



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 25, 2026

THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON, TELEPHONICALLY, and VIA ZOOM VIDEO. You may join the Zoom meeting, including video, by accessing the information posted in the Borough Calendar on the Borough website by visiting www.closterboro.com and clicking the link on the left sidebar for Calendars and Notice of Meetings and click on the corresponding date. To join via Telephone Audio Only: +1 301-715-8592; MEETING ID: 864 2063 3673; PASSWORD: 8675309

If Closed Session is required, the Council will retire to a closed session at the conclusion of the Regular Meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 and follow the procedures provided in this statute.

1. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Mayor Glidden opened the meeting at 7:40 P.M. with the following announcement: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, was included in the Notice of 2026 Mayor and Council Meetings which was published in The Record on December 10, 2025 and sent to The Star-Ledger on December 15, 2025, was posted on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and on the Borough website, and has remained posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

2. ROLL CALL

Governing Body	Present	Absent
Mayor Glidden	✓	
Councilwoman Amitai	✓	
Council President Cho	✓	
Councilwoman Chung	✓	
Councilwoman Latner		✓
Councilwoman Maroules	✓	
Councilman Yammarino	✓	

3. ORDINANCES

ADOPTION:

a. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1379

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$42,000 FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$39,900 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

This Ordinance was introduced at the Regular Meeting held February 11, 2026, and was published in The Record issue of February 17, 2026, as stated in the Municipal Clerk's affidavit of publication. Reprint of this Ordinance was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in accordance with statutory requirements, and copies have been made available to the general public. The Meeting was opened to the Public for Comment. Hearing none, the Meeting was closed to the Public.

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

The improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance (the "Improvements") are hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Borough of Closter, New Jersey (the "Borough") as general improvements. For the said Improvement there is hereby appropriated the amount of \$42,000, such sum includes the sum of \$2,100 as the down payment (the "Down Payment") required by the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law"). The Down Payment is now available by virtue of provision in one or more previously adopted budgets for down

payment or for capital improvement purposes.

SECTION 2:

In order to finance the cost of the Improvements not covered by application of the Down Payment, negotiable bonds of the Borough are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$39,900 pursuant to the provisions of the Local Bond Law (the "Bonds"). In anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds and to temporarily finance said improvements or purposes, negotiable bond anticipation notes of the Borough are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount not exceeding \$39,900 pursuant to the provisions of the Local Bond Law (the "Bond Anticipation Notes" or "Notes").

SECTION 3:

(a) The Improvements authorized and the purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is for Watershed Inventory Report (Phase I) and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Drainage Control Plan, and including all work including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of Bonds or Notes to be issued for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of the Improvements is \$39,900.

(c) The estimated cost of the Improvements is \$42,000 which amount represents the initial appropriation made by the Borough.

SECTION 4:

All Bond Anticipation Notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer of the Borough (the "Chief Financial Officer"); provided that no Note shall mature later than one year from its date. The Notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with Notes issued pursuant to this ordinance, and the signature of the Chief Financial Officer upon the Notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All Notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of Section 8(a) of the Local Bond Law. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the Notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the Borough Council of the Borough at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the Notes pursuant to this ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the Notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

SECTION 5:

The capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

SECTION 6:

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The Improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not current expenses, and are capital improvements or properties that the Borough may lawfully make or acquire as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the Improvements, within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, and according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the Bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 5 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough, as defined in the Local Bond Law, is increased by the authorization of the Bonds and Notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$39,900 and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$42,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under Section 20 of the Local Bond Law is included in the estimated cost of the Improvements, as indicated herein.

SECTION 7:

Any funds received from time to time as contributions in aid of financing the purposes described in Section

3 of this Ordinance shall be used for financing said Improvements by application thereof either to direct payment of the cost of said Improvements or to the payment or reduction of the authorization of the obligations of the Borough authorized therefor by this Bond Ordinance. Any such funds received may, and all such funds so received which are not required for direct payment of the cost of said Improvements shall, be held and applied by the Borough as funds applicable only to the payment of obligations of the Borough authorized by this Bond Ordinance.

SECTION 8:

The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Borough for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

SECTION 9:

The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Borough and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Borough. The Chief Financial Officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Borough pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Borough and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Borough fails to comply with its undertaking, the Borough shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

SECTION 10:

This Bond Ordinance constitutes a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. The Borough reasonably expects to pay expenditures with respect to the Improvements prior to the date that Borough incurs debt obligations under this Bond Ordinance. The Borough reasonably expects to reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the Borough under this Bond Ordinance. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for payment of the costs of the Improvements is \$39,900.

SECTION 11:

This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

At this time, Mayor Glidden opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Ordinance No. 2026:1379.

No members of the public wished to address the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Glidden closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2025:1379.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung	✓		✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules		✓	✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

b. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1380

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 50, POLICE DEPARTMENT

This Ordinance was introduced at the Regular Meeting held February 11, 2026, and was published in The Record issue of February 17, 2026, as stated in the Municipal Clerk's affidavit of publication. Reprint of this Ordinance was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in accordance with statutory requirements, and copies have been made available to the general public. The Meeting was opened to the public for comment. A resident asked for more information, and the Mayor read an explanation. The Chief of Police also explained the Ordinance and said that it gave more details and qualifications to bring it up to 2026 standards. The Meeting was closed to the public.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined there is a need to revise Chapter 50, Police Department, of the Code of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, specifically, there is a need to revise §50-4 Appointment to Department, to update these provisions to meet current legal requirements and more accurately reflect the present recruiting environment for applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended the foregoing amendments to §50-4; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee has reviewed this ordinance and recommends its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has reviewed this ordinance and deemed it to be in order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor Council of the Borough of Closter as follows.

SECTION 1.

§50-4. Appointment to Department shall be revised accordingly:

Delete the current §50-4 and replace it with the following text.

§50-4. Appointment to Department

A. Statutory Authority

Appointments to the Police Department shall be made in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 et seq., applicable provisions of Title 11A (where applicable), and all rules and regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC).

B. Minimum Qualifications
No person shall be appointed as a police officer unless the applicant:

1. Is a citizen of the United States;
2. Is at least 18 years of age at the time of appointment;
3. Possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education;
4. Is of good moral character and sound physical and mental health;
5. Meets all eligibility and qualification standards established by the New Jersey Police Training Commission; and
6. Is able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation.

C. Education and Experience Preferences
The Borough may give preference, but shall not require as a condition of appointment, to applicants who possess:

1. An associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education;
2. Prior law enforcement, military, or relevant public safety experience; or
3. Specialized skills, certifications, or training consistent with the operational needs of the Police Department.

D. Examinations and Evaluations

Applicants shall successfully complete such examinations, evaluations, and investigations as may be required by law or Borough policy, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Written examination;
2. Oral interview;
3. Physical fitness assessment;
4. Medical examination;
5. Psychological evaluation; and
6. Background investigation.

All medical and psychological examinations shall be conducted by **licensed professionals** selected or approved by the Borough.

E. Police Training Commission Certification

1. No appointment shall be deemed final unless the appointee is **certified by the New Jersey Police Training Commission, or is eligible for certification**, in accordance with applicable law and Police Training Commission regulations.
2. An applicant who has **previously completed a Police Training Commission-certified basic police training program** and holds **current or eligible PTC certification** may be appointed, subject to:
 - a. Verification of certification status by the Borough;
 - b. Compliance with any **refresher, waiver, or recertification requirements** imposed by the Police Training Commission; and
 - c. Successful completion of any **field training, orientation, or transitional training** required by the Borough.

3. An applicant who is **not certified by the Police Training Commission at the time of appointment** shall be required to enroll in and successfully complete a Police Training Commission-certified basic police training program within the time period required by law.
4. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the Borough's authority to require training beyond minimum Police Training Commission standards or to decline appointment where an applicant does not meet current PTC or Borough requirements.

F. Probationary Appointment

All initial appointments shall be probationary and subject to the successful completion of all required training and evaluations, for such period as required by law, regulation, or applicable collective bargaining agreement.

G. Waivers
 No statutory requirement for appointment may be waived. Any discretionary criteria established by Borough policy may be waived only where permitted by law and where such waiver is determined to be in the best interests of the Borough.

SECTION 2.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 3.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION 4.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

At this time, Mayor Glidden opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Ordinance No. 2026:1380.

No members of the public wished to address the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Glidden closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2025:1380.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules	✓		✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

**c. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1381
 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 65 ALARM SYSTEMS**

This Ordinance was introduced at the Regular Meeting held February 11, 2026, and was published in The Record issue of February 17, 2026, as stated in the Municipal Clerk's affidavit of publication. Reprint of this Ordinance was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in accordance with statutory requirements, and copies have been made available to the general public. The Meeting was opened to the Public for Comment. Hearing none, the Meeting was closed to the Public.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined there is a need to revise Chapter 65, Alarm Systems, of the Code of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended the foregoing amendments to Chapter 65 to update and modernize its provisions and better address current enforcement requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee has reviewed this ordinance and recommends its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has reviewed this ordinance and deemed it to be in order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor Council of the Borough of Closter as follows.

SECTION 1.

Chapter 65, Alarm Systems shall be revised accordingly:

Delete the current §65-1 to §65-14 and replace it with the following text.

**CHAPTER 65
ALARM SYSTEMS**

§ 65-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish reasonable standards and regulations governing the installation, operation, registration, and maintenance of intrusion, burglar, fire, panic, and other emergency alarm systems, whether transmitted by direct line, radio, cellular, internet-based, telephone, or other electronic means, that may result in notification to or response by the Police Department, Fire Department, or other municipal agencies of the Borough of Closter. This chapter is intended to promote public safety, reduce false alarms, conserve municipal resources, and ensure reliable alarm communications without the Borough operating or maintaining any alarm monitoring console.

§ 65-2. Scope.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or entity that owns, leases, operates, maintains, or uses any alarm system or local alarm designed to summon or reasonably expected to summon municipal emergency response. Nothing herein shall prohibit alarm companies from providing private monitoring or notification services not connected to municipal alarm facilities; however, owners or occupants of premises protected by an alarm system shall remain responsible for registration and compliance as required by this chapter.

§ 65-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM CONSOLE — Any alarm receiving, monitoring, or annunciation equipment operated by a private alarm company or central alarm station and not owned, operated, or maintained by the Borough.

BURGLARY ALARM - Any police alarm device actuated by a burglary, robbery or theft at a specific location.

CENTRAL ALARM STATION - Any facility operated by a private firm that owns or leases a system of emergency alarm devices, which facility is manned at all times by trained operators employed to receive, record and validate alarm signals and to relay information concerning such validated signals to the police or fire dispatch room.

FALSE ALARM — Any alarm signal or notification that results in a response or attempted response by the Police Department or Fire Department when no emergency, fire, or criminal activity exists. The term shall include alarms caused by user error, inadvertence, improper installation, or equipment malfunction, but shall not include alarms caused by severe weather conditions, widespread power outages, verified telecommunications failures, or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the permittee.

LICENSEE — Any entity authorized by the Borough to install, operate, or maintain municipal alarm receiving equipment or systems.

LOCAL ALARM — An alarm system that produces an audible or visual signal at the protected premises only.

MUNICIPALITY — The Borough of Closter.

PERMITTEE — Any person or entity issued a permit under this chapter for an alarm installation.

TELEPHONE OR DIGITAL ALARM DEVICES — Alarm systems that transmit signals via telephone, cellular, internet, or similar communication networks.

§ 65-4. Registration and permits.

A. Except as otherwise provided, it shall be unlawful to operate or maintain an alarm system without first obtaining and maintaining a valid annual permit issued by the Chief of Police.

B. Permit applications shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Police Department and shall include owner and occupant contact information, alarm type, monitoring company, emergency contacts, and other information reasonably required.

C. Permits shall expire on December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually no later than March 31 of the following calendar year. Failure to renew by March 31 shall constitute operation without a valid permit.

D. Permit holders shall notify the Police Department, in writing or electronically if permitted, of any change in

ownership, occupancy, alarm monitoring company, system type, emergency contact information, or other material information contained in the permit application within 30 days of such change.

E. The Chief of Police is authorized to deny, suspend, or revoke permits for noncompliance, excessive false alarms, unpaid fees, or failure to update required registration information, subject to due process.

§ 65-5. Alarm console license.

[Reserved]

[Reserved]

§ 65-6. Limitation of Borough's responsibility.

The Borough assumes no duty or liability for the installation, operation, monitoring, or effectiveness of any alarm system or equipment. Permit holders and licensees shall indemnify and hold harmless the Borough from all claims arising therefrom.

§ 65-7. Selection of licensee.

[Reserved]

§ 65-8. General regulations.

A. Alarm systems shall be properly installed, maintained, and operated to minimize false alarms.

B. False alarms shall be tracked by the Police Department. Warnings, fines, suspension, or other enforcement actions may be imposed in accordance with this chapter.

C. Permit holders shall provide timely access and response to alarm activations and shall cooperate fully with responding personnel.

D. Any testing, servicing, repair, installation, or maintenance of an alarm system that may result in activation of the system shall be reported to the Police Department prior to such activity, in a manner prescribed by the Chief of Police. Alarm activations occurring during properly reported testing or maintenance shall not be deemed false alarms.

§ 65-9. Dial alarm devices.

Dial or automated alarm devices shall comply with all technical requirements established by the Chief of Police and shall not directly dial 9-1-1 or any other municipal emergency number unless expressly authorized by law.

§ 65-10. Local alarms.

Local alarms shall be registered and equipped with automatic shutoff features consistent with modern safety standards, except for fire alarms.

§ 65-11. Rule-making authority.

The Mayor and Council may adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer this chapter.

§ 65-12. Violations and penalties.

Violations of this chapter shall be subject to penalties as provided in Chapter 1, Article II of the Code.

§ 65-13. Multiple alarms at central alarm station.

[Reserved]

§ 65-14. False alarms and penalties.

Any person having knowledge of an alarm shall immediately notify the Police Department. The Police Chief shall cause an investigation to be made of each alarm and keep a record of all false alarms.

a. Private Alarms including Residential, Business, Banks and Financial Institutions, and Warning Devices.

1. Penalties for a response by the Police Department to a false alarm shall be according to the following schedule:

Schedule of Penalties for Police Response to False Alarms

False Alarms within Calendar Year	Penalty for Each False Alarm
1-3	Warning notice
4-6	\$50.00
7-9	\$100.00
10 or more	\$150.00

b. If no registration has been granted for a private alarm system producing a false alarm, the warning notices and penalties in the above paragraphs of this subsection shall not be applicable, and the fine for not having a registered alarm will be two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. An additional fee of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars shall be charged for each false alarm occurring while the private alarm system or warning device is not registered.

SECTION 2.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 3.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION 4.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

At this time, Mayor Glidden opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Ordinance No. 2026:1381.

No members of the public wished to address the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Glidden closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2025:1381.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho	✓		✓			
Councilwoman Chung		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

**d. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1382
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 179 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER ENTITLED: TOWING AND STORAGE**

This Ordinance was introduced at the Regular Meeting held February 11, 2026, and was published in The Record issue of February 17, 2026, as stated in the Municipal Clerk’s affidavit of publication. Reprint of this Ordinance was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in accordance with statutory requirements, and copies have been made available to the general public. The Meeting was to the Public for Comment. Hearing none, the Meeting was closed to the Public.

WHEREAS, the Closter Chief of Police has recommended several changes to Chapter 179, Towing and Storage, in order to update and modernize the current Code provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee has reviewed the proposed changes and recommends they be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has reviewed the proposed changes and deems them to be in order; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Closter has deemed it to be in the best interest, safety, and general welfare of the residents to make the proposed changes to Chapter 179.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Closter, Bergen County, New Jersey, that Chapter 179 of the Borough’s Code is amended to as follows.

SECTION 1.

Amend §179-1 Definitions, to add the following terms and definitions:
BACKUP TOWING OPERATOR – A towing operator authorized to respond when the primary operator is

unavailable, nonresponsive, or incapacitated.

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION – Immediate temporary removal from the emergency duty call list due to a serious violation posing a threat to public safety or municipal liability.

UNSOLICITED TOWING – Any towing service initiated without a police request, vehicle owner consent, or lawful private-property authorization.

All terms and definitions currently in §179-1 shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 2.

Amend §179-2 Application for Placement on Emergency Duty Call List, as follows:

1. Delete Paragraph A and replace it with the following text:

A. All towing operators seeking placement on the emergency duty call list shall submit an annual application on forms prescribed by the Chief of Police.

2. Add the following text to Paragraph B:

(13) Certification of compliance with all supplemental rules and regulations issued by the Chief of Police.

(14) Identification of primary and secondary contact personnel available 24 hours per day.

All current text in Paragraph B shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 3.

Delete §179-3 Requirements of approval in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-3 Approval standards.

The Chief of Police shall approve an application only upon finding that the applicant:

- A. Meets all insurance, licensing, and equipment requirements of this chapter;
- B. Demonstrates the ability to respond within 20 minutes of notification;
- C. Maintains a secure, illuminated, and fenced storage facility compliant with §179-12;
- D. Agrees to comply with all Borough towing regulations and administrative orders.

SECTION 4.

Delete §179-4 Emergency duty calls; towing operator list in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-4 Emergency duty call list and rotation system.

A. Selection Process.

The emergency duty call list shall be established through a **qualifications-based selection process** administered by the Chief of Police. Towing operators shall be evaluated based upon objective criteria including, but not limited to:

- 1. Compliance history with this chapter and prior Borough towing requirements;
- 2. Response times and availability;
- 3. Adequacy and condition of equipment and wreckers;
- 4. Security and suitability of storage facilities;
- 5. Ability to meet the operational needs of the Police Department.

Selection determinations shall be documented in writing and maintained as part of the Police Department's administrative records.

B. The Chief of Police shall maintain an annual emergency duty call list of approved towing operators selected pursuant to Subsection A.

C. Backup Procedures

When a primary towing operator either: 1) fails to respond within 20 minutes; or 2) declines a call; or 3) is otherwise unavailable, the next operator on the rotation list shall be dispatched. Repeated failures may constitute grounds for suspension.

SECTION 5.

Delete §179-5 Charges for towing and related services in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-5 Charges for towing and related services.

A. All fees shall comply with New Jersey Department of Insurance schedules and Borough fee resolutions.

B. Towing operators shall provide:

1. An itemized written invoice upon vehicle release; and
2. A written receipt acknowledging payment and vehicle condition at release.

SECTION 6.

Delete §179-6 Cleanup incidental to towing services in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-6 Cleanup and scene responsibilities.

A. Towing operators shall remove all non-hazardous debris incidental to towing at no charge.

B. Operators shall immediately notify police of any conditions requiring NJDEP reporting.

SECTION 7.

Delete §179-8 Powers and duties of Chief of Police in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-8 Powers and duties of the Chief of Police.

A. The Chief of Police may inspect wreckers, records, and storage facilities at any time.

B. The Chief may issue written supplemental rules and regulations consistent with this chapter, which shall be maintained as an appendix available for public inspection.

SECTION 8.

Delete §179-9 Suspension and removal from call list; appeals in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179A Prohibited conduct.

A. No towing operator shall engage in unsolicited towing within the Borough.

B. No operator shall self-dispatch to a crash scene or disabled vehicle without police authorization.

C. No operator shall offer inducements, gratuities, or compensation to any Borough employee.

§179-9 B Suspension, removal and emergency suspension.

