculated Medford Township's Round 4 (2025-2035) share of Region 5's affordable housing obligation as follows: a Present Need or Rehabilitation Obligation of 69 units and a Prospective Need or New Construction Obligation of 171 units; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of Resolution 32-2025 the Medford Township Council accepted the DCA calculations and the Township's share of the Region Five Present Need and Prospective Need affordable housing obligation, subject to the reservation of certain rights as set forth in said Resolution; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2024, the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts issued Directive 14-24, promulgating the procedures and guidelines implementing the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program created by the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2025, as required by Directive 14-24, the Township filed its Complaint for Declaratory Judgment (Affordable Housing), in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Burlington County, Docket No. 000171-25; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2025, the Hon. Terrence R. Cook, A.J.S.C. entered an Order in the Declaratory Judgment action, fixing Medford Township's present need of 69 affordable housing units and its prospective need of 171 affordable housing units for the Fourth Round Affordable Housing Cycle and further authorizing the Township to proceed with preparation of its proposed Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and

WHEREAS, per the Amended FHA and the April 8, 2025 Court Order, to allow the Township to maintain immunity from exclusionary zoning litigation, the Township is required to complete and file its 2025 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan no later than June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Medford Township Planning Board finds that it is in the best interest of the Township and its residents to adopt the Medford Township 2025 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, as endorsed by the Medford Township Council by adoption of Resolution 109-2025 on June 17, 2025, expressly committing to meeting the Township's Present Need and Prospective Need Fourth Round Cycle affordable housing fair share obligation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Planning Board of the Township of Medford, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that the 2025 Medford Township Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted as an amendment to the Medford Township Master Plan and its endorsement by the Medford Township Council pursuant to Resolution 109-2025 is hereby ratified and confirmed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution shall be posted on the Township's official website and filed with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program on or before June 30, 2025.

CERTIFICATION

BE IT REMEMBERED that the within written Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Medford Township Planning board held on June 25, 2025 and memorializes a decision taken by the Board on June 25, 2025.

Thomas Juliano, Chairman

Ann Bell, Board Secretary