A. The Chief of Police may suspend a towing operator for up to 30 days for any violation.

B. Emergency Suspension

The Chief may immediately suspend a towing operator when:

1. Insurance coverage lapses;
2. Criminal conduct is alleged involving towing operations; or
3. Continued operation poses a risk to public safety or Borough liability.

Emergency suspensions shall be followed by a hearing within 10 business days.

§179C Appeals.

A. Any towing operator aggrieved by a suspension, removal, or emergency suspension

decision may file a written appeal within **10 calendar days** of receipt of notice of such action.

B. Appeals shall be **jointly administered by the Chief of Police and the Borough Administrator**, who shall review the record, any written submissions, and any additional information deemed necessary.

C. The Chief of Police and Borough Administrator may, in their discretion, conduct an informal hearing or conference with the towing operator.

D. A written determination shall be issued within **20 calendar days** of receipt of the appeal unless extended for good cause.

E. The determination of the Chief of Police and Borough Administrator shall constitute the **final administrative action of the Borough**, subject only to review as provided by law.

SECTION 9.

Delete §179-10 Violations and penalties in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-10. Violations and penalties.

A. Any violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 per violation per day.

B. Violations may result in suspension or permanent removal from the emergency duty call list.

SECTION 10.

Delete §179-12 Storage of towed vehicles in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§179-12. Storage of Towed Vehicles.

A. Vehicles shall be stored within the Borough or within one mile unless otherwise authorized.

B. Storage facilities shall include:

1. Secure fencing;
2. Adequate lighting;
3. Controlled access; and
4. Reasonable measures to prevent theft or vandalism, including but not limited to intrusion alarm systems and/or video surveillance cameras capable of recording and retaining footage for a minimum period established by the Chief of Police, with cameras positioned to monitor vehicle ingress, egress, and storage areas.

SECTION 11.

Delete §179-14 Insurance requirements, Paragraphs A, B, C, D & F and replace those Paragraphs with the following:

A. Garage liability – A minimum of \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

B. Automobile liability – A minimum of \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

C. Garage keepers – A minimum of \$100,000.

D. Umbrella liability – A minimum of \$1,000,000.

F. Workers' compensation – NJ statutory required coverage.

All other insurance provisions of §179-14 remain in effect.

SECTION 12.

Add new section §179-15 Abandoned and junk vehicles; liens; title and sale procedures as follows:

§179-15 Abandoned and junk vehicles; liens; title and sale procedures.

A. Definitions.

“Abandoned vehicle” shall mean a motor vehicle towed or removed at the direction of the Police Department that remains unclaimed for *20 business days* from the date of tow, unless defined otherwise by applicable New Jersey law.

“Junk vehicle” shall mean a vehicle incapable of safe operation and for which a junk title is authorized under N.J.S.A. 39:10A-1 et seq.

B. Tow Operator Lien Rights.

A towing and storage operator performing services under this chapter shall have a statutory lien on a vehicle and its contents for towing and storage charges in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:44-21 and all other applicable law, subject to required notice to recorded lienholders.

C. Notice of Unclaimed Vehicle.

1. If a towed vehicle remains unclaimed for *20 business days*, the authorized towing operator shall notify the Police Department in writing that the vehicle is unclaimed and eligible for abandoned or junk vehicle processing.

2. The Police Department shall coordinate with the towing operator to ensure compliance with all applicable New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission procedures for abandoned vehicle processing or issuance of a junk title.

D. Sale or Disposal.

1. After expiration of the statutory waiting period and completion of abandoned or junk title processing, vehicles determined to be abandoned or junk may be sold at public auction or otherwise disposed of in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10A-1 et seq. and other applicable law.

2. Proceeds from any sale shall be applied first to satisfy towing and storage charges, with any remaining balance remitted to the Borough Treasury or otherwise distributed as required by law.

E. Use of Independent Third-Party Title Processing Services.

1. An authorized towing operator or municipal contractor may contract with an independent third-party service provider to prepare, submit, and process abandoned vehicle or junk title documentation on its behalf, provided that all actions remain fully compliant with New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission requirements and applicable law.

2. The towing operator shall remain solely responsible for the accuracy, timeliness, and legality of all filings and notices, regardless of delegation to a third party.

3. Any third-party service utilized shall maintain appropriate business licensure and insurance and shall provide documentation of such upon request by the Borough or Police Department.

4. Use of a third-party service shall not relieve the towing operator of any duties owed to vehicle owners, lienholders, or the Borough under this chapter or state law.

SECTION 13.

Except as amended by this Ordinance all other provisions of Chapter 179 shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 15.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION 16.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

At this time, Mayor Glidden opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding

Ordinance No. 2026:1382.

No members of the public wished to address the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Glidden closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2025:1382.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho	✓		✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino		✓	✓			

INTRODUCTION:

a. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1383

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 200 OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN

Final Adoption and Open Public Hearing will be held on March 11, 2026 or as soon thereafter. Councilwoman Amitai asked for clarification, which was given by Assistant Borough Attorney JoAnn Riccardi Schuman.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Constitution and the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq. require that each municipality in the State of New Jersey exercise the zoning power delegated by the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq., in a manner that provides a realistic opportunity for the development of the municipality’s fair share of the regional need for low and moderate cost housing; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of New Jersey entered an Order on May 5, 2025 that fixed the Borough of Closter’s Present and Prospective Need for the “Fourth Round” at 16 units and 241 units, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter obtained a vacant land adjustment by Order entered on July 18, 2018 in connection with its “Third Round” affordable housing compliance plan, as it had done in prior rounds; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter continues to lack sufficient land necessary for the development of its Prospective Need; and

WHEREAS, on account of the absence of sufficient vacant land to accommodate its Prospective Need during the “Fourth Round,; the Borough of Closter will continue to rely on the vacant land adjustments previously obtained;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act, the Borough of Closter is obligated to identify parcels likely to redevelop where at least 25% of its adjusted obligation may develop; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is obligated to rezone parcels for redevelopment where at least 61 affordable units may be constructed; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Planner has prepared a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan in accordance with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act and Municipal Land Use Law; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter Planning Board has adopted said Housing Element and Fair Share Plan at a public meeting held on June 26, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan recommends that the Borough implement overlay zoning at specified densities on properties developed with non-residential uses to accommodate at least 25% of the obligation that has been adjusted due to lack of sufficient vacant land; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter deems it necessary and appropriate to adopt a zoning regulation that rezones those parcels identified in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan to provide a realistic opportunity for the development of its fair share of the regional need for low and moderate cost housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, Bergen County and State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter 200-2 of the Zoning Code of the Borough of Closter is hereby amended as follows:

District 3A (All properties presently located in the Business District No. 3, from the western border of the Business district, to the west side of both Lewis Street and Perry Street [, and the Closter Commons Shopping Center].)

Section 2.

Chapter 200-3 of the Zoning Code of the Borough of Closter is hereby amended as follows:

Block 1607, Lots 3, and 3.01 to 3.33 are hereby rezoned into District No. 3A – Business Overlay Zone

Section 3.

Chapter 200 of the Zoning Code of the Borough of Closter is hereby amended as follows:

[NEW SECTION]

200-26.1 Conditional Uses and Standards

- A. In addition to those uses permitted in District 4B – Office Area B, multifamily housing conditionally permitted in the Business Overlay Zone, subject to site plan review by the Planning Board

- B. Multifamily housing shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. Construction type: Duplex, quadruplex, townhouse or apartment
 - 2. Maximum residential density: 14 units/acre
 - 3. Minimum lot area
 - a. Townhouse: 1 acre
 - b. Apartments: 3 acres
 - 4. Front yard setback: 25 feet
 - 5. Side yard setback: 10 feet, except where adjoining a lot developed with a single family dwelling, where 30 feet shall be required
 - 6. Rear yard setback: 20 feet, except where adjoining a lot developed with a single family dwelling, where 60 feet shall be required
 - 7. Building coverage: 30%
 - 8. Improved lot coverage: 50%
 - 9. Maximum permitted building height (feet): 28 feet.
 - 10. Maximum permitted building height (stories): two-and-a-half stories.
 - 11. All parking requirements shall conform to Chapter 173 of the Code of the Borough of Closter, as well as the New Jersey Residential Site Improvement Standards, except that the Planning Board shall consider alternative parking standards in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.14(c).
 - 12. Compliance with the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80 is required, as is compliance with the Borough of Closter Affordable Housing Ordinance.

Section 4.

Chapter 200-54.8 of the Zoning Code of the Borough of Closter is hereby amended as follows:

- A. In District Number 3A, Business Area 3A, a mix of business/commercial and housing uses will be a permitted conditional use in the zone district. Such mixed-use developments would require site plan and conditional use approvals. The residential component of the mixed use will include an affordable component in an effort to meet the Borough's unmet need obligation. At least 20% of all units, whether rental units or for-sale, shall be reserved for affordable households. Compliance with the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80 is required, as is compliance with the Borough of Closter Affordable Housing Ordinance.

- B. The mixed use shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - (1)-(8) unchanged

 - (9) At least 20% of all units, whether rental units or for-sale, shall be reserved for affordable households. Compliance with the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80 is required, as is compliance with the Borough of Closter Affordable Housing Ordinance.

Section 5.

All Ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai	✓		✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino		✓	✓			

b. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1384

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER A301 “FEES” “DEVELOPMENT FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEVELOPMENT FEES IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS PERMITTED BY THE NEW JERSEY FAIR HOUSING ACT

Final Adoption and Open Public Hearing will be held on March 11, 2026 or as soon thereafter.

Councilwoman Amitai asked for clarification on the Ordinance, which was provided by Assistant Borough Attorney JoAnn Riccardi Schuman.

WHEREAS, In Holmdel Builder’s Association v. Holmdel Borough, 121 N.J. 550 (1990), the New Jersey Supreme Court determined that mandatory development fees are authorized by the Fair Housing Act of 1985, N.J.S.A. 52:27d-301, *et seq.*, and the State Constitution, subject to the adoption of Rules by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH); and

WHEREAS, The Borough established an affordable housing trust fund and adopted a development fee ordinance at Chapter A301-1(E)(6)-(12) on January 4, 1999, which was amended subsequent to PL 2008 to incorporate the amendments to the MLUL establishing the requirement to collect non-residential development fees; and

WHEREAS, The Borough development fee ordinance was amended on November 21, 2016 to codify NJSA 40:55D-8.1 to 8.7 in accordance with PL 2008; and

WHEREAS, NJDCA adopted NJAC 5:99 on November 20, 2025 replacing COAH regulations and supplementing NJSA 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7 with respect to the collection and spending of trust fund revenues pursuant to PL 2024, c.2., and the agreements with Fair Share Housing Center (FSHC) require the Borough to amend the development fee ordinance to reflect the new rules at 5:99.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the Code of the Borough of Closter is hereby amended to include the following provisions regulating the collection and disposition of mandatory development fees to be used in connection with the Borough's affordable housing programs, as directed by the Superior Court and consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:99, *et seq.*, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented, and the New Jersey Fair Housing Act of 1985 as amended by PL 2024, c.2, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter A301-1(E)(6)-(12) is hereby amended and supplemented in its entirety, as follows:

A301-1(E)(6). Purpose

- (a). This Ordinance establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees that are consistent with COAH’s regulations developed in response to P.L. 2008, c. 46, Sections 8 and 32-38 (C. 52:27D-329.2), the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), and N.J.A.C. 5:99, *et seq.* Fees collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be used for the sole purpose of providing very low, low- and moderate-income housing in accordance with a Spending Plan approved through the Program, the Division of Local Planning Services within the Department of Community Affairs, or a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b). The Borough of Closter shall not spend development fees until the Division, Program, or court of competent jurisdiction has approved a plan for spending such fees (Spending Plan).

A301-1(E)(7). Definitions

The following terms, as used in this Ordinance, shall have the following meanings:

“Act” means P.L. 2024, c. 2.

“Administrative agent” means the entity, approved by the Division, responsible for the administration of affordable units in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-7, and UHAC at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.15.

“Affordability assistance” means the use of funds to render housing units more affordable to low- and moderate-income households and includes, but is not limited to, down payment assistance, security deposit assistance, low interest loans, rental assistance, assistance with homeowner’s association or condominium fees and special assessments, common maintenance expenses, and assistance with emergency repairs and rehabilitation to bring deed restricted units up to code, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.5.

“Affordable” means a sales price or rent within the economic means of a low- or moderate income household, as defined in the UHAC as, in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7 and, in the case of a rental unit, that the rent for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13.

“Affordable housing development” means a development included in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and includes, but is not limited to, an inclusionary development, a municipal construction project or a 100 percent affordable housing development.

“Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program” or “the Program” refers to the dispute resolution program established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313.2.

“Affordable Housing Monitoring System” or “AHMS” means the Department’s cloud-based software application, which shall be the central repository for municipalities to use for reporting detailed information regarding affordable housing developments, affordable housing unit completions, and the collection and expenditures of funds deposited into the municipal affordable housing trust fund.

“Affordable unit” means a housing unit proposed or developed pursuant to the Act, including units created with municipal affordable housing trust funds.

“Barrier-free escrow” means the holding of funds collected to adapt affordable unit entrances to be accessible in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311a et seq. Such funds shall be held in a municipal affordable housing trust fund pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.6.

“COAH” or the “Council” means the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing established under the Fair Housing Act. This was eliminated by P.L. 2024, c.2.

“Compliance certification” means the certification issued to the Borough by the Program pursuant to section 3 at P.L. 2024, c. 2, that provides the Borough immunity from exclusionary zoning litigation during the current round of present and prospective need and through July 1 of 4 the year the next round of affordable housing obligations begins, which is also known as a “judgment of compliance” resulting in an “order for repose.” “Compliance certification” shall include a judgment of repose granted in an action filed pursuant to section 13 at P.L. 1985, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313).

“Construction” means new construction and additions, but does not include alterations, reconstruction, renovations, conversion, relocation, or repairs, as those terms are defined in the State Uniform Construction Code promulgated pursuant to the State Uniform Construction Code Act, P.L. 1975, c. 217 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq.).

“Developer” means the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or of any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such land.

“Development” means the division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels, the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation, or landfill, and any use or change in the use of any building or other structure, or land or extension of use of land, for which permission 5 may be required pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq

“Development fee” means money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential and non-residential property as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 52:27D-329.2 and 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3.

“Division” means the Division of Local Planning Services within the Department of Community Affairs.

“Equalized assessed value” or “EAV” means the assessed value of a property divided by the current average ratio of assessed to true value for the Borough in which the property is situated, as determined in accordance with sections 1, 5, and 6 at P.L. 1973, c. 123 (N.J.S.A. 54:1-35a, 54:1-35b, and 54:1-35c). Estimates at the time of building permit may be obtained by the tax assessor using construction cost estimates. Final EAV shall be determined at project completion by the Borough assessor.

“Extension of expiring controls” means extending the deed restriction period on units where the controls will expire in the current round of a housing obligation, so that the total years of a deed restriction is at least 60 years.

“Fair share obligation” means the total of the present need and prospective need as determined by the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

“Fair share plan” means the plan or proposal, which may readily be adopted with accompanying ordinances and resolutions, pursuant to subsection f. of section 3 at P.L. 2024, c. 2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1) by which the Borough proposes to satisfy its obligation to create a realistic opportunity to meet its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing needs of its region and which details the affirmative measures the Borough proposes to undertake to achieve its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing, as provided in the municipal housing element, and addresses the development regulations necessary to implement the housing element, including, but not limited to, inclusionary requirements and development fees, and the elimination of unnecessary housing cost-generating features from the municipal land use ordinances and regulations.

“Firm and binding obligation” means a demonstration by a municipality, evidenced by documentation substantiating a legally enforceable agreement entered into by the municipality with a third party, sufficient proof of building or other permits, efforts concerning land acquisition or project development, or other documentation that demonstrates a commitment to spend trust fund monies in a manner consistent with the Act, the municipality’s fair share plan, the Act, an approved spending plan, and all applicable regulations.

“Housing element” means the portion of the Borough’s master plan adopted in accordance with the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28.b(3) and the Act consisting of reports, statements, proposals, maps, diagrams, and text designed to meet the Borough’s fair share of its region’s present and prospective housing needs, particularly with regard to low- and moderate-income housing, which shall include the municipal present and prospective obligation for affordable housing, determined pursuant to subsection f. at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1.

“Housing project” means a project, or distinct portion of a project, which is designed and intended to provide decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations for persons of low- and moderate-income; such work or undertaking may include buildings, land, equipment, facilities, and other real or personal property for necessary, convenient, or desirable appurtenances, streets, sewers, water service, parks, site preparation, gardening, administrative, community, health, recreational, educational, welfare, or other purposes. The term “housing project” may also be applied to the planning of the buildings and improvements, the acquisition of property, the demolition of existing structures, the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of the improvements, and all other work in connection therewith.

“Housing region” means a geographic area established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D304.2 for each round of low- and moderate-income housing obligations pursuant to the Act. “Inclusionary development” means a residential housing development in which a substantial percentage of the housing units are provided for a reasonable income range of low- 8 and moderate- income households. “Judgment of compliance” or “judgment for repose” means a determination issued by the Superior Court approving the Borough’s fair share plan to satisfy its affordable housing obligation for a particular 10-year round.

“Inclusionary development” means a residential housing development in which a substantial percentage of the housing units are provided for a reasonable income range of low-and moderate- income households.

“Judgment of compliance” or “judgment for repose” means a determination issued by the Superior Court approving a municipality’s fair share plan to satisfy its affordable housing obligation for a particular 10-year round.

“Low-income household” means a household with a household income equal to 50 percent or less of the regional median income.

“Low-income housing” means housing affordable according to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to 50 percent or less of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is located.

“Mixed use development” means any development that includes both a non-residential development component and a residential development component, and shall include developments for which: (1) there is a common developer for both the residential development component and the non-residential development component, provided that for purposes of this definition, multiple persons and entities may be considered a common developer if there is a contractual relationship among them obligating each entity to develop at least a portion of the residential or non-residential development, or both, or otherwise to contribute resources to the development; and (2) the residential and non-residential developments are located on the same lot or adjoining lots, including, but not limited to, lots separated by a street, a river, or another geographical feature.

“Moderate-income household” means a household with a household income in excess of 50 percent but less than or equal to 80 percent of the regional median income. 9

"Moderate-income housing" means housing affordable according to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to more than 50 percent but less than 80 percent of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is located.

"Municipal affordable housing trust fund" means a separate, interest-bearing account held by the Borough for the deposit of development fees, payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on sites zoned for affordable housing, barrier-free escrow funds, recapture funds, proceeds from the sale of affordable units, rental income, repayments from affordable housing program loans, enforcement fines, unexpended RCA funds remaining from a completed RCA project, application fees, and any other funds collected by the Borough in connection with its affordable housing programs, which shall be used to address municipal low- and moderate-income housing obligations within the time frames established by the Legislature and this chapter. As used in this chapter, "municipal affordable housing trust fund" shall also mean a "municipal development trust fund" and a "municipal development fee Trust fund."

"Municipal development fee ordinance" means an ordinance adopted by the governing body of the Borough that authorizes the collection of development fees.

"Municipal housing liaison" or "MHL" means an appointed municipal employee who is responsible for oversight and/or administration of the affordable housing units created within the Borough and oversight of the authorization of individuals being provided access to the AHMS.

"New construction" means the creation of a new housing unit under regulation by a code enforcement official regardless of the means by which the unit is created. Newly constructed units are evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of occupancy and may include new residences created through additions and alterations, adaptive reuse, subdivision, or conversion of existing space, and moving a structure from one location to another.

"Non-residential development" means: 1. Any building or structure, or portion thereof, including, but not limited to, any appurtenant improvements, which is designated to a use group other than a residential use group according to the State Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, promulgated to effectuate the State Uniform Construction Code Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq., including any subsequent amendments or revisions thereto; 2. Hotels, motels, vacation timeshares, and child-care facilities; and 3. The entirety of all continuing care facilities within a continuing care retirement community which is subject to the Continuing Care Retirement Community Regulation and Financial Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-330 et seq.

"Non-residential development fee" means the fee authorized to be imposed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7.

"Order for repose" means the protection the Borough has from a builder's remedy lawsuit for a period of time from the entry of a judgment of compliance by the Superior Court. A judgment of compliance often results in an order for repose.

"Payment in lieu of constructing affordable units" means the payment of funds to the Borough by a developer when affordable units are not produced on a site zoned for an inclusionary development.

"Reconstruction" means any project where the extent and nature of the work is such that the work area cannot be occupied while the work is in progress and where a new certificate of occupancy is required before the work area can be reoccupied, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode of the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6. Reconstruction shall not include projects comprised only of floor finish replacement, painting or wallpapering, or the replacement of equipment or furnishings. Asbestos hazard abatement and lead hazard abatement projects shall not be classified as reconstruction solely because occupancy of the work area is not permitted.

"Regional contribution agreement" or "RCA" means a contractual agreement, pursuant to the Act, into which two municipalities voluntarily entered into prior to July 18, 2008, to transfer a portion of the Borough's affordable housing obligation to another municipality within its housing region.

"Rehabilitation" means the repair, renovation, alteration, or reconstruction of any building or structure, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.

"Residential development fee" means money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential property as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3.2.

"Spending plan" means a method of allocating funds contained in an affordable housing trust fund account, which includes, but is not limited to, development fees collected and to be collected pursuant to an approved municipal development fee ordinance, or pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 et seq., for the purpose of meeting the housing needs of low- and moderate-income individuals.

“UHAC” means the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80- 26.

“Very-low-income household” means a household with a household income less than or equal to 30 percent of the regional median income.

“Very-low-income housing” means housing affordable according to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to 30 percent or less of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is located.

A301-1(E)(8). Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

- (a). There is hereby created a separate, interest-bearing Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be maintained by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Closter for the purpose of depositing development fees collected from residential and non-residential developers and proceeds from the sale of units with extinguished controls.
- (b). The following additional funds shall be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shall at all times be identifiable by source and amount:
 - 1) Payments in lieu of on-site construction of a fraction of an affordable unit, where permitted by Ordinance or by Agreement with the Borough of Closter;
 - 2) Barrier-free escrow funds;
 - 3) Rental income;
 - 4) Repayments from affordable housing program loans;
 - 5) Recapture funds;
 - 6) Enforcement fines;
 - 7) Unexpended RCA funds remaining from a completed RCA project;
 - 8) Application fees;
 - 9) Proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and
 - 10) Any other funds collected in connection with Closter’s affordable housing program.
- (c). Interest accrued in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall only be used to fund eligible affordable housing activities approved by the Division, Program, or court of competent jurisdiction.

A301-1(E)(9). Residential Development Fees

- (a). Imposition of Fees
 - 1) Within the Borough of Closter, all residential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below and developers of developments that include affordable housing, shall pay a fee of one and a half percent (1.5%) of the equalized assessed value for all new residential development provided no increased density is permitted. Development fees shall also be imposed and collected when an additional dwelling unit is added to an existing residential structure; in such cases, the fee shall be calculated based on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the property due to the additional dwelling unit.
 - 2) When an increase in residential density is permitted pursuant to a “d” variance granted under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d(5), developers shall be required to pay a “increased” development fee of six percent (6%) percent of the equalized assessed value for each additional unit that may be realized, except that this provision shall not be applicable to a development that will include affordable housing. If the zoning on a site has changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application, the density for the purposes of calculating the increased development fee shall be the highest density permitted by right during the two-year period preceding the filing of the variance application.
- (b). Eligible Exactions, Ineligible Exactions and Exemptions from Residential Development Fees.
 - 1) Affordable housing developments, affordable housing developments where the affordable

units are being provided elsewhere in the Borough, and developments where the developer has made a payment in lieu of constructing affordable units if permitted by Ordinance or by Agreement with the Borough of Closter, shall be exempt from the payment of development fees.

- 2) Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of Ordinance Number 1998:786 adopted on January 4, 1999 and any preceding Ordinance permitting the collection of development fees shall be exempt from the payment of development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the original approval, necessitating an amended preliminary or a new preliminary approval pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-46.b and 40:55-48.b. Where site plan approval is not applicable, the issuance of a Zoning Permit and/or Construction Permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for the purpose of determining the right to an exemption. In all cases, the applicable fee percentage shall be determined based upon the Development Fee Ordinance in effect on the date that the Construction Permit is issued.
- 3) Residential development fees may be imposed and collected for new construction and when an existing structure is expanded, undergoes a change to a more intense use, or is demolished and replaced. The development fee that may be imposed and collected shall be calculated on the increase in the EAV resulting from the expansion, change to a more intense use, or replacement.
- 4) Non-profit organizations that have received tax exempt status pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, providing current evidence of that status is submitted to the municipal clerk, together with a certification that services of the organization are provided at reduced rates to those who establish an inability to pay existing charges, shall be exempted from paying a development fee
- 5) Federal, state, county and local governments shall be exempted from paying a development fee.
- 6) Residential structures demolished and replaced as a result of a fire, flood, or any natural disaster or catastrophe shall be exempt from paying any residential development fee, even if the new structure has an increased EAV as compared to the previous structure.

A301-1(E)(10). Non-Residential Development Fees.

(a). Imposition of Fees

- 1) Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee equal to two and one-half (2.5) percent of the equalized assessed value of the land and improvements, for all new non-residential construction on an unimproved lot or lots.
- 2) Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below, shall also pay a fee equal to two and one-half (2.5) percent of the increase in equalized assessed value resulting from any additions to existing structures to be used for non-residential purposes.
- 3) Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure is demolished and replaced. The development fee of two and a half percent (2.5%) shall be calculated on the difference between the equalized assessed value of the pre-existing land and improvements and the equalized assessed value of the newly improved structure, i.e. land and improvements, and such calculation shall be made at the time a final Certificate of Occupancy is issued. If the calculation required under this Section results in a negative number, the non-residential development fee shall be zero.
- 4) A developer of a mixed use development shall be required to pay the non-residential development fee relating to the non-residential development component of a mixed use development subject to the provisions at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 et seq.

(b). Eligible Exactions, Ineligible Exactions and Exemptions for Non-residential Development

- 1) The non-residential portion of a mixed-use inclusionary or market rate development shall be subject to a two and a half percent (2.5%) development fee, unless otherwise exempted below.
- 2) A developer of a non-residential development exempted from the non-residential development fee pursuant to the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act shall be subject to the fee at such time as the basis for the exemption no longer applies, and shall make the payment of the non-residential development fee, in that event, within three years after that event or after the issuance of the final Certificate of Occupancy for the non-

residential development, whichever is later.

- 3) If a property which was exempted from the collection of a non-residential development fee thereafter ceases to be exempt from property taxation, the owner of the property shall remit the fees required pursuant to this Section within 45 days of the termination of the property tax exemption. Unpaid non-residential development fees under these circumstances may be enforceable by the Borough of Closter as a lien against the real property of the owner.
- 4) A fee equal to two-and-one-half percent of the increase in EAV, of the additions or alterations to existing structures to be used for non-residential purposes, or such other amount pursuant to the Non-Residential Development Fee Act, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7.(f) All non-residential construction of buildings or structures on property used by churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship, and property used for educational purposes, that are tax-exempt pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6, shall be exempt from the imposition of a non-residential development fee pursuant to this section, provided that the property continues to maintain its tax exempt status pursuant to that statute for a period of at least three years from the date of issuance of the certificate of occupancy. In addition, the following shall be exempt from the imposition of a non-residential development fee pursuant to the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7:
 - a) Parking lots and parking structures, regardless of whether the parking lot or parking structure is constructed in conjunction with a non-residential development, or whether the parking lot is developed as an independent non-residential development.
 - b) Any non-residential development that is an amenity to be made available to the public, including, but not limited to, recreational facilities, community centers, and senior centers that are developed in conjunction with, or funded by, a non-residential developer.
 - c) Non-residential construction resulting from a relocation of, or an on-site improvement to, a nonprofit hospital or a nursing home facility.
 - d) Projects that are located within a specifically delineated urban transit hub, as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:1B-208.
 - e) Projects that are located within an eligible municipality, as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:1B-208, the Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit Act, when a majority of the project is located within a one-half mile radius of the midpoint of a platform area for a light rail system.
 - f) Projects determined by the New Jersey Transit Corporation to be consistent with a transit village plan developed by a transit village designated by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- 11) Non-residential construction connected with the relocation of the facilities of a for-profit hospital shall be subject to the fee authorized to be imposed pursuant to this section to the extent of the increase in equalized assessed valuation.

A301-1(E)(11). Collection Procedures.

- (a). Upon the granting of a preliminary, final or other applicable approval for a development, the approving authority or entity shall notify or direct its staff to notify the Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a Construction Permit.
- (b). For non-residential developments only, the developer shall also be provided with a copy of Form N-RDF "State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/ Exemption" to be completed as per the instructions provided. The developer of a non-residential development shall complete Form N-RDF as per the instructions provided. The Construction Official shall verify the information submitted by the non-residential developer as per the instructions provided in the Form N-RDF. The Tax Assessor shall verify exemptions and prepare estimated and final assessments as per the instructions provided in Form N-RDF.
- (c). The Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a Construction Permit shall notify the Borough Tax Assessor of the issuance of the first Construction Permit for a development which is subject to a development fee.
- (d). For residential developments, regardless of the time of collection or the date of approvals, the fee shall be based on the residential development fee percentage pursuant to the municipal ordinance in effect on the date that residential building permits are issued.

- (e). Within 90 days of receipt of such notification, the Borough Tax Assessor shall prepare an estimate of the equalized assessed value of the development based on the plans filed.
- (f). The Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a final Certificate of Occupancy shall notify the Borough Tax Assessor of any and all requests for the scheduling of a final inspection on a property which is subject to a development fee.
- (g). Within 10 business days of a request for the scheduling of a final inspection, the Borough Tax Assessor shall confirm or modify the previously estimated equalized assessed value of the improvements associated with the development in accordance with the rules adopted by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:1-35.35; calculate the development fee pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D8.1 through 40:55D-8.7; and thereafter notify the developer of the amount of the non-residential 30 development fee
- (h). Should the Borough of Closter fail to determine or notify the developer of the amount of the development fee within 10 business days of the request for final inspection, the developer may estimate the amount due and pay that estimated amount consistent with the dispute process set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.6.b.
- (i). Except as provided in Section 5.A.3) hereinabove, fifty percent (50%) of the initially calculated development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the Construction Permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the time of issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at the time of issuance of the Construction Permit and that determined at the time of issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.
- (j). Appeal of Development Fees
 - 1) A developer may challenge non-residential development fees imposed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 et seq., by filing a challenge with the Director of the Division of Taxation. Collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by the Borough of Closter if the Borough of Closter is authorized to retain the fees, or by the State if the Borough is not authorized to retain the fees. The Construction Official shall thereafter issue the certificate of occupancy provided that the construction is otherwise eligible for a certificate of occupancy. Appeals from a determination of the Director may be made to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Uniform Tax Procedure Law, N.J.S.A. 54:48-1 et seq., within 90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.

A301-1(E)(12). Use of Funds

- (a). The Borough may use affordable housing trust funds for any housing activity as itemized in the spending plan and approved by the Program or court of competent jurisdiction or as approved by the Division as an emergent opportunity to create affordable housing. Such activities include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) A rehabilitation program whose purpose is to renovate deficient housing units that are occupied by low- and moderate-income households, in accordance with the New Jersey State 17 Housing Code, N.J.A.C. 5:28, or the requirements of the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6, as applicable, and costs related to the rehabilitation of the unit. Any recaptured funds from a rehabilitation program shall be deposited into a municipality's affordable housing trust fund and subject to the provisions thereof;
 - 2) New construction of affordable housing units and related development costs; in the case of inclusionary developments, eligible costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;
 - 3) Creation of a market to affordable program to pay down the cost of unrestricted units and offer them in sound condition, for sale or rent, at affordable prices to low- and moderate-income households to address all or a portion of the affordable housing obligation;
 - 4) Extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure directly serving affordable housing development sites; in the case of inclusionary developments, costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;
 - 5) RCAs, approved prior to July 17, 2008;
 - 6) Acquisition and/or improvement of land to be used for affordable housing;
 - 7) Accessory dwelling units;
 - 8) The extension of expiring controls;
 - 9) The construction of group homes and supportive and special needs housing;
 - 10) Maintenance and repair of affordable housing units;
 - 11) To defray the costs of structured parking; in the case of inclusionary developments, eligible costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;

- 12) Affordability assistance in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.5; 18
 - 13) Repayment of municipal bonds issued to finance low- and moderate-income housing activity;
 - 14) Any other activity as specified in the approved spending plan or as approved by the Division as an emergent affordable housing opportunity; or
 - 15) Any other activity approved by the Division.
- (b). Funds shall not be expended to reimburse the Borough of Closter for past housing activities occurring prior to January 4, 1999 (t)he adoption of the initial development fee ordinance
- (c). The Borough shall set aside a portion of all development fees collected and interest earned for the purpose of providing affordability assistance to very low-, low- and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the Borough's fair share plan.
- 1) Affordability assistance for very-low-income households may include offering a subsidy to developers of inclusionary or 100 percent affordable housing developments or buying down the cost of low- or moderate-income units in a municipal fair share plan to make them affordable to very low-income households, including special needs and supportive housing opportunities.
- (d). The Borough of Closter may contract with a private or public entity to administer any part of its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including the requirement for affordability assistance, or any program or activity for which the Borough expends development fee proceeds.
- (e). No more than 20 percent of all affordable housing trust funds, exclusive of those collected prior to July 17, 2008, to fund an RCA, shall be expended on administration.
- 1) Administrative expenses may include costs reasonably related to the determination of the fair share obligation and the development of a municipal housing element and fair share plan and may include fees necessary to develop or implement affordable housing programs, an affirmative marketing program, and/or expenses that are reasonably necessary for compliance with the processes of the Program, including, but not limited to, the costs to the municipality of resolving a challenge pursuant to the Program.
 - 2) Administrative expenses may also include costs associated with functions carried out in compliance with UHAC, including activities related to the marketing program and waitlist management, administering the placement of occupants in housing units, income qualification of households, monitoring the turnover of sale and rental units, preserving existing affordable housing, and compliance with the Division's monitoring requirements.
 - 3) The proportion of a municipal employee's salary related to the MHL or RCA administrator functions and fees for required educational programs, may be paid as an administrative expense from the municipal affordable housing trust fund.
- (f). Development fees collected by the Borough shall be expended or committed for expenditure within four years of the date of collection. For the purposes of this section, funds are expended, or committed for expenditure, if one of the following standards has been met:
- 1) The funds have been spent on a housing activity in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.3;
 - 2) The Division has been provided with an executed contract or legally enforceable agreement funding the implementation of an allowable housing activity in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.3, and the following, as applicable: a municipal resolution or ordinance creating the affordable housing program, a policy and procedures manual, and completion of affordable housing trust fund and unit monitoring, indicating units completed or rehabilitated, or the Borough has otherwise demonstrated a firm and binding obligation to spend such funds in a manner consistent with addressing its respective affordable housing obligation;
 - 3) For affordability assistance expenses, the Division has been provided with the following: demonstration of a firm and binding obligation to spend such funds in a manner consistent with addressing the affordability assistance obligation required by the Act or a municipal resolution or ordinance and an executed contract or agreement for expenses related to providing affordability assistance to existing low- and moderate-income households, a policies and procedures manual for any affordability assistance program executed by the Borough, and a contract with an administrative agent to carry out the program if applicable; or
 - 4) For administrative expenses, the Division has been provided with the following: a municipal resolution or ordinance and an executed contract or agreement for expenses related to administering affordable housing.

A301-1(E)(13). Monitoring.

The Borough of Closter shall provide annual reporting of Affordable Housing Trust Fund activity to the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Council on Affordable Housing or Local Government Services or other entity designated by the State of New Jersey, with a copy provided to Fair Share Housing Center and posted on the municipal website, using forms developed for this purpose by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Council on Affordable Housing or Local Government

Services. The reporting shall include a full accounting of all Affordable Housing Trust Fund activity, including the sources and amounts of funds collected and the amounts and purposes for which any funds have been expended. Such reporting shall include an accounting of development fees collected from residential and non-residential developers, payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site (if permitted by Ordinance or by Agreement with the Borough), funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls, barrier free escrow funds, rental income from Borough owned affordable housing units, repayments from affordable housing program loans, and any other funds collected in connection with Closter’s affordable housing programs, as well as an accounting of the expenditures of revenues and implementation of the Spending Plan approved by the Division.

In the event of a failure by the Borough of Closter to comply with trust fund monitoring and reporting requirements or to submit accurate monitoring reports; or a failure to comply with the conditions of the judgment of compliance or a revocation of the judgment of compliance; or a failure to implement the approved Spending Plan and to expend funds within the applicable required time period as set forth in In re Tp. of Monroe, 442 N.J. Super. 565 (Law Div. 2015) (aff’d 442 N.J. Super. 563); or the expenditure of funds on activities not approved by the Program or the Division or otherwise permitted by law; or for other good cause demonstrating the unapproved use(s) of funds, the Court may authorize the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (LGS), to direct the manner in which the funds in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall be expended, provided that all such funds shall, to the extent practicable, be utilized for affordable housing programs within the Borough of Closter, or, if not practicable, then within the County or the Housing Region.

Any party may bring a motion before the Superior Court presenting evidence of such condition(s), and the Court may, after considering the evidence and providing the Borough a reasonable opportunity to respond and/or to remedy the non-compliant condition(s), and upon a finding of continuing and deliberate non-compliance, determine to authorize LGS to direct the expenditure of funds in the Trust Fund or impose such other remedies as may be reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances.

A301-1(E)(14). Ongoing Collection of Fees.

- (a). The ability for the Borough of Closter to impose, collect and expend development fees shall expire with the expiration of the repose period covered by its Judgment of Compliance unless the Borough of Closter has first filed an adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program or filed a Declaratory Judgment with a court of competent jurisdiction, and has received compliance certification or a Judgment Of Compliance and has received approval of its Development Fee Ordinance from the entity that will be reviewing and approving the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (b). If the Borough of Closter fails to renew its ability to impose and collect development fees prior to the expiration of its compliance certification or Judgment of Compliance, it may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Any funds so forfeited shall be deposited into the "New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund" established pursuant to Section 20 of P.L. 1985, c. 222 (C. 52:27D-320).
- (c). The Borough of Closter shall not impose a residential development fee on a development that receives preliminary or final site plan approval after the expiration of its compliance certification or Judgment of Compliance, nor shall the Borough of Closter retroactively impose a development fee on such a development. The Borough of Closter also shall not expend any of its collected development fees after the expiration of its compliance certification or Judgment of Compliance.

Section 2. All other provisions of Chapter A301-1 not amended hereto are herein ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. If any section, paragraph, sub-section, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Borough heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication as required by law.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai	✓		✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules		✓	✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

**c. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1385
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOROUGH CODE TO INCLUDE A NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE**

Final Adoption and Open Public Hearing will be held on March 11, 2026 or as soon thereafter. An explanation was provided by Assistant Borough Attorney JoAnn Riccardi Schuman.

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has adopted an Amended Fair Housing Act at P.L. 2024, c. 2 (A4) which provides new Fourth Round affordable housing fair share requirements for each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the State has adopted new Fourth Round substantive affordable housing regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:99; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) have adopted new Uniform Housing and Affordability Controls (UHAC) at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain compliance with said state regulations regarding affordable housing, the Borough of Closter (the "Borough") must amend certain sections of the Borough Code; and

WHEREAS, Article XID, Affordable Housing and Affirmative Marketing, contains requirements for affordable housing provisions based on previous COAH regulations and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Article XID of the Borough Code is hereby repealed and replaced as follows: The entirety of Article XID (Section 200-54.11-200.54.35) of the Borough Code is hereby removed and replaced as follows with the following Article XID, Affordable and Affirmative Marketing.

Section 200-54.11

A. Introduction & Applicability

1. This Chapter of the Code sets forth regulations regarding the creation, use, occupancy, administration and preservation of very low-, low- and moderate-income affordable housing units in the Borough of Closter consistent with the Mount Laurel doctrine; the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, as amended by P.L. 2024, c.2, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq., (hereinafter the "Act," "FHA" or "FHA-2"); the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Planning Services ("LPS") at N.J.A.C. 5:99 et seq., ("Affordable Housing Rules"), and the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency's (HMFA) Uniform Housing Affordability Controls at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq.; and the ; and the municipality's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("HEFSP").
2. This Chapter is intended to ensure that very low-, low- and moderate-income units ("affordable units") are created with controls on affordability over time and that very low-, low- and moderate-income households shall occupy these units in accordance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. This Chapter of the Code shall apply to all inclusionary developments, individual affordable units, and 100% affordable housing developments except where inconsistent with applicable law. Low-Income Housing Tax Credit-financed developments shall adhere to the provisions set forth below in item 5.c. below.
3. The Borough of Closter Planning Board has adopted a HEFSP pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq. The Fair Share Plan describes the ways the municipality shall address its fair share of very low-, low- and moderate-income housing as approved by the Superior Court and documented in the Housing Element.
4. This Chapter implements and incorporates the relevant provisions of the HEFSP and addresses the requirements of the Mt. Laurel doctrine, the FHA, N.J.A.C. 5:99, NJ Supreme Court upheld COAH regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:93 and 5:97, and UHAC at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented.
5. Applicability
 - a. Except where specifically exempted hereinafter, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all affordable housing developments and affordable housing units that currently exist and that are proposed to be created pursuant to the municipality's most recently adopted HEFSP.
 - b. Except where specifically exempted hereinafter, this Chapter shall apply to all developments that contain very low-, low- and moderate-income housing units included in the Municipal HEFSP, as well as any unanticipated future development or redevelopment projects that will include, are proposed to provide or required by the municipality to provide very low-, low- and moderate-income housing units.
 - c. Projects receiving federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit financing shall be required to follow the UHAC unless exempt pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, including but not limited to developments with anticipated funding from the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. Developers, landlords and program sponsors shall be required to

comply with administration and affirmative marketing of the affordable units within such developments.

- d. A waiver from any provision of this Chapter may be granted by the County-level Mount Laurel Judge, the Program or any trial court if it would advance the interests of low-and moderate-income households or if strict compliance would cause an unreasonable result.

6. Interpretation

- a. In the event of any ambiguity, the provisions of this Chapter shall be interpreted and liberally construed in favor of the Municipality.
- b. For any subject matter that is not otherwise addressed hereinafter, or is not otherwise covered by the Act, the Affordable Housing Rules or the UHAC, the Municipality may rely upon the provisions of COAH's prior round regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:93 and 5:97 that were deemed valid by binding Court precedent and that are most favorable to the municipality.
- c. The provisions of the Mount Laurel doctrine; the Act; the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, LPS; the Affordable Housing Rules; the HMFA Uniform Housing Affordability Controls at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq.; and the municipality's Fourth Round HEFSP, as set forth in Subsection A 1 above shall supersede and take precedence over the provisions of this Chapter.

B. Definitions

As used herein the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Accessory apartments" means a residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities with a private entrance for one or more persons, consisting of provisions for living, sleeping, eating, sanitation, and cooking, including a stove and refrigerator, and is located within a proposed preexisting primary dwelling, within an existing or proposed structure that is an accessory to a dwelling on the same lot, constructed in whole or part as an extension to a proposed or existing primary dwelling, or constructed as a separate detached structure on the same lot as the existing or proposed primary dwelling. Accessory apartments are also referred to as "accessory dwelling units".

"Act" means the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.

"Adaptable" means constructed in compliance with the technical design standards of the barrier free subcode adopted by the Commissioner of Community Affairs pursuant to the "State Uniform Construction Code Act," P.L.1975, c. 217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.) and in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of P.L.2005, c. 350 (C.52:27D-123.15).

"Administrative agent" means the entity approved by the Division responsible for the administration of affordable units, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-7, and UHAC at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.15.

"Affirmative marketing" means a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and/or renters of affordable units pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16.

"Affirmative Marketing Plan" means the municipally adopted plan of strategies from which the administrative agent will choose to implement as part of the Affirmative Marketing requirements.

"Affirmative Marketing Process" or "Program" means the actual undertaking of Affirmative Marketing activities in furtherance of each project with very low-, low-, and moderate-income units.

"Affordability assistance" means the use of funds to render housing units more affordable to low- and moderate-income households and includes, but is not limited to, down payment assistance, security deposit assistance, low interest loans, rental assistance, assistance with homeowner's association or condominium fees and special assessments, common maintenance expenses, and assistance with emergency repairs and rehabilitation to bring deed-restricted units up to code, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.5.

"Affordability average" means an average of the percentage of regional median income at which restricted units in an affordable development are affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

"Affordable" means, in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7 and, in the case of a rental unit, that the rent for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13.

"Affordable housing development" means a development included in a municipality's housing element and fair share plan, and includes, but is not limited to, an inclusionary development, a municipally sponsored affordable housing project, or a 100 percent affordable development. This includes developments with affordable units on-site, off-site, or provided as a payment in-lieu of construction only if such a payment-in-lieu option has been previously approved by the Program or Superior Court as part of the HEFSP. Payments in lieu of construction were invalidated per P.L. 2024, c.2.

“Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program” or “the Program” refers to the dispute resolution program established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313.2.

“Affordable Housing Monitoring System” or “AHMS” means the Department’s cloud-based software application, which shall be the central repository for municipalities to use for reporting detailed information regarding affordable housing developments, affordable housing unit completions, and the collection and expenditures of funds deposited into the municipal affordable housing trust fund.

“Affordable Housing Trust Fund” or “AHTF” means that non-lapsing, revolving trust fund established in DCA pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320 and N.J.A.C. 5:43 to be the repository of all State funds appropriated for affordable housing purposes. All references to the “Neighborhood Preservation Nonlapsing Revolving Fund” and “Balanced Housing” mean the AHTF.

“Affordable unit” means a housing unit proposed or developed pursuant to the Act, including, but not limited to, units created with municipal affordable housing trust funds.

“Age-restricted housing” means a housing unit that is designed to meet the needs of, and is exclusively for, an age-restricted segment of the population such that: 1. All the residents of the development where the unit is situated are 62 years or older; 2. At least 80 percent of the units are occupied by one person that is 55 years or older; or 3. The development has been designated by the Secretary of HUD as “housing for older persons” as defined in Section 807(b)(2) of the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3607.

“Agency” means the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency established by P.L.1983, c. 530 (C.55:14K-1 et seq.).

“Assisted living residence” means a facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining and to ensure that assisted living services are available when needed for four or more adult persons unrelated to the proprietor. Apartment units must offer, at a minimum, one unfurnished room, a private bathroom, a kitchenette, and a lockable door on the unit entrance.

“Barrier-free escrow” means the holding of funds collected to adapt affordable unit entrances to be accessible in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311a et seq. Such funds shall be held in a municipal affordable housing trust fund pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.6.

“Builder’s remedy” means court-imposed site-specific relief for a litigant who seeks to build affordable housing for which the court requires a municipality to utilize zoning techniques, such as mandatory set-asides or density bonuses, including techniques which provide for the economic viability of a residential development by including housing that is not for low- and moderate-income households.

“Certified household” means a household that has been certified by an administrative agent as a very-low-income household, a low-income household, or a moderate-income household.

“CHOICE” means the no-longer-active Choices in Homeownership Incentives for Everyone Program, as it was authorized by the Agency.

“COAH” or the “Council” means the Council on Affordable Housing established in, but not of, DCA pursuant to the Act and that was abolished effective March 20, 2024, pursuant to section 3 at P.L. 2024, c. 2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1).

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.

“Compliance certification” means the certification obtained by a municipality pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2024, c. 2 (C.52:27D-304.1), that protects the municipality from exclusionary zoning litigation during the current round of present and prospective need and through July 1 of the year the next round begins, which is also known as a “judgment of compliance” or “judgment of repose.” The term “compliance certification” shall include a judgment of repose granted in an action filed pursuant to section 13 of P.L.1985, c. 222 (C.52:27D-313).

“Compliant municipality” means a municipality that is in the process of seeking compliance certification pursuant to the directives issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts, has obtained compliance certification, or who has filed for, or has obtained, a Judgment of Compliance, Order for Repose, or other court approval pursuant to the Act.

“Construction” means new construction and additions, but does not include alterations, reconstruction, renovations, conversion, relocation, or repairs, as those terms are defined in the State Uniform Construction Code promulgated pursuant to the State Uniform Construction Code Act, P.L. 1975, c. 217(N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq.).

“County-level housing judge” means a judge appointed pursuant to section 5 at P.L. 2024, c. 2, to resolve disputes over the compliance of municipal fair share affordable housing obligations and municipal Fair Share plans and housing elements with the Act.

“DCA” and “Department” mean the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

“Deficient housing unit” means a housing unit with health and safety code violations that require the repair or replacement of a major system. A major system includes weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement and/or load bearing structural systems.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

“Developer” means the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or of any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such land.

“Development” means the division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels, the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation, or landfill, and any use or change in the use of any building or other structure, or land or extension of use of land, for which permission may be required pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.

“Development fee” means money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential and non-residential property as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2 and 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3.

“Dispute Resolution Program” means the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, established pursuant to section 5 at P.L. 2024, c. 2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313.2).

“Division” means the Division of Local Planning Services within the Department of Community Affairs.

“Emergent opportunity” means a circumstance that has arisen whereby affordable housing will be able to be produced through a delivery mechanism not originally contemplated by or included in a fair share plan that has been the subject of a compliance certification.

“Equalized assessed value” or “EAV” means the assessed value of a property divided by the current average ratio of assessed to true value for the municipality in which the property is situated, as determined in accordance with sections 1, 5, and 6 at P.L. 1973, c. 123 (N.J.S.A. 54:1-35a, 54:1-35b, and 54:1-35c). Estimates at the time of building permit may be obtained by the tax assessor using construction cost estimates. Final EAV shall be determined at project completion by the municipal assessor.

“Equity share amount” means the product of the price differential and the equity share, with the equity share being the whole number of years that have elapsed since the last non-exempt sale of a restricted ownership unit, divided by 100, except that the equity share may not be less than five percent and may not exceed 30 percent.

“Exit sale” means the first authorized non-exempt sale of a restricted unit following the end of the control period, which sale terminates the affordability controls on the unit.

“Exclusionary zoning litigation” means litigation challenging the fair share plan, housing element, ordinances, or resolutions that implement the fair share plan or housing element of a municipality based on alleged noncompliance with the Act or the Mount Laurel doctrine, which litigation shall include, but shall not be limited to, litigation seeking a builder’s remedy.

“Extension of expiring controls” means extending the deed restriction period on units where the controls will expire in the current round of a housing obligation, so that the total years of a deed restriction is at least 60 years.

“Fair share obligation” means the total of the present need and prospective need, including prior rounds, as determined by the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

“Fair share plan” means the plan or proposal, with accompanying ordinances and resolutions, by which a municipality proposes to satisfy its constitutional obligation to create a realistic opportunity to meet its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing needs of its region and which details the affirmative measures the municipality proposes to undertake to achieve its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing, as provided in the municipal housing element, and which addresses the development regulations necessary to implement the housing element, including, but not limited to, inclusionary requirements and development fees, and the elimination of unnecessary housing cost-generating features from the municipal land use ordinances and regulations.

“FHA” means the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.

“Green Building Strategies” means the strategies that minimize the impact of development on the environment, and enhance the health, safety and well-being of residents by producing durable, low-maintenance, resource-efficient housing while making optimum use of existing infrastructure and community services.

“HMFA” or “the Agency” means the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency established pursuant to P.L. 1983, c. 530 (N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1 et seq.).

“Household income” means a household’s gross annual income calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of annual income pursuant to section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (Section 8), not in accordance with the determination of gross income for Federal income tax liability.

“Housing element” means the portion of a municipality’s master plan adopted in accordance with the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28.b(3) and the Act consisting of reports, statements proposals, maps, diagrams, and text designed to meet the municipality’s fair share of its region’s present and prospective housing needs, particularly with regard to low- and moderate-income housing, which shall include the municipal present and prospective obligation for affordable housing, determined pursuant to subsection f. at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1.

“Housing region” means a geographic area established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2b.

“Inclusionary development” means a residential housing development in which a substantial percentage of the housing units are provided for a reasonable income range of low- and moderate- income households.

“Judgment of compliance” or “judgment for repose” means a determination issued by the Superior Court approving a municipality’s fair share plan to satisfy its affordable housing obligation for a particular 10-year round.

“Low-income household” means a household with a household income equal to 50 percent or less of the regional median income.

“Low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a low-income household.

“Major system” means the primary structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, or occupant service components of a building which include but are not limited to, weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement or load bearing structural systems.

“Mixed use development” means any development that includes both a non-residential development component and a residential development component, and shall include developments for which: (1) there is a common developer for both the residential development component and the non-residential development component, provided that for purposes of this definition, multiple persons and entities maybe considered a common developer if there is a contractual relationship among them obligating each entity to develop at least a portion of the residential or non-residential development, or both, or otherwise to contribute resources to the development; and (2) the residential and non-residential developments are located on the same lot or adjoining lots, including, but not limited to, lots separated by a street, a river, or another geographical feature.

“Moderate-income household” means a household with a household income in excess of 50 percent but less than 80 percent of the regional median income.

“Moderate-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a moderate-income household.

“MONI” means the no-longer-active Market Oriented Neighborhood Investment Program, as it was authorized by the Agency.

“Municipal housing liaison” or “MHL” means an appointed municipal employee who is, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-6, responsible for oversight and/or administration of the affordable units created within the municipality.

“Municipal affordable housing trust fund” means a separate, interest-bearing account held by a municipality for the deposit of development fees, payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on sites zoned for affordable housing previously approved prior to March 20, 2024 (per P.L. 2024, c.2), barrier-free escrow funds, recapture funds, proceeds from the sale of affordable units, rental income, repayments from affordable housing program loans, enforcement fines, unexpended RCA funds remaining from a completed RCA project, application fees, and any other funds collected by the municipality in connection with its affordable housing programs, which shall be used to address municipal low- and moderate-income housing obligations within the time frames established by the Legislature and this chapter.

“Municipal development fee ordinance” means an ordinance adopted by the governing body of a municipality that authorizes the collection of development fees.

“New construction” means the creation of a new housing unit under regulation by a code enforcement official regardless of the means by which the unit is created. Newly constructed units are evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of occupancy and may include new residences created through additions and alterations, adaptive reuse, subdivision, or conversion of existing space, and moving a structure from one location to another.

“New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund” means an account established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320.

“New Jersey Housing Resource Center” or “Housing Resource Center” means the online affordable housing listing portal, or its successor, overseen by the Agency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-321.3 et seq.

“95/5 restriction” means a deed restriction governing a restricted ownership unit that is part of a housing element that received substantive certification from COAH pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93, as it was in effect at the time of the receipt of substantive certification, before October 1, 2001, or any other deed restriction governing a restricted ownership unit with a seller repayment option requiring 95 percent of the price differential to be paid to the municipality or an instrument of the municipality at the closing of a sale at market price.

“Non-exempt sale” means any sale or transfer of ownership of a restricted unit to one’s self or to another individual other than the transfer of ownership between spouses or civil union partners; the transfer of ownership between former spouses or civil union partners ordered as a result of a judicial decree of divorce or judicial separation, but not including sales to third parties; the transfer of ownership between family members as a result of inheritance; the transfer of ownership through an executor’s deed to a class A beneficiary; and the transfer of ownership by court order.

“Nonprofit” means an organization granted nonprofit status in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

“Non-residential development” means:

Any building or structure, or portion thereof, including, but not limited to, any appurtenant improvements, which is designated to a use group other than a residential use group according to the State Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, promulgated to effectuate the State uniform Construction Code Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq., including any subsequent amendments or revisions thereto;

Hotels, motels, vacation timeshares, and child-care facilities; and

The entirety of all continuing care facilities within a continuing care retirement community which is subject to the Continuing Care Retirement Community Regulation and Financial Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A.52:27D-330 et seq.

“Non-residential development fee” means the fee authorized to be imposed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7.

“Order for repose” means the protection a municipality has from a builder’s remedy lawsuit for a period of time from the entry of a judgment of compliance by the Superior Court. A judgment of compliance often results in an order for repose.

“Payment in lieu of constructing affordable units” means the prior approval of the payment of funds to the municipality by a developer when affordable units are not produced on a site zoned for an inclusionary development. The statutory permission for payments in lieu of constructing affordable units was eliminated per P.L. 2024, c.2.

“Prospective need” means a projection of housing needs based on development and growth which is reasonably likely to occur in a region or a municipality, as the case may be, as a result of actual determination of public and private entities. Prospective need shall be determined by the methodology set forth pursuant to sections 6 and 7 of P.L.2024, c. 2 (C.52:27D-304.2 and C.52:27D-304.3) for the fourth round and all future rounds of housing obligations.

“Qualified Urban Aid Municipality” means a municipality that meets the criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.3.c(1).

“Person with a disability” means a person with a physical disability, infirmity, malformation, or disfigurement which is caused by bodily injury, birth defect, aging, or illness including epilepsy and other seizure disorders, and which shall include, but not be limited to, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical coordination, blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, the inability to speak or a speech impairment, or physical reliance on a service animal, wheelchair, or other remedial appliance or device.

“Price differential” means the difference between the controlled sale price of a restricted unit and the contract price at the exit sale of the unit, determined as of the date of a proposed contract of sale for the unit. If there is no proposed contract of sale, the price differential is the difference between the controlled sale price of a restricted unit and the appraised value of the unit as if it were not subject to UHAC, determined as of the date of the appraisal. If the controlled sale price exceeds the contract price or, in the absence of a contract price, the appraised value, the price differential is zero dollars.

“Prior round unit” means a housing unit that addresses a municipality’s fair share obligation from a round prior to the fourth round of affordable housing obligations, including any unit that: (1) received substantive certification from COAH; (2) is part of a third-round settlement agreement or judgment of compliance

approved by a court of competent jurisdiction, inclusive of units created pursuant to a zoning designation adopted as part of the settlement agreement or judgment of compliance to create a realistic opportunity for development; (3) is subject to a grant agreement or other contract with either the State or a political subdivision thereof entered into prior to July 1, 2025, pursuant to either item (1) or (2) above; or (4) otherwise addresses a municipality's fair share obligation from a round prior to the fourth round of affordable housing obligations. A unit created after the enactment of P.L. 2024, c. 2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1) on March 20, 2024, is not a prior round unit unless: (1) it is created pursuant to a prior round development plan or zoning designation that received COAH or court approval on or before the cutoff date of June 30, 2025, or the date that the municipality adopts the implementing ordinances and resolutions for the fourth round of affordable housing obligations, whichever occurs sooner; and (2) its siting and creation are consistent with the form of the prior round development plan or zoning designation in effect as of the cutoff date, without any amendment or variance.

"Random selection process" means a lottery process by which currently income-eligible applicant-households are selected, at random, for placement in affordable housing units such that no preference is given to one applicant over another, except in the case of a veterans' preference where such an agreement exists; for purposes of matching household income and size with an appropriately priced and sized affordable unit; or another purpose allowed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7(k)3. This definition excludes any practices that would allow affordable housing units to be leased or sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

"RCA administrator" means an appointed municipal employee who is responsible for oversight and/or administration of affordable units and associated revenues and expenditures within the municipality that were funded through regional contribution agreements.

"RCA project plan" means a past application, submitted by a receiving municipality in an RCA, delineating the manner in which the receiving municipality intended to create or rehabilitate low- and moderate-income housing.

"Receiving municipality" means, for the purposes of an RCA, a municipality that contractually agreed to assume a portion of another municipality's fair share obligation.

"Reconstruction" means any project where the extent and nature of the work is such that the work area cannot be occupied while the work is in progress and where a new certificate of occupancy is required before the work area can be reoccupied, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode of the uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6. Reconstruction shall not include projects comprised only of floor finish replacement, painting or wallpapering, or the replacement of equipment or furnishings. Asbestos hazard abatement and lead hazard abatement projects shall not be classified as reconstruction solely because occupancy of the work area is not permitted.

"Recreational facilities and community centers" means any indoor or outdoor buildings, spaces, structures, or improvements intended for active or passive recreation, including, but not limited to, ballfields, meeting halls, and classrooms, accommodating either organized or informal activity.

"Regional contribution agreement" or "RCA" means a contractual agreement, pursuant to the Act, into which two municipalities voluntarily entered into and was approved by COAH and/or Superior Court prior to July 18, 2008, to transfer a portion of a municipality's affordable housing obligation to another municipality within its housing region.

"Regional median income" means the median income by household size for an applicable housing region, as calculated annually in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.3.

"Rehabilitation" means the repair, renovation, alteration, or reconstruction of any building or structure, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.

"Rent" means the gross monthly cost of a rental unit to the tenant, including the rent paid to the landlord, as well as an allowance for tenant-paid utilities computed in accordance with allowances published by DCA for its Section 8 program. With respect to units in assisted living residences, rent does not include charges for food and services.

"Residential development fee" means money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential property as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3.2.

"Restricted unit" means a dwelling unit, whether a rental unit or ownership unit, that is subject to the affordability controls of this subchapter but does not include a market-rate unit that was financed pursuant to UHORP, MONI, or CHOICE.

"Spending plan" means a method of allocating funds contained in an affordable housing trust fund account, which includes, but is not limited to, development fees collected and to be collected pursuant to an approved municipal development fee ordinance, or pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 et seq., for the purpose of meeting the housing needs of low- and moderate-income individuals.

“State Development and Redevelopment Plan” or “State Plan” means the plan prepared pursuant to sections 1 through 12 of the “State Planning Act,” P.L.1985, c. 398 (C.52:18A-196 et al.), designed to represent a balance of development and conservation objectives best suited to meet the needs of the State, and for the purpose of coordinating planning activities and establishing Statewide planning objectives in the areas of land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resource conservation, agriculture and farmland retention, recreation, urban and suburban redevelopment, historic preservation, public facilities and services, and intergovernmental coordination pursuant to subsection f. of section 5 of P.L.1985, c. 398 (C.52:18A-200).

“Supportive housing household” means a very low-, low- or moderate-income household certified as income eligible by an administrative agent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14, in which at least one member is an individual who requires supportive services to maintain housing stability and independent living and who is part of a population identified by federal or state statute, regulation, or program guidance as eligible for supportive or special needs housing. Such populations include, but are not limited to: persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, persons with serious mental illness, person with head injuries (as defined in Section 2 of P.L. 1977), persons with physical disabilities or chronic health conditions, persons who are homeless as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 24 C.F.R. Part 578, survivors of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, and other special needs populations recognized under programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program, the McKinney–Vento Act, or the New Jersey Department of Human Services. A supportive housing household may include family members, unrelated individuals, or live-in aides, provided that the household meets the income eligibility requirements of this subchapter, except that in the case of unrelated individuals not operating as a family unit, income eligibility shall be tested on an individual basis rather than in the aggregate; the unit is leased or sold subject to the affordability controls established herein; and the supportive services available to the household are designed to promote housing stability, independent living, and community integration. The determination of whether unrelated individuals are operating as a family unit shall be made based on the applicant’s self-identification of household members on the affordable housing application.

“Supportive housing sponsoring program” means grant or loan program which provided financial assistance to the development of the unit.

“Supportive housing unit” means a restricted rental unit that is affordable to very low-, low- or moderate-income households and is reserved for occupancy by a supportive housing household. A supportive housing unit is intended to provide long-term, community-based housing for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, as defined at N.J.S.A. 30:6D-25(b). Such units must be leased subject to the affordability controls established herein; remain subject to Affirmative Marketing requirements, household certification, and administrative agent oversight; and may, with the approval of the municipal housing liaison and the administrative agent, be leased either by the bedroom or to a single household in the case of multi-bedroom configurations, provided such arrangement is consistent with the Federal Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968) and the project’s Affirmative Marketing Program. A supportive housing unit may, with the approval of the administrative agent, be subject to a master lease by an approved supportive housing operator, provided that all subleases are to be certified supportive housing households and remain fully subject to the affordability controls of this subchapter. Rents for supportive housing units shall not exceed the rent standards established and published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services. Supportive housing units are also referred to as permanent supportive housing units.

“Transitional housing” means temporary housing that: (1) includes, but is not limited to, single-room occupancy housing or shared living and supportive living arrangements; (2) provides access to on-site or off-site supportive services for very low-income households who have recently been homeless or lack stable housing; (3) is licensed by the department; and (4) allows households to remain for a minimum of six months.

“Treasurer” means the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey.

“UHAC” means the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.

“UHORP” means the Agency’s Urban Homeownership Recovery Program, as it was authorized by the Agency Board.

“Unit type” means type of dwelling unit with various building standards including but not limited to single-family detached, single-family attached/townhouse, stacked townhouse (attached building containing 2 units each with separate entrances), duplex (detached building containing 2 units each with separate entrances), triplex (3 units each with separate entrance), quadplex (4 units each with separate entrance), multifamily / flat (2 or more units with a shared entrance). Inclusion of a garage, or not, shall not define the unit type.

“Very-low-income household” means a household with a household income less than or equal to 30 percent of the regional median income.

“Very-low-income housing” means housing affordable according to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to 30 percent or less of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is

located.

“Very-low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a very-low-income household. Very-low-income units are a subset of low-income units.

“Veteran” means a veteran as defined at N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.10.

“Veterans’ preference” means the agreement between a municipality and a developer or residential development owner that allows for low- to moderate-income veterans to be given preference for up to 50 percent of rental units in relevant projects, as provided for at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311.j.

“Weatherization” means building insulation (for attic, exterior walls and crawl space), siding to improve energy efficiency, replacement storm windows, replacement storm doors, replacement windows and replacement doors and is considered a major system for rehabilitation.

C. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. The municipality shall comply with the following monitoring and reporting requirements regarding the status of the implementation of its court-approved Housing Element and Fair Share Plan:
 - a. The municipality shall provide electronic monitoring data with the Department pursuant to P.L 2024, Chapter 2 and N.J.A.C. 5:99 through the Affordable Housing Monitoring System (AHMS). All monitoring information required to be made public by the FHA shall be available to the public on the Department’s website at <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlps/hss/MuniStatusReporting.shtml>.
 - b. On or before February 15 of each year, the municipality shall provide annual reporting of its municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund activity to the Department on the AHMS portal. The reporting shall include an accounting of all municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund activity, including the sources and amounts of funds collected and the amounts and purposes for which any funds have been expended, for the previous year from January 1st to December 31st.
 - c. On or before February 15 of each year, the annual reporting of the status of all affordable housing activity shall be provided to the Department on the AHMS portal, for the previous year from January 1st to December 31st.

D. Borough-wide Mandatory Set-Aside

1. A development, other than single-family detached, providing a minimum of five new housing units created through any municipal rezoning or Zoning Board action, use or density variance, redevelopment plan, or rehabilitation plan that provides for densities at or above six units per acre, is required to include an affordable housing set-aside of 20 percent. In any situation where the 20% set-aside results in a fraction, the required set-aside shall be rounded upward to the next full integer.
2. Any affordable units generated through such mandatory set-aside shall be subject to all other provisions of this ordinance.
3. All such affordable units shall be governed by this ordinance the controls on affordability, including bedroom distribution, and affirmatively marketed to the housing region in conformance with UHAC at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq., any successor regulation, and all other applicable laws.
4. No subdivision shall be permitted or approved for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this requirement. Developers cannot, for example, subdivide a project into two lots and then make each of them a number of units just below the threshold.
5. The mandatory set-aside requirements of this section do not give any developer the right to any rezoning, variance or other relief, or establish any obligation on the part of the municipality to grant such rezoning, variance or other relief.
6. This municipality-wide mandatory set-aside requirement does not apply to any sites or specific zones otherwise identified in the HEFSP, for which density and set-aside requirements shall be governed by the specific standards as set forth therein.
 - a.

E. Affordable Housing Programs

1. Pursuant to amended UHAC regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq. and, in addition, pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2 and specifically to the amended FHA at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311.m, “All parties shall be entitled to rely upon regulations on municipal credits, adjustments, and compliance mechanisms adopted by the Council on Affordable Housing unless those regulations are contradicted by statute, including but not limited to P.L. 2024, c.2, or binding court decisions.” The following are many of the main provisions of the COAH regulations at either N.J.A.C. 5:93 or 5:97 that have been upheld by the NJ Supreme Court. Municipalities should consult the cited full COAH regulations when preparing the HEFSP for required documentation, etc. Additional compliance details may also be included in the specific municipal program manual.
2. Rehabilitation Programs (per N.J.A.C. 5:93-5.2 with updated provisions herein per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.2 related to credit towards a municipal present need obligation).

- a. The rehabilitation program shall be designed to renovate deficient housing units occupied or intended to be occupied by very low-, low- and moderate-income households such that, after rehabilitation, these units will comply with the New Jersey State Housing Code pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:28-1.1 et seq or the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6 to the extent applicable.
- b. Both ownership and rental units shall be eligible for rehabilitation funds.
- c. All rehabilitated units shall remain affordable to very low-, low- and moderate-income households for a period of 10 years (the control period). For owner-occupied units, the control period shall be enforced with a mortgage and note and for renter-occupied units the control period will be enforced with a deed restriction.
- d. The municipality shall dedicate a minimum average hard cost of \$10,000 for each unit to be rehabilitated through this program and in addition shall dedicate associated rehabilitation program soft costs such as case management, inspection fees and work write-ups.
- e. The municipality shall designate, subject to the approval of the Department, one or more Administrative Agents to administer the rehabilitation program in accordance with P.L 2024, Chapter 2. The Administrative Agent(s) shall provide rehabilitation manuals for ownership and rental rehabilitation programs. Manuals shall be adopted by resolution of the governing body. Both rehabilitation manuals shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and on the municipal affordable housing web page.
- f. Households determined to be very low-, low-, or moderate-income may participate in a rehabilitation program. Rehabilitated units shall be exempt from the very low-income requirements, low/mod split, and bedroom distribution requirements of UHAC, but shall be administered in accordance with the following:
 - i. If a unit is vacant at the time of rehabilitation, or if a rehabilitated unit becomes vacant and is re-rented before the expiration of the affordability controls, the deed restriction shall require that the unit be rented to a low- or moderate-income household at an affordable rent.
 - ii. If a rental unit is occupied by a tenant at the time rehabilitation is completed, the rent charged after rehabilitation shall not exceed the lesser of the tenant’s current rent or the maximum rent permitted under UHAC.
 - iii. Rents in rehabilitated units may increase annually based on the standards in UHAC.
 - iv. At the time of application, applicant households and/or tenant households shall be subject to income eligibility determinations in accordance with UHAC.

F. New Construction Programs (per N.J.A.C. 5:93 as may be updated per various sections in N.J.A.C. 5:97 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.).

- 1. The following requirements shall apply to all new or planned developments that contain very low-, low- and moderate-income housing units. To the extent possible, details related to the adherence to the requirements below shall be outlined in the resolution granting municipal subdivision or site plan approval of the project to assist municipal representatives, developers and Administrative Agents.
- 2. Completion Schedule (previously known as phasing). Final site plan or subdivision approval shall be contingent upon the affordable housing development meeting the following completion schedule for very low-, low- and moderate-income units whether developed in a single-phase development, or in a multi-phase development:

Maximum Percentage of Market-Rate Units Issued a Temporary or Final Certificate of Occupancy	Minimum Percentage of Affordable Units Issued a Temporary or Final Certificate of Occupancy
25+1	10
50	50
75	75
90	100

- 3. Design. The following design requirements apply to affordable housing developments, excluding prior round units.
 - a. Design of 100 percent affordable developments:
 - i. Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing rules at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4.
 - ii. Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window.
 - iii. Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating.
 - b. Design of developments comprising market-rate rental units and restricted rental units. The following does not apply to prior round units, unless stated otherwise.

- i. Restricted units must use the same building materials and architectural design elements (for example, plumbing, insulation, or siding) as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat or townhome) within the same development, except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes. This shall apply to prior round units.
- ii. Restricted units and market-rate units within the same affordable development must be sited such that restricted units are not concentrated in less desirable locations.
- iii. Restricted units may not be physically clustered so as to segregate restricted and market-rate units within the same development or within the same building, but must be interspersed throughout the development, except that age-restricted and supportive housing units may be physically clustered if the clustering facilitates the provision of on-site medical services or on-site social services. Prior round affordable units shall be integrated with market rate units to the extent feasible.
- iv. Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits. This shall apply to prior round units.
- v. Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating and must use the same type of cooling and heating sources as market-rate units of the same unit type. This shall apply to prior round units.
- vi. Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window.
- vii. Restricted units must be of the same unit type as market-rate units within the same building.
- viii. Restricted units and bedrooms must be no less than 90 percent of the minimum size prescribed by the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing rules at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4.
- c. Design of developments containing for-sale units, including those with a mix of rental and for-sale units. Restricted rental units shall meet the requirements of section b above. Restricted sale units shall comply with the below:
 - i. Restricted units must use the same building standards as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome, or single-family home), except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes. This shall apply to prior round units.
 - ii. Restricted units may be clustered, provided that the buildings or housing product types containing the restricted units are integrated throughout the development and are not concentrated in an undesirable location or in undesirable locations. Prior round affordable units shall be integrated with market rate units to the extent feasible.
 - iii. Restricted units may be of different unit housing product types than market-rate units, provided that there is a restricted option available for each market rate housing type. Developments containing market-rate duplexes, townhomes, and/or single-family homes shall offer restricted housing options that also include duplexes, townhomes, and/or single-family homes. Penthouses and higher priced end townhomes may be exempt from this requirement. The proper ratio for restricted to market-rate unit type shall be subject to municipal ordinance or, if not specified, shall be determined at the time of site plan approval.
 - iv. Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing rules at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4.
 - v. Penthouse and end units may be reserved for market-rate sale, provided that the overall number, value, and distribution of affordable units across the development is not negatively impacted by such reservation(s).
 - vi. Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits. This shall apply to prior round units.
 - vii. Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window; and
 - viii. Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating.
4. Utilities.
 - a. Affordable units shall utilize the same type of cooling and heating source as market-rate units within the affordable housing development.
 - b. Tenant-paid utilities that are included in the utility allowance shall be so stated in the lease and shall be consistent with the utility allowance in accordance with N.J.A.C 5:80-26.13(e).
5. Low/moderate split and bedroom distribution.
 - a. Affordable units shall be divided equally between low- and moderate-income units, except that where there is an odd number of affordable housing units, the extra unit shall be a low-income unit.

- b. In each affordable housing development, at least 50% of the restricted units within each bedroom distribution, rounded up to the nearest whole number, shall be required to be for low-income households earning 50 percent or less of the regional median income, including 13 percent of the affordable units within each bedroom distribution shall be required to be for very low income households earning 30 percent or less of the regional median income.
 - c. Within rental developments, of the total number of affordable rental units, at least 13 percent, rounded up to the nearest whole number, shall be affordable to very low-income households. The very low-income units shall be distributed between each bedroom count as proportionally as possible, to the nearest whole unit, to the total number of restricted units within each bedroom count, and counted as part of the required number of low-income units within the development
 - d. Affordable housing developments that are not age-restricted or supportive housing shall be structured such that:
 - i. At a minimum, the number of bedrooms within the restricted units equals twice the number of restricted units;
 - ii. Two-bedroom and/or three-bedroom units compose at least 50 percent of all restricted units;
 - iii. The combined number of efficiency and one-bedroom units shall be no greater than 20%, rounded down, of the total number of low- and moderate-income units.
 - iv. At least 30% of all low- and moderate-income units, rounded up to the nearest whole integer, shall be two-bedroom units.
 - v. At least 20% of all low- and moderate-income units, rounded to the nearest whole number, shall be three-bedroom units.
 - vi. The remaining units may be allocated among two- and three- bedroom units at the discretion of the developer.
 - e. Affordable housing developments that are age-restricted or supportive housing, except those supportive housing units whose sponsoring program determines the unit arrangements, shall be structured such that, at a minimum, the number of bedrooms shall equal the number of age-restricted or supportive housing low- and moderate-income units within the inclusionary development. Supportive housing units whose sponsoring program determines the unit arrangement shall comply with all requirements of the sponsoring program. The standard may be met by having all one-bedroom units or by having a two-bedroom unit for each efficiency unit. In affordable housing developments with 20 or more restricted units that are age-restricted or supportive housing, two-bedroom units must comprise at least five percent of those restricted units.
6. Accessibility requirements.
- a. Any new construction shall be adaptable; however, elevators shall not be required in any building or within any dwelling unit for the purpose of compliance with this section. In buildings without elevator service, only ground floor dwelling units shall be required to be constructed to conform with the technical design standards of the barrier free subcode. "Ground floor" means the first floor with a dwelling unit or portion of a dwelling unit, regardless of whether that floor is at grade. A building may have more than one ground floor.
 - b. Notwithstanding the exemption for townhouse dwelling units in the barrier free subcode, the first floor of all townhouse dwelling units and of all other multifloor dwelling units that are attached to at least one other dwelling unit shall be subject to the technical design standards of the barrier free subcode and shall include the following features:
 - i. An adaptable toilet and bathing facility on the first floor;
 - ii. An adaptable kitchen on the first floor;
 - iii. An interior accessible route of travel however an interior accessible route of travel shall not be required between stories;
 - iv. An adaptable room that can be used as a bedroom, with a door, or the casing for the installation of a door that is compliant with the Barrier Free Subcode, on the first floor;
 - v. If not all of the foregoing requirements in b.i. through b.iv. can be satisfied, then an interior accessible route of travel shall be provided between stories within an individual unit; and
 - vi. An accessible entranceway as set forth in P.L. 2005, c. 350 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311a et seq.) and the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, or evidence that the municipality has collected funds from the developer sufficient to make 10 percent of the adaptable entrances in the development accessible:
 - (a) Where a unit has been constructed with an adaptable entrance, upon the request of a disabled person who is purchasing or will reside in the dwelling unit, an accessible entrance shall be installed.
 - (b) To this end, the builder of restricted units shall deposit funds within the Affordable Housing Trust Fund sufficient to install accessible entrances in 10 percent of the affordable units that have been constructed with adaptable entrances.

- (c) The funds deposited shall be expended for the sole purpose of making the adaptable entrance of an affordable unit accessible when requested to do so by a person with a disability who occupies or intends to occupy the unit and requires an accessible entrance.
 - (d) The developer of the restricted units shall submit to the Construction Official a design plan and cost estimate for the conversion from adaptable to accessible entrances.
 - (e) Once the Construction Official has determined that the design plan to convert the unit entrances from adaptable to accessible meets the requirements of the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, and that the cost estimate of such conversion is reasonable, payment shall be made to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and earmarked appropriately.
- vii. Full compliance with the foregoing provisions shall not be required where an entity can demonstrate that it is "site-impracticable" to meet the requirements. If full compliance with this section would be site impracticable, compliance with this section for any portion of the dwelling shall be required to the extent that it is not site impracticable. Determinations of site impracticability shall comply with the Barrier Free Subcode at N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.
7. Accessory Apartment program (per N.J.A.C. 5:93-5.9 as may be updated per various sections in N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.8).
- a. An accessory apartment program shall provide low- and moderate-income units or may be limited to only low- or only moderate-income units.
 - b. Per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.8(c)1, at the time of initial occupancy of the unit and for at least ten years thereafter, the accessory apartment shall be rented only to income eligible households consistent with the income category and rent structure of the unit.
 - c. Rents of accessory apartments shall be established using the same methodology of affordable rental units discussed herein.
 - d. There shall be a recorded deed or declaration of covenants and restrictions applied to the property upon which the accessory apartment is located running with the land and limiting its subsequent rental for the duration of the control period.
 - e. The municipal accessory apartment program shall not restrict the number of bedrooms in any accessory apartment.
 - f. Per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.8(b)2, the municipality shall provide a minimum of \$20,000 per unit to subsidize the creation of each affordable accessory apartment. Subsidy may be used to fund actual construction costs and/or to provide compensation for reduced rental rates.
8. Market to Affordable program (per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.9).
- a. The market to affordable program permits the purchase or subsidization of unrestricted units through a mortgage write-down provided to an income-certified buyer or through a sale or rental as a low- or moderate-income unit to an income-eligible household. The market to affordable program may produce both low- and moderate-income units.
 - b. At the time they are offered for sale or rental, eligible units may be new, pre-owned or vacant.
 - c. The units shall be certified to be in sound condition as a result of an inspection performed by a licensed building inspector.
 - d. A minimum subsidy of \$25,000 per moderate-income unit and/or \$30,000 per low-income unit shall be provided, with additional subsidy depending on the market prices or rents in a municipality.
 - e. The units shall comply with UHAC with the following exceptions:
 - i. Bedroom distribution (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4).
 - ii. Low/moderate income split (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4).
 - f. Affordability average (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4); however:
 - i. The maximum rent for a moderate-income unit shall be affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of median income and the maximum rent for a low-income unit shall be affordable to households earning no more than 44 percent of median income; and
 - ii. The maximum sales price for a moderate-income unit shall be affordable to households earning no more than 70 percent of median income and the maximum sales price for a low-income unit shall be affordable to households earning no more than 40 percent of median income.
9. Extension of Controls Program (for ownership units per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.14 and UHAC at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6(h) through (k) and (m); and for rental units per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.14 and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.12(h) through (k)).
- a. An extension of affordability controls program is established to maintain and extend the affordability of deed restricted units scheduled to come out of their affordability control period, subject to N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.14 and UHAC, including the following:
 - i. The affordable unit meets the criteria for prior cycle (April 1, 1980 - December 15, 1986) or post December 15, 1986 credits set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:97.

- ii. The affordability controls for the unit are scheduled to expire in the current round; or in the next round of housing obligations if the municipal election to extend controls is made no earlier than one year before the end of the current round;
 - iii. The municipality shall obtain a continuing certificate of occupancy or a certified statement from the municipal building inspector stating that the restricted unit meets all code standards.
 - iv. If a unit requires repair and/or rehabilitation work in order to receive a continuing certificate of occupancy or certified statement from the municipal building inspector, the municipality shall fund and complete the work.
 - v. The municipality shall adhere to the process for extending controls pursuant to UHAC for extending ownership units and rental units, either inclusionary or 100 percent affordable developments.
 - vi. The deed restriction for the extended control period shall be filed with the County Clerk.
10. Assisted Living Residence (per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.11).
- a. An assisted living residence is a facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining and to assure that assisted living services are available. All or a designated number of apartments in the facility shall be restricted to low- and moderate-income households.
 - b. The unit of credit shall be the apartment. However, a two-bedroom apartment shall be eligible for two units of credit if it is restricted to two unrelated individuals.
 - c. A recipient of a Medicaid waiver shall automatically qualify as a low- or moderate-income household.
 - d. Assisted living units are considered age-restricted housing in a HEFSP and shall be included with the maximum number of units that may be age-restricted.
 - e. Low- and moderate-income residents cannot be charged any upfront fees.
 - f. The units shall comply with UHAC with the following exceptions:
 - i. Affirmative marketing (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16); provided that the units are restricted to recipients of Medicaid waivers;
 - ii. The deed restriction may be on the facility, rather than individual apartments or rooms;
 - iii. Low/moderate income split and affordability average (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4); only if all of the affordable units are affordable to households at a maximum of 60 percent of median income; and
 - g. Tenant income eligibility (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14); up to 80 percent of an applicant's gross income may be used for rent, food and services based on occupancy type and the affordable unit must receive the same basic services as required by the Agency's underwriting guidelines and financing policies. The cost of non-housing related services shall not exceed one and two-thirds times the rent established for each unit.
11. Supportive Housing and Group Homes (per N.J.A.C. 5:97-6.10).
- a. The following provisions shall apply to group homes, residential health care facilities, and supportive shared living housing:
 - i. The unit of credit shall be the bedroom. However, the unit of credit shall be the unit if occupied by a single person or household.
 - ii. Housing that is age-restricted shall be included with the maximum number of units that may be age-restricted pursuant to the Act.
 - iii. Occupancy shall not be restricted to youth under 18 years of age.
 - iv. In affordable developments with 20 or more restricted units that are supportive housing, two-bedroom units must compose at least five percent of those restricted units.
 - v. The bedrooms and/or units shall comply with UHAC with the following exceptions:
 - (a) Affirmative marketing; however, group homes, residential health care facilities, permanent supportive housing and supportive shared living housing shall be affirmatively marketed to broadest possible population of qualified individuals with special needs in accordance with a plan, if applicable, approved by the sponsoring program;
 - (b) Affordability average and bedroom distribution (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4).
 - vi. With the exception of units established with capital funding through a 20-year operating contract with the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, group homes, residential health care facilities, supportive shared living housing and permanent supportive housing shall have the appropriate controls on affordability in accordance with the Act. In the event that a supportive housing provider is unable to record or execute a long-term deed restriction, the units shall be subject to annual recertification by the Municipal Housing Liaison to confirm continued occupancy and compliance with this Section.

- vii. Objective standards shall be applied in the selection of tenants for supportive housing units and shall be designed to ensure that individuals are not excluded in an arbitrary or capricious manner.
- viii. The following documentation shall be submitted by the sponsor to the municipality prior to marketing the completed units or facility:
 - (a) An Affirmative Marketing Plan in accordance with D1 above; and
 - (b) If applicable, proof that the supportive and/or special needs housing is regulated by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the New Jersey Department of Human Services or another State agency in accordance with the requirements of this section, which includes validation of the number of bedrooms or units in which low- or moderate-income occupants reside.
- ix. The sponsor/owner shall complete annual monitoring as directed by the MHL.

G. Regional Income Limits.

1. Administrative agents shall use the current regional income limits for the purpose of pricing affordable units and determining income eligibility of households.
2. Regional income limits are based on regional median income, which is established by a regional weighted average of the "median family incomes" published by HUD. The procedure for computing the regional median income is detailed in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.3.
3. Updated regional income limits are effective as of the effective date of the regional Section 8 income limits for the year, as published by HUD, or 45 days after HUD publishes the regional Section 8 income limits for the year, whichever comes later. The new income limits may not be less than those of the previous year.

H. Maximum Initial Rents And Sales Prices.

1. In establishing rents and sales prices of affordable housing units, the Administrative Agent shall follow the procedures set forth in UHAC N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4.
2. The average rent for all restricted units within each affordable housing development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of regional median income.
3. The maximum rent for restricted rental units within each affordable housing development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of regional median income. The maximum rent may be increased to no more than 70 percent of regional median income for moderate-income units within affordable developments where very-low-income units compose at least 13 percent of the restricted units; however, the number of units with rent affordable to households earning 70 percent of regional median income may not exceed the number of very-low-income units in excess of 13 percent (rounded up) of the restricted units.
4. The developers and/or municipal sponsors of restricted rental units shall establish at least one rent for each bedroom type for both low-income and moderate-income units. Very low-income units, if required, should be distributed between each bedroom count as proportionally as possible to the total number of restricted units within each bedroom count, and shall be part of the low-income requirement.
5. The maximum sales price of restricted ownership units within each affordable housing development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 70 percent of median income, and each affordable housing development must achieve an affordability average that does not exceed 55 percent for all restricted ownership units. In achieving this affordability average, moderate-income ownership units must be available for at least three different prices for each bedroom type, and low-income ownership units must be available for at least two different prices for each bedroom type when the number of low- and moderate-income units permits.
6. The master deeds and declarations of covenants and restrictions for affordable developments may not distinguish between restricted units and market-rate units in the calculation of any condominium or homeowner association fees and special assessments to be paid by low- and moderate-income purchasers and those to be paid by market-rate purchasers. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, condominium units subject to a municipal ordinance adopted before December 20, 2004, which ordinance provides for condominium or homeowner association fees and/or assessments different from those provided for in this subsection are governed by the ordinance.
7. In determining the initial sales prices and rents for compliance with the affordability average requirements for restricted family units, the following standards shall be met:
 - a. A studio or efficiency unit shall be affordable to a one-person household;
 - b. A one-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a one and one-half person household;
 - c. A two-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a three-person household;
 - d. A three-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a four and one-half person household; and
 - e. A four-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a six-person household.
8. In determining the initial rents and sales prices for compliance with the affordability average requirements for restricted units in assisted living facilities and age-restricted and special needs and supportive housing developments, the following standards shall be met:

- a. A studio or efficiency unit shall be affordable to a one-person household;
 - b. A one-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a one and one-half person household; and
 - c. A two-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a two-person household or to two one-person households. Where pricing is based on two one-person households, the developer shall provide a list of units so priced to the Municipal Housing Liaison and the Administrative Agent.
9. The initial purchase price for all restricted ownership units shall be calculated so that the monthly carrying cost of the unit, including principal and interest (based on a mortgage loan equal to 95 percent of the purchase price and the FreddieMac 30-Year Fixed Rate-Mortgage rate of interest), property taxes, homeowner and private mortgage insurance and condominium or homeowner association fees do not exceed 30 percent of the eligible monthly income of the appropriate size household as determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7, as may be amended and supplemented; provided, however, that the price shall be subject to the affordability average requirement of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4, as may be amended and supplemented.
 10. The initial rent for a restricted rental unit shall be calculated so that the total monthly housing expense, including an allowance for tenant-paid utilities, does not exceed 30 percent of the gross monthly income of a household of the appropriate size whose income is targeted to the applicable percentage of median income for the unit, as determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.3, as may be amended and supplemented. The rent shall also comply with the affordability average requirement of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4, as may be amended and supplemented.
 11. At the anniversary date of the tenancy of the certified household occupying a restricted rental unit, following a minimum 90-day notice provided to the occupant household, the rent may be increased to an amount commensurate with the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), specifically U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Series CUUR0100SAH, titled "Housing in Northeast urban, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted." The maximum allowable rent increase for the year will be effective as of the same date as the regional median income limits determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.3 and published by the Agency. This rent increase may not exceed five percent in any one year and notice thereof must be filed with the administrative agent. If the landlord has charged a tenant less than the initial maximum allowable rent for a restricted unit, the landlord may, with the approval of the administrative agent, use the maximum allowable rent instead of the current rent in performing this multiplication to establish the rent for the next tenant under a new lease. LIHTC units are not governed by the provisions of this section, but rather by the provisions of the State's Qualified Allocation Plan, N.J.A.C. 5:80-33.1 through 33.40.
- I. Affirmative Marketing.
 1. The municipality shall adopt, by resolution, an Affirmative Marketing Plan, subject to approval of the Superior Court, compliant with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, as may be amended and supplemented.
 2. The Affirmative Marketing Plan is a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and/or renters of all majority and minority groups, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, English-speaking ability, marital or familial status, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, disability, age (except for "housing for older persons" as defined at N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq., and age-restricted units as permitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), number of children, source of lawful income, or any other characteristic described in the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 through 50, to housing units which are being marketed by a developer, sponsor or owner of affordable housing. The Affirmative Marketing Plan is intended to target those potentially eligible persons who are least likely to apply for affordable units in that region. It is a continuing program that directs all marketing activities toward Housing Region 1 and is required to be followed throughout the period of deed restriction.
 3. The municipality has the ultimate responsibility for adopting the Affirmative Marketing Plan and for the proper administration of the Affirmative Marketing Process, including the marketing of initial sales and rentals and resales and re-rentals. The Administrative Agent designated by the municipality shall implement the Affirmative Marketing Process to ensure the Affirmative Marketing of all affordable units, with the exception of affordable programs that are exempt from Affirmative Marketing as noted herein.
 4. The Affirmative Marketing Process shall describe the media to be used in advertising and publicizing the availability of housing. In implementing the Affirmative Marketing Process, the Administrative Agent should consider the use of language translations where appropriate.
 5. Applications for affordable housing or notices thereof, if offered online, shall be available in several locations, including, at a minimum, the County Administration Building and/or the County Library for each county within the housing region; the municipal administration building and municipal library in the municipality in which the units are located; and the developer's rental or sales office. The developer shall mail applications to prospective applicants upon request and shall make applications available through a secure online website address.
 6. In addition to other Affirmative Marketing strategies, the Administrative Agent shall provide specific notice of the availability of affordable housing units on those digital platforms and agencies as required by current affordable housing regulations.
 7. In implementing the Affirmative Marketing Process, the Administrative Agent shall provide a list of HUD-certified housing counselors or otherwise experienced entities approved by the Division providing

counseling services on subjects such as budgeting, credit issues, mortgage qualification, rental lease requirements, and landlord/tenant law.

8. The Affirmative Marketing Process for available affordable units shall begin at least four months (120 days) prior to the expected date of occupancy and may begin before construction commences. For owner-occupied units, affirmative marketing advertising and outreach activities must continue until all of the marketed units have been sold, except that paid advertising may cease when the number of applications received is at least three times the number of units to be sold. For rental units, affirmative marketing advertising and outreach activities must continue, as long as applications are being accepted, except that paid advertising may cease when the number of applications received is at least three times the number of units to be filled.
 9. Applications must be accepted for no less than 45 days following the initial advertisement on the New Jersey Housing Resource Center, except for the resale of owner-occupied units, in which case, applications must be accepted for no less than 30 days.
 10. The cost to affirmatively market the affordable units shall be the responsibility of the developer, sponsor or owner, with the exception of Affirmative Marketing for resales.
- J. Selection of Occupants of Affordable Housing Units.
1. The Administrative Agent shall use a random selection process to select occupants of very low-, low- and moderate-income housing.
 2. A pool of interested households will be maintained in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16.
- K. Occupancy Standards.
1. In referring certified households to specific restricted units, to the extent feasible, and without causing an undue delay in occupying the unit, the Administrative Agent shall strive to:
 - a. Ensure each bedroom is occupied by at least one person, except for age-restricted and supportive and special needs housing units;
 - b. Provide a bedroom for every two adult occupants;
 - c. With regard to occupants under the age of 18, accommodate the household's requested arrangement, except that such arrangement may not result in more than two occupants under the age of 18 occupying any bedroom; and
 - d. Avoid placing a one-person household into a unit with more than one bedroom.
- L. Control Periods for Restricted Ownership Units and Enforcement Mechanisms.
1. Control periods for restricted ownership units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6, as may be amended and supplemented, and each restricted ownership unit shall remain subject to the controls on affordability for a period of at least 30 years subject to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6, as may be amended and supplemented.
 2. Rehabilitated housing units that are improved to code standards shall be subject to affordability controls for a period of not less than 10 years (crediting towards present need only).
 3. The affordability control period for a restricted ownership unit shall commence on the date the initial certified household takes title to the unit. The date of commencement shall be identified in the deed restriction.
 4. If existing affordability controls are being extended, the extended control period for a restricted ownership unit commences on the effective date of the extension, which is the end of the original control period.
 5. After the end of any control period, the restricted ownership unit remains subject to the affordability controls set forth in this subchapter until the owner gives notice of their intent to make an exit sale, at which point:
 - a. If the municipality exercises the right to extend the affordability controls on the unit, no exit sale occurs and a new control period commences; or
 - b. If the municipality does not exercise the right to extend the affordability controls on the unit, the affordability controls terminate following the exit sale.
 6. Prior to the issuance of any building permit for the construction/rehabilitation of restricted ownership units, the developer/owner and the municipality shall record a preliminary instrument provided by the Administrative Agent.
 7. Prior to the issuance of the initial certificate of occupancy for a restricted ownership unit and upon each successive sale during the period of restricted ownership, the Administrative Agent shall determine the restricted price for the unit and shall also determine the nonrestricted, fair market value of the unit based on either an appraisal or the unit's equalized assessed value without the restrictions in place.
 8. At the time of the initial sale of the unit and upon each successive price-restricted sale, the initial purchaser shall execute and deliver to the Administrative Agent a recapture note obliging the purchaser, as well as the purchaser's heirs, successors, and assigns, to repay, upon the first non-exempt sale after the unit's release from the restrictions set forth in this Ordinance, an amount equal to the difference between the unit's non-

restricted fair market value and its restricted price, and the recapture note shall be secured by a recapture lien evidenced by a duly recorded mortgage on the unit.

9. The affordability controls set forth in this Ordinance shall remain in effect despite the entry and enforcement of any judgment of foreclosure with respect to price-restricted ownership units.

M. Price Restrictions for Restricted Ownership Units and Resale Prices.

1. Price restrictions for restricted ownership units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7, as may be amended and supplemented, including:
 - a. The initial purchase price and affordability percentage for a restricted ownership unit shall be set by the Administrative Agent.
 - b. The Administrative Agent shall approve all resale prices, in writing and in advance of the resale, to assure compliance with the standards set forth in N.J.A.C 5:80-26.7.
 - i. If the resale occurs prior to the one-year anniversary of the date on which title to the unit was transferred to a certified household, the maximum resale price for a is the most recent non-exempt purchase price.
 - ii. If the resale occurs on or after such anniversary date, the maximum resale price is the most recent non-exempt purchase price increased to reflect the cumulative annual percentage increases to the regional median income, effective as of the same date as the regional median income calculated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.3
 - c. The owners of restricted ownership units may apply to the Administrative Agent to increase the maximum sales price for the unit on the basis of anticipated capital improvements. Eligible capital improvements shall be:
 - i. those that render the unit suitable for a larger household or the addition of a bathroom.
 - ii. The maximum resale price may be further increased by an amount up to the cumulative dollar value of approved capital improvements made after the last non-exempt sale for improvements and/or upgrades to the unit, excluding capital improvements paid for by the entity favored on the recapture note and recapture lien described at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6(d);
 - d. No increase for capital improvements is permitted if the maximum resale price prior to adjusting for capital improvements already exceeds whatever initial purchase price the unit would have if it were being offered for purchase for the first time at the initial affordability percentage. All adjustments for capital improvements are subject to 10-year, straight-line depreciation.
2. Upon the resale of a restricted ownership unit, all items of property that are permanently affixed to the unit or were included when the unit was initially restricted (for example, refrigerator, range, washer, dryer, dishwasher, wall-to-wall carpeting) shall be included in the maximum allowable resale price. Other items may be sold to the purchaser at a reasonable price that has been approved by the Administrative Agent at the time of the signing of the agreement to purchase but shall be separate and apart from any contract of sale for the underlying real estate. The purchase of central air conditioning installed subsequent to the initial sale of the unit and not included in the base price may be made a condition of the unit resale provided the price of the air conditioning equipment, which shall be subject to 10-year, straight-line depreciation, has been approved by the Administrative Agent. Unless otherwise approved by the Administrative Agent, the purchase of any property other than central air conditioning shall not be made a condition of the unit resale. The seller and the purchaser must personally certify at the time of closing that no unapproved transfer of funds for the purpose of selling and receiving property has taken place at the time of or as a condition of resale.

N. Buyer Income Eligibility.

1. Buyer income eligibility for restricted ownership units shall be established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17, as may be amended and supplemented, such that very low-income ownership units shall be reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income less than or equal to 30 percent of median income, low-income ownership units shall be reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income less than or equal to 50 percent of median income and moderate-income ownership units shall be reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income less than 80 percent of median income.
2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrative Agent may, upon approval by the municipality, and subject to the Division's approval, permit a moderate-income purchaser to buy a low-income unit if and only if the Administrative Agent can demonstrate that there is an insufficient number of eligible low-income purchasers in the housing region to permit prompt occupancy of the unit and all other reasonable efforts to attract a low-income purchaser, including pricing and financing incentives, have failed. Any such low-income unit that is sold to a moderate-income household shall retain the required pricing and pricing restrictions for a low-income unit. Similarly, the administrative agent may permit low-income purchasers to buy very-low-income units in housing markets where, as determined by the Division, units are reserved for very-low-income purchasers, but there is an insufficient number of very-low-income purchasers to permit prompt occupancy of the units. In such instances, the purchased unit must be maintained as a very-low-income unit and sold at a very-low-income price point such that on the next resale the unit will still be affordable to very-low-income households and able to be purchased by a very-low-income household. A

very-low-income unit that is seeking bonus credit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311.k(9) must first be advertised exclusively as a very-low-income unit according to the Affirmative Marketing requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, then advertised as a very-low-income or low-income unit for at least 30 additional days prior to referring any low-income household to the unit.

3. A certified household that purchases a restricted ownership unit must occupy it as the certified household's principal residence and shall not lease the unit; provided, however, that the Administrative Agent may permit the owner of a restricted ownership unit, upon application and a showing of hardship, to lease the restricted unit to another certified household for a period not to exceed one year.
4. The Administrative Agent shall certify a household as eligible for a restricted ownership unit when the household is a low-income household or a moderate-income household, as applicable to the unit, and the estimated monthly housing cost for the particular unit (including principal, interest, property taxes, homeowner and private mortgage insurance and condominium or homeowner association fees, as applicable) does not exceed 35 percent of the household's eligible monthly income; provided, however, that this limit may be exceeded if one or more of the following circumstances exists:
 - a. The household currently pays more than 35 percent (40 percent for households eligible for age-restricted units) of its gross household income for housing expenses, and the proposed housing expenses will reduce its housing costs;
 - b. The household has consistently paid more than 35 percent (40 percent for households eligible for age-restricted units) of eligible monthly income for housing expenses in the past and has proven its ability to pay; or
 - c. The household is currently in substandard or overcrowded living conditions;
 - d. The household documents the existence of assets, within the asset limitation otherwise applicable, with which the household proposes to supplement the rent payments

O. Limitations on Indebtedness Secured by Ownership Unit; Subordination.

1. Prior to incurring any indebtedness to be secured by a restricted ownership unit, the owner shall apply to the Administrative Agent for a determination in writing that the proposed indebtedness complies with the provisions of this Section, and the Administrative Agent shall issue such determination prior to the owner incurring such indebtedness.
2. With the exception of original purchase money mortgages, neither an owner nor a lender shall at any time during the control period cause or permit the total indebtedness secured by a restricted ownership unit to exceed 95 percent of the maximum allowable resale price of that unit, as such price is determined by the Administrative Agent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7(c).

P. Control Periods for Restricted Rental Units.

1. Control periods for units that meet the definition of prior round units shall be pursuant to the 2001 UHAC rules originally adopted October 1, 2001, 33 N.J.R. 3432 and shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance for a period of at least 30 years as applicable unless otherwise indicated.
2. Other than for prior round units, control periods for restricted rental units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.12, as may be amended and supplemented, and each restricted rental unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this Ordinance for a period of at least 40 years. Restricted rental units created as part of developments receiving 9 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credits must comply with a control period of not less than a 30-year compliance period plus a 15-year extended use period for a total of 45 years.
3. The affordability control period for a restricted rental unit shall commence on the first date that a unit is issued a certificate of occupancy following the execution of the deed restriction or, if affordability controls are being extended, on the effective date of the extension, which is the end of the original control period.
4. Rehabilitated renter-occupied housing units that are improved to code standards shall be subject to affordability controls for a period of not less than 10 years.
5. Prior to the issuance of any building permit for the construction/rehabilitation of restricted rental units, the developer/owner and the municipality shall record a preliminary instrument provided by the Administrative Agent.
6. Deeds of all real property that include restricted rental units shall contain deed restriction language. The deed restriction shall have priority over all mortgages on the property. The deed restriction shall be recorded by the developer with the county records office, and provided as filed and recorded, to the Administrative Agent within 30 days of the receipt of a certificate of occupancy.
7. A restricted rental unit shall remain subject to the affordability controls of this Ordinance despite the occurrence of any of the following events:
 - a. Sublease or assignment of the lease of the unit;
 - b. Sale or other voluntary transfer of the ownership of the unit;
 - c. The entry and enforcement of any judgment of foreclosure on the property containing the unit; or
 - d. The end of the control period, until the occupant household vacates the unit, or is certified as over-income and the controls are released in accordance with UHAC.

Q. Rent Restrictions for Rental Units; Leases and Fees.

1. The initial rent for a restricted rental unit shall be set by the Administrative Agent.
2. A written lease shall be required for all restricted rental units, except for units in an assisted living residence, and tenants shall be responsible for security deposits and the full amount of the rent as stated on the lease. A copy of the current lease for each restricted rental unit shall be retained on file by the Administrative Agent.
3. No additional fees, operating costs, or charges shall be added to the approved rent (except, in the case of units in an assisted living residence, to cover the customary charges for food and services) without the express written approval of the Administrative Agent.
 - a. Operating costs, for the purposes of this section, include certificate of occupancy fees, move-in fees, move-out fees, mandatory internet fees, mandatory cable fees, mandatory utility submetering fees, and for developments with more than one and a half off-street parking spaces per unit, parking fees for one parking space per household.
4. Any fee structure that would remove or limit affordable unit occupant access to any amenities or services that are required or included for market-rate unit occupants is prohibited. Application fees (including the charge for any credit check) shall not exceed five percent of the monthly rent of the applicable restricted unit to be applied to the costs of administering the controls applicable to the unit as set forth in this Ordinance.
5. Fees for unit-specific, non-communal items that are charged to market-rate unit tenants on an optional basis, such as pet fees for tenants with pets, storage spaces, bicycle-share programs, or one-time rentals of party or media rooms, may also be charged to affordable unit tenants, if applicable.
6. Pet fees may not exceed \$30.00 per month and associated one-time payments for optional fees pertaining to pets, such as a pet cleaning fee, are prohibited.
7. Fees charged to affordable unit tenants for other optional, unit-specific, non-communal items shall not exceed the amounts charged to market-rate tenants.
8. For any prior round rental unit leased before December 20, 2024, elements of the existing fee structure that are consistent with prior rules, but inconsistent with 5:80-26.13(c)1, may continue until the occupant household's current lease term expires or that occupant household vacates the unit, whichever occurs later.

R. Tenant Income Eligibility.

1. Tenant income eligibility shall be determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14, as may be amended and supplemented, and shall be determined as follows:
 - a. Very low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 30 percent of the regional median income by household size.
 - b. Low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 50 percent of the regional median income by household size.
 - c. Moderate-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than 80 percent of the regional median income by household size.
2. The Administrative Agent shall certify a household as eligible for a restricted rental unit when the household is a very low-income, low-income or moderate-income household, as applicable to the unit, and the rent proposed for the unit does not exceed 35 percent (40 percent for age-restricted units) of the household's eligible monthly income as determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17, as may be amended and supplemented; provided, however, that this limit may be exceeded if one or more of the following circumstances exists:
 - a. The household currently pays more than 35 percent (40 percent for households eligible for age-restricted units) of its gross household income for rent, and the proposed rent will reduce its housing costs;
 - b. The household has consistently paid more than 35 percent (40 percent for households eligible for age-restricted units) of eligible monthly income for rent in the past and has proven its ability to pay;
 - c. The household is currently in substandard or overcrowded living conditions;
 - d. The household documents the existence of assets with which the household proposes to supplement the rent payments; or
 - e. The household documents reliable anticipated third-party assistance from an outside source such as a family member in a form acceptable to the Administrative Agent and the owner of the unit.
3. The applicant shall file documentation sufficient to establish the existence of any of the circumstances in 2.a. through 2.e. above with the Administrative Agent, who shall counsel the household on budgeting.

S. Municipal Housing Liaison.

1. The Municipal Housing Liaison shall be approved by municipal resolution.

2. The Municipal Housing Liaison shall be approved by the Division, or is in the process of getting approval, and fully or conditionally meets the requirements for qualifications, including initial and periodic training as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:99-1 et seq.
3. The Municipal Housing Liaison shall be responsible for oversight and administration of the affordable housing program, including the following responsibilities, which may not be contracted out to the Administrative Agent:
 - a. Serving as the primary point of contact for all inquiries from the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, the State, affordable housing providers, administrative agents and interested households.
 - b. The oversight of the Affirmative Marketing Plan and affordability controls.
 - c. When applicable, overseeing and monitoring any contracting Administrative Agent.
 - d. Overseeing the monitoring of the status of all restricted units listed in the Fair Share Plan.
 - e. Verifying, certifying and providing annual information within AHMS at such time and in such form as required by the Division.
 - f. Coordinating meetings with affordable housing providers and administrative agents, as needed.
 - g. Attending continuing education opportunities on affordability controls, compliance monitoring, and affirmative marketing as offered or approved by the Division.
 - h. Overseeing the recording of a preliminary instrument in the form set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 for each affordable housing development.
 - i. Coordinating with the Administrative Agent, municipal attorney and municipal Construction Code Official to ensure that permits are not issued unless the document required in C.8. above has been duly recorded.
 - j. Listing on the municipal website contact information for the MHL and Administrative Agents.

T. Administrative Agent.

1. All municipalities that have created or will create affordable housing programs and/or affordable units shall designate or approve, for each project within its HEFSP, an administrative agent to administer the affordable housing program and/or affordable housing units in accordance with the requirements of the FHA, NJAC 5:99-1 et seq. and UHAC.
2. The fees for administrative agents shall be paid as follows:
 - a. Administrative agent fees related to rental units shall be paid by the developer/owner.
 - b. Administrative agent fees related to initial sale of units shall be paid by the developer.
 - c. Administrative agent fees related to resales shall be paid by the seller of the affordable home.
 - d. Administrative agent fees related to ongoing administration and enforcement shall be paid by the municipality.
3. An Operating Manual for each affordable housing program shall be provided by the Administrative Agent(s). The Operating Manual(s) shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk and in the office(s) of the Administrative Agent(s). Operating manuals shall be adopted by resolution of the Governing Body.
4. Subject to the role of the Administrative Agent(s), the duties and responsibilities as are set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:99-7 and which are described in full detail in the Operating Manual, including those set forth in UHAC, include:
 - a. Attending continuing education opportunities on affordability controls, compliance monitoring, and affirmative marketing as offered or approved by the Division;
 - b. Affirmative marketing:
 - i. Conducting an outreach process to affirmatively market affordable housing units in accordance with the Affirmative Marketing Plan of the municipality and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16.
 - ii. Providing counseling, or contracting to provide counseling services, to low- and moderate-income applicants on subjects such as budgeting, credit issues, mortgage qualification, rental lease requirements; and landlord/tenant law.
 - c. Household certification.
 - i. Soliciting, scheduling, conducting and following up on interviews with interested households.
 - ii. Conducting interviews and obtaining sufficient documentation of gross income and assets upon which to base a determination of income eligibility for a low- or moderate-income unit;
 - iii. Providing written notification to each applicant as to the determination of eligibility or non-eligibility within five (5) business days of the determination thereof.

- iv. Requiring that all certified applicants for restricted units execute a certificate substantially in the form, as applicable, of either the ownership or rental certificates set forth in the Appendices J and K of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq.
- v. Creating and maintaining a referral list of eligible applicant households living in the housing region, and eligible applicant households with members working in the housing region, where the units are located.
- vi. Employing a random selection process as provided in the Affirmative Marketing Plan when referring households for certification to affordable units.
- d. Affordability controls.
 - i. Furnishing to attorneys or closing agents forms of deed restrictions and mortgages for the recording at the time of conveyance of title of each restricted unit.
 - ii. Ensuring that the removal of the deed restrictions and cancellation of the mortgage note are effectuated and filed properly with the County Register of Deeds or County Clerk's office after the termination of the affordability controls for each restricted unit in accordance with UHAC.
 - iii. Communicating with lenders and the Municipal Housing Liaison regarding foreclosures.
 - iv. Ensuring the issuance of Continuing Certificates of Occupancy or certifications pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.11.
- e. Records retention.
 - i. Creating and maintaining a file on each restricted unit for its control period, including the recorded deed with restrictions, recorded recapture mortgage, and note, as appropriate.
 - ii. Records received, retained, retrieved, or transmitted in furtherance of crediting affordable units of a municipality constitute public records of the municipality as defined by N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, and are legal property of the municipality.
- f. Resales and re-rentals.
 - i. Instituting and maintaining an effective means of communicating information between owners and the Administrative Agent regarding the availability of restricted units for resale or re-rental.
 - ii. Instituting and maintaining an effective means of communicating information to very low-, low-, or moderate-income households regarding the availability of restricted units for resale or re-rental.
- g. Processing requests from unit owners.
 - i. Reviewing and approving requests from owners of restricted units who wish to refinance or take out home equity loans during the term of their ownership to determine that the amount of indebtedness to be incurred will not violate the terms of this ordinance.
 - ii. Reviewing and approving requests to increase sales prices from owners of restricted units who wish to make capital improvements to the units that would affect the selling price, such authorizations to be limited to those improvements resulting in additional bedrooms or bathrooms and the depreciated cost of central air conditioning systems.
 - iii. Notifying the municipality of an owner's intent to sell a restricted unit.
 - iv. Making determinations on requests by owners of restricted units for hardship waivers.
- h. Enforcement.
 - i. Securing annually from the municipality a list of all affordable ownership units for which property tax bills are mailed to absentee owners, and notifying all such owners that they must either move back to their unit or sell it;
 - ii. Securing from all developers and sponsors of restricted units, at the earliest point of contact in the processing of the project or development, written acknowledgement of the requirement that no restricted unit can be offered, or in any other way committed, to any person, other than a household duly certified to the unit by the Administrative Agent;
 - iii. Sending annual mailings to all owners of affordable dwelling units reminding them of the notices and requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.19(d)4;
 - iv. Establishing a program for diverting unlawful rent payments to the municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and
 - v. Creating and publishing a written operating manual for each affordable housing program administered by the Administrative Agent setting forth procedures for administering the affordability controls.
 - i. The Administrative Agent(s) shall, as delegated by the municipality, have the authority to take all actions necessary and appropriate to carry out its/their responsibilities, herein.
- U. Responsibilities of The Owner of a development containing affordable units.
 - 1. The owner of all developments containing affordable units subject to this subchapter or the assigned management company thereof shall provide to the administrative agent:

- a. Site plan, architectural plan, or other plan that identifies the location of each affordable unit, if subject to the site plan approval, settlement agreement, or other applicable document regulating the location of affordable units. The administrative agent shall determine the location of affordable units if not set forth in the site plan approval, settlement agreement, or other applicable document.
 - b. The total number of units in the project and the number of affordable units.
 - c. The breakdown of the affordable units by or identification of affordable unit locations by bedroom count and income level, including street addresses / unit numbers, if subject to the site plan approval, settlement agreement, or other applicable document regulating the breakdown of affordable units. The administrative agent shall determine the bedroom and income distribution if not set forth in the site plan approval, settlement agreement, or other applicable document.
 - d. Floor plans of all affordable units, including complete and accurate identification of all rooms and the dimensions thereof.
 - e. A projected construction schedule.
 - f. The location of any common areas and elevators.
 - g. The name of the person who will be responsible for official contact with the administrative agent for the duration of the project, which must be updated if the contact changes.
2. In addition to A above, the owner of rental developments containing affordable rental units subject to this subchapter or the assigned management company thereof shall:
 - a. Send to all current tenants in all restricted rental units an annual mailing containing a notice as to the maximum permitted rent and a reminder of the requirement that the unit must remain their principal place of residence, which is defined as residing in the unit at least 260 days out of each calendar year, together with the telephone number, mailing address, and email address of the administrative agent to whom complaints of excess rent can be issued.
 - b. Provide to the administrative agent a description of any applicable fees.
 - c. Provide to the administrative agent a description of the types of utilities and which utilities will be included in the rent.
 - d. Agree and ensure that the utility configuration established at the start of the rent-up process not be altered at any time throughout the restricted period.
 - e. Provide to the administrative agent a proposed form of lease for any rental units.
 - f. Ensure that the tenant selection criteria for the applicants for affordable units not be more restrictive than the tenant selection criteria for applicants for non-restricted units.
 - g. Strive to maintain the continued occupancy of the affordable units during the entire restricted period.
 3. In addition to A, above, the owner of affordable for-sale developments containing affordable for-sale units subject to this subchapter or the assigned management company thereof shall provide the administrative agent:
 - a. Proposed pricing for all units, including any purchaser options and add-on items.
 - b. Realistic condominium or homeowner association fees and any other applicable fees.
 - c. Estimated real property taxes.
 - d. Sewer, water, trash disposal, and any other utility assessments.
 - e. Flood insurance requirement, if applicable.
 - f. The State-approved planned real estate development public offering statement and/or master deed, where applicable, as well as the full build-out budget.

V. Enforcement of Affordable Housing Regulations

1. Upon the occurrence of a breach of any of the regulations governing the affordable unit by an owner, developer or tenant, the municipality shall have all remedies provided at law or equity, including but not limited to foreclosure, tenant eviction, municipal fines, a requirement for household recertification, acceleration of all sums due under a mortgage, recoupment of any funds from a sale in the violation of the regulations, injunctive relief to prevent further violation of the regulations, entry on the premises, and specific performance.
2. After providing written notice of a violation to an owner, developer or tenant of an affordable unit and advising the owner, developer or tenant of the penalties for such violations, the municipality may take the following action against the owner, developer or tenant for any violation that remains uncured for a period of 60 days after service of the written notice:
 - a. The municipality may file a court action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:58-11 alleging a violation, or violations, of the regulations governing the affordable housing unit. If the owner, developer or tenant is found by the Court to have violated any provision of the regulations governing affordable housing units the owner, developer or tenant shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties, at the discretion of the Court:

- i. A fine of not more than \$500 unless otherwise specified in the Borough's Code or below, provided that each and every day that the violation continues or exists shall be considered a separate and specific violation of these provisions and not a continuation of the initial offense;
 - ii. In the case of an owner who has rented his or her low- or moderate-income unit in violation of the regulations governing affordable housing units, payment into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund of the gross amount of rent illegally collected;
 - iii. In the case of an owner who has rented his or her affordable unit in violation of the regulations governing affordable housing units, payment of an innocent tenant's reasonable relocation costs, as determined by the Court.
3. The municipality shall have the authority to levy fines against the owner of the development for instances of noncompliance with NJHRC advertising requirements (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-321.6.e.(2)), following written notice to the owner. The fine for the first offense of noncompliance shall be \$5,000, the fine for the second offense of noncompliance shall be \$10,000, and the fine for each subsequent offense of noncompliance shall be \$15,000.
4. The municipality may file a court action in the Superior Court seeking a judgment, which would result in the termination of the owner's equity or other interest in the unit, in the nature of a mortgage foreclosure. Any judgment shall be enforceable as if the same were a judgment of default of the first purchase money mortgage and shall constitute a lien against the low- or moderate-income unit.
 - a. Such judgment shall be enforceable, at the option of the municipality, by means of an execution sale by the Sheriff, at which time the affordable unit of the violating owner shall be sold at a sale price which is not less than the amount necessary to fully satisfy and pay off any first purchase money mortgage and prior liens and the costs of the enforcement proceedings incurred by the municipality, including attorney's fees. The violating owner shall have the right to possession terminated as well as the title conveyed pursuant to the Sheriff's sale.
 - b. The proceeds of the Sheriff's sale shall first be applied to satisfy the first purchase money mortgage lien and any prior liens upon the low- or moderate-income unit. The excess, if any, shall be applied to reimburse the municipality for any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with either the court action resulting in the judgment of violation or the Sheriff's sale. In the event that the proceeds from the Sheriff's sale are insufficient to reimburse the municipality in full as aforesaid, the violating owner shall be personally responsible for the full extent of such deficiency, in addition to any and all costs incurred by the municipality in connection with collecting such deficiency. In the event that a surplus remains after satisfying all of the above, such surplus shall be placed in escrow by the municipality for the owner and shall be held in such escrow for a maximum period of two years or until such earlier time as the owner shall make a claim with the municipality for such. Failure of the owner to claim such balance within the two year period shall automatically result in a forfeiture of such balance to the municipality. Any interest accrued or earned on such balance while being held in escrow shall belong to and shall be paid to the municipality, whether such balance shall be paid to the owner or forfeited to the municipality.
 - c. Foreclosure due to violation of the regulations governing affordable housing units shall not extinguish the restrictions of the regulations governing affordable housing units as they apply to the low- and moderate-income unit. Title shall be conveyed to the purchaser at the Sheriff's sale, subject to the restrictions and provisions of the regulations governing the affordable housing unit. The owner determined to be in violation of the provisions of this plan and from whom title and possession were taken by means of the Sheriff's sale shall not be entitled to any right of redemption.
 - d. If there are no bidders at the Sheriff's sale, or if insufficient amounts are bid to satisfy the first purchase money mortgage and any prior liens, the municipality may acquire title to the affordable unit by satisfying the first purchase money mortgage and any prior liens and crediting the violating owner with an amount equal to the difference between the first purchase money mortgage and any prior liens and costs of the enforcement proceedings, including legal fees and the maximum resale price for which the affordable unit could have been sold under the terms of the regulations governing affordable housing units. This excess shall be treated in the same manner as the excess that would have been realized from an actual sale as previously described.
 - e. Failure of the low- or moderate-income unit to be either sold at the Sheriff's sale or acquired by the municipality shall obligate the owner to accept an offer to purchase from any qualified purchaser that may be referred to the owner by the municipality, with such offer to purchase being equal to the maximum resale price of the low- or moderate-income unit as permitted by the regulations governing affordable housing units.
 - f. The affordable unit owner shall remain fully obligated, responsible and liable for complying with the terms and restrictions of governing affordable housing units until such time as title is conveyed from the owner.
5. It is the responsibility of the municipal housing liaison and the administrative agent(s) to ensure that affordable housing units are administered properly. All affordable units must be occupied within a reasonable amount of time and be re-leased within a reasonable amount of time upon the vacating of the unit by a tenant. If an administrative agent or municipal housing liaison becomes aware of or suspects that a developer, landlord, or property manager has not complied with these regulations, it shall report this

activity to the Division. The Division must notify the developer, landlord, or property manager, in writing, of any violation of these regulations and provide a 30-day cure period. If, after the 30-day cure period, the developer, landlord, or property manager remains in violation of any terms of this subchapter, including by keeping a unit vacant, the developer, landlord, or property manager may be fined up to the amount required to construct a comparable affordable unit of the same size and the deed-restricted control period will be extended for the length of the time the unit was out of compliance, in addition to the remedies provided for in this section. For the purposes of this subsection, a reasonable amount of time shall presumptively be 60 days, unless a longer period of time is required due to demonstrable market conditions and/or failure of the municipal housing liaison or the administrative agent to refer a certified tenant.

6. Banks and other lending institutions are prohibited from issuing any loan secured by owner occupied real property subject to the affordability controls set forth in this subchapter if such loan would be in excess of amounts permitted by the restriction documents recorded in the deed or mortgage book in the county in which the property is located. Any loan issued in violation of this subsection is void as against public policy.
7. The Agency and the Department hereby reserve, for themselves and for each administrative agent appointed pursuant to this subchapter, all of the rights and remedies available at law and in equity for the enforcement of this subchapter, including, but not limited to, fines, evictions, and foreclosures as approved by a county-level housing judge.
8. Appeals
 - a. Appeals from all decisions of an administrative agent appointed pursuant to this subchapter must be filed, in writing, with the municipal housing liaison. A decision by the municipal housing liaison may be appealed to the Division. A written decision of the Division Director upholding, modifying, or reversing an administrative agent’s decision is a final administrative action.

Repealer

All ordinances or code provisions or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Severability

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or any other part of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication, as required by law.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai	✓		✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino		✓	✓			

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The Mayor read the following.

All items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a Council Member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for Roll Call vote, in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the General Order of Business.

RESOLUTIONS:

***26-080 TRANSFER RESOLUTION NO. 1 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 provides that should if, during the **first 3 months** of any fiscal year, the amount of any appropriation reserve for the immediately **preceding** fiscal year is insufficient to pay the claims authorized or incurred during said preceding year which were chargeable to said appropriation, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation chargeable to said appropriation, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation reserves over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill its purpose, the governing body, may, by resolution adopted by no less than a **2/3 vote** of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to an appropriation reserve or an appropriation in the prior budget deemed to be insufficient to fulfill its purpose or for which no reserve was provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, the Assistant Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the **2025** Budget Appropriations as follows:

FROM:		
Gen. Admin. - Print, Postage, etc	5-01-20-100-000-022	\$138.54
Utilities - Water Expense	5-01-31-445-000-241	\$519.89
		<u>\$658.43</u>
TO:		
Board of Health - Maint. Off Eq	5-01-27-330-000-166	\$138.54
Utilities - Electricity Expense	5-01-31-430-000-128	\$519.89
		<u>\$658.43</u>

***26-081 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL APPRAISER
DARREN RAYMOND OF APPRAISAL SYSTEMS, INC**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional certified, residential real estate appraisal services for 2026; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, Darren Raymond of Appraisal Systems, Inc is qualified to provide professional, certified, residential real estate appraisal services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter as follows:
The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement for Residential real estate appraisal services with:

Darren Raymond of Appraisal Systems, Inc.

1. This contract is being awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, as a professional service for 2026.
2. This contract is being awarded through a Fair and Open process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. The Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed (in accordance with the publication of notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1)(a)(i) to publish a notice of this action once in the official newspaper of the Borough of Closter.
4. That the award of this contract be in accordance with and subject to compliance with the Affirmative Action Regulations of the State of New Jersey and the requirements of Public Law 1975, Chapter 127.

***26-082 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH DEPUTY DPW SUPERINTENDENT – CODY
WATKINS**

WHEREAS, Cody Watkins was appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Public Works on January 2, 2025 by Resolution #25-052, and was re-appointed on January 5, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Deputy have engaged in negotiations to agree upon the terms of his employment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough authorizes and approves the agreement with the Deputy on the terms recited therein, which terms are incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Borough Attorney, and Borough Labor Attorney are authorized to take all necessary steps to implement the terms of the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Finance Office and Administrator.

***26-083 REFUND REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER – 126 KINCKERBOCKER
ROAD**

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on 22nd day of October 2025, a lien was sold on Block **701**; Lot **24**, also known as 126 Knickerbocker Road in Closter, New Jersey for 2024 delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as **Tax Sale Certificate #25-00001** was sold to Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank in the amount of \$5,561.20 at \$55,000.00 premium; and

WHEREAS, *the prior lienholder R. Rothman affected* redemption of said property of TSC #25-00001 in the amount of \$23,416.23 through February 26, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, New Jersey that the **Finance Clerk** is authorized to issue a check in the amount of **\$23,416.23** for redemption *as well as* a check in the amount of **\$55,000.00** for the Premium of said certificate to: **Pro Cap 8FBO Firsttrust Bank**.

***26-084 ADOPTING THE BERGEN COUNTY AND THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Closter; and

WHEREAS the County of Bergen has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026, in accordance with federal and state laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and New Jersey P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 313 approved January 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026, identifies current and future natural hazard risks, and assesses the vulnerability of facilities, infrastructure, and populations, and defines mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property in (local government) from the impacts of future natural hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Governing Body demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY, the Borough of Closter, New Jersey that:

Section 1. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:49-1, the Governing Body adopts the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026. While content related to Borough of Closter may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require Borough of Closter to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

***26-085 APPROVAL TO SUBMIT 2026 FUNDING ROUND DECLARATION OF INTENT TO APPLY TO THE BERGEN COUNTY TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL PROGRAM FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND: MUNICIPAL PROGRAM FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS INCLUDING MEMORIAL PARK, SCHAUBLE PARK, AND RUCKMAN PARK**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the governing body of the Borough of Closter formally approves the 2026 Declaration of Intent to Apply to the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund ~ Municipal Program For Park Improvements, (Exhibit A attached); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing body authorizes the Mayor to sign the Declaration of Intent to Apply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough Clerk will provide two (2) original, signed and sealed copies of this resolution to Borough Administrator.

***26-086 EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE BERGEN COUNTY DIVISION OF CULTURAL & HISTORIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, DIVISION OF CULTURAL AND HISTORIC AFFAIRS FOR THE 2026 BERGEN COUNTY HISTORY GRANT PROGRAM SPECIAL PROJECTS (SP)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter wishes to enter into a grant agreement with the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs, Department of Parks FY2026 Bergen County History Grant Program for Special Projects (SP), for the purpose of using a total sum not to exceed \$2,500.00 in Grant funds for:

Project: "Closter Celebrates America's 250th" Special Project Brochure
Closter Historic Commission

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Closter hereby authorizes John C. Glidden, Jr., Mayor, to be a signatory for the aforesaid grant agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorizes Borough Administrator James Winters to sign all vouchers submitted in connection with the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council recognize that the Borough of Closter agrees that upon acceptance of the 2026 Bergen County History Grant award of a *total sum not to exceed \$2,500.00*, the Borough will abide by all Terms and Conditions contained in the County of Bergen Grant Contract, including the general terms and conditions and additional stipulations, if any.

***26-087 APPROVING CLOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION TOWN WIDE CLEAN UP DAY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 (RAINDATE SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026)**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter's Environmental Commission has by request dated February 13, 2026 advised the Governing Body of its desire to host a Town Wide Clean Up Day event for the benefit of Closter residents; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Environmental Commission's Clean Up Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2026 (rain date of Sunday, May 3, 2026) between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will be held in various locations with registration stations near the Closter Senior Center parking lot and at the Closter Nature Center, (Exhibit A attached); and

WHEREAS, there will not be any vendors; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Environmental Commission's Town Wide Clean Up Day event is hereby approved and a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Borough Administrator, Chief of Police and Superintendent of Public Works.

***26-088 REFUND OF REAL ESTATE TAX OVERPAYMENT – 11 NAUGLE STREET**

WHEREAS, there exists tax overpayment(s) resulted by an over payments for the parcels listed below in the total amount of \$3,873.09 for 1st Quarter 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is desirous to clear the overpayments of record and requests a certified copy of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that the Finance Clerk is herewith authorized to issue a refund check to in the total amount of \$3,873.09 for the following tax accounts to Core Logic:

Block 1202; Lot 2 Zampolino 11 Naugle Street \$3,873.09

***26-089 ADOPT THE "AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PLAN" FOR THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Fair Housing Act and the New Jersey Uniform Housing Affordability Controls (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26-1, et seq.), the Borough of Closter is required to adopt an Affirmative Marketing Plan to ensure that all affordable housing units created, including those created by the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan within the Borough of Closter, are affirmatively marketed to very low, low and moderate income households, particularly those living and/or working within Housing Region #1, the Affordable Housing Region encompassing the Borough of Closter; and

WHEREAS, the Consent Order signed by Judge Corriston on January 27, 2026 granted conditional approval to the Borough's Round Four affordable housing plan, subject to meeting certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, one of the conditions set forth in the Order required the Borough to update and adopt its Affirmative Marketing Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Administrator has provided an updated Affirmative Marketing Plan, which was reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been updated to reflect all currently available information provided by DCA but may require further updates as new regulations and guidance are issued from DCA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Governing Body of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby adopt the Affirmative Marketing Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

***26-090 APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR LEAF COMPOSTING 2025 WOOD WASTER RECYCLING & LEAF COMPOSTING**

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Closter desires to further the public interest by accepting a grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of approximately \$35,526.00 to fund the following project:

**Leaf Composting 2025 - Wood Waste Recycling and Leaf Composting (WRC)
 Permit Compliance**

WHEREAS, the governing body resolves that James Winters, or the successor to the office of the Borough Administrator/Treasurer is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in an amount not less than \$35,526.00 and not more than \$35,526.00 and (c) to execute amendments as indicated below:

- any amendments thereto
- any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations
- no amendments

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter acknowledges receipt of the NJDEP's confirmation there is a 0% match requirement of the Total Project Amount and the availability of a match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified. Therefore, up to 0% of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by grant program requirements and the agreement*); and,

THEREFORE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State and municipal laws, rules and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

***26-091 SUPPORT FROM LOCAL GOVERNING BODY AUTHORIZING THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Closter is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Borough of Closter's Mayor and Council has determined that the Borough of Closter should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough of Closter's Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

***26-092 AUTHORIZING THE BIDDING OF THE 2026 BOROUGH ROAD PAVING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Closter has authorized Boswell Engineering to prepare plans and specifications for the construction of said 2026 Borough Road Paving program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise bids for said projects.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules	✓		✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

5. OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR ANY MATTER (5-MINUTE LIMIT)

Steve Isaacson (97 Columbus Avenue) suggested that the snow plow arm be replaced by a Bobcat and suggested that its use be limited to seniors and others that cannot shovel. He also asked for an update on the deed restriction on MacBain Farm and was told that it has been drafted and is in review. He asked for the 2024-2025 Budget and Debt Service numbers. They will be emailed to him. He asked whether the Round 4 Affordable Housing numbers include Village School, and was told that Village School was part of Round 3. Mr. Isaacson questioned why, if residents are dissatisfied with Appraisal Systems, a member of this company has been appointed to a Borough position.

Brian Pfeiffer (158 Demarest Avenue) asked about the hiring of the Appraisal Systems employee as a Borough contractor. Assistant Borough Attorney JoAnn Riccardi Schuman explained that the annual evaluation is a separate

contract. She said that the person who has been appointed is involved in providing court-ordered data and that hiring someone is more cost-effective than having the Tax Assessor research.

Thomasina Schwartz (16 Robinhood Avenue) voiced her disappointment that the resolution she had presented was not on the Agenda. Mayor Glidden responded that the Governing Body needed to speak with the Attorney General and County Prosecutor for guidance on the resolution. She urged the Governing Body to take a stand against ICE. Assistant Borough Attorney Joann Riccardi Schuman stated that the resolution is being reviewed.

Karen Gargulio (207 West Street) stated we need to do what we can to raise awareness that ICE has been here and that they are looking in Morristown for a facility. She said that there is no due process and that we need to come forward and say something about protecting the rights of our neighbors. She asked that the resolution be passed.

6. HAWKERS AND PEDDLERS LICENSE (Moved from the Work Session)

HP 2026-04 Landmark Trading USA – Jun Zhang

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino	✓		✓			

7. FIRE DEPARTMENT (Moved from the Work Session)

New Regular Member - Oz Hardoon

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho	✓		✓			
Councilwoman Chung			✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules			✓			
Councilman Yammarino		✓	✓			

Someone from the public asked to speak and came forward. The student said that he is doing a project for high school and asked for specifics on the resolution being discussed. Mayor Glidden said that it is a resolution opposing certain actions of ICE and protecting our residents.

8. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			✓			
Council President Cho			✓			
Councilwoman Chung		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Latner					✓	
Councilwoman Maroules	✓		✓			
Councilman Yammarino			✓			

The Regular Meeting adjourned at **8:16 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mari J. Margiotta, RMC, CMR
 Borough Clerk

Date of Minutes approval: April 22, 2026