

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF MOUNT HOLLY TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-10

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT
HOLLY AMENDING CHAPTER 143 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MOUNT HOLLY REGARDING DEVELOPMENT FEES**

WHEREAS, consistent with the terms of the settlement in the agreement by and between the Township of Mount Holly and Fair Share Housing Center, dated February 11, 2019, (Court Settlement) establishing Mount Holly Township’s Fair Share Plan for the Third Round Mount Laurel compliance, and in accordance with compliance conditions established by the Township of Mount Holly’s Superior Court Master for the granting of a judgment of compliance and repose for the Third Round, certain ordinances are required to guide affordable housing compliance in a manner that is consistent with current conditions and the Court Settlement; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Mount Holly has previously adopted a “Development Fees” ordinance that addresses the requirements for affordable housing development fee collections as previously published by the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) for the Third Round; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Mount Holly’s Court Settlement requires that instead of COAH’s approval of the Township’s Development Fee Ordinance and authorization of Affordable Housing Trust Fund expenditures, Court Approval is required, and the Township of Mount Holly’s Council is desirous of appropriately amending and supplementing the existing Township Development Fees ordinance to reflect the terms of the Court Settlement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Mount Holly, in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey that the Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1. DEVELOPMENT FEES.

1. Purpose

- a) In Holmdel Builder’s Association V. Holmdel Township, 121 N.J. 550 (1990), the New Jersey Supreme Court determined that mandatory development fees are authorized by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 (the Act), N.J.S.A. 52:27d-301 et seq., and the State Constitution, subject to the Council on Affordable Housing’s (COAH’s) adoption of rules.
- b) Pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46 section 8 (C. 52:27D-329.2) and the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), COAH was authorized to adopt and promulgate regulations necessary for the establishment, implementation, review, monitoring and enforcement of municipal affordable

housing trust funds and corresponding spending plans. Municipalities that are under the jurisdiction of the Court and have a Court approved spending plan may retain fees collected from non-residential development.

- c) This ordinance establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees pursuant to the Court's approval in accordance P.L.2008, c.46, Sections 8 and 32-38. Fees collected pursuant to this ordinance shall be used for the sole purpose of providing low- and moderate-income housing. This ordinance shall be interpreted within the framework of COAH's rules on development fees, codified at N.J.A.C. 5:93.

2. Basic requirements

- a) This ordinance shall not be effective until approved by the Court pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:96-5.1.
- b) The Township shall not spend development fees until the Court has approved a plan for spending such fees in conformance with N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.10 and N.J.A.C. 5:96-5.3.

3. Definitions

- a) The following terms, as used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings:
 - i. **"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 development.
 - ii. **"COAH"** or the **"Council"** means the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing established under the Act which has primary jurisdiction for the administration of housing obligations in accordance with sound regional planning consideration in the State.
 - iii. **"Development fee"** means money paid by a developer for the improvement of property as permitted by applicable COAH regulations.
 - iv. **"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.
 - v. **"Equalized assessed value"** 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 of P.L.1973, c.123 (C.54:1-35a through C.54:1-35c).

- vi. **“Green building strategies”** means those 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.

4. Residential Development fees

a) Imposed fees

- i. Within all zoning districts, residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee of one and a half (1.5) percent of the equalized assessed value for residential development provided no increased density is permitted.
- ii. When an increase in residential density pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d(5) (known as a “d” variance) has been permitted, developers shall be required to pay a development fee of six (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. However, if the zoning on a site has changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application, the base density for the purposes of calculating the bonus 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 for residential development

- i. Affordable housing developments, developments where the developer is providing for the construction of affordable units elsewhere in the municipality, and developments where the developer has made a payment in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units shall be exempt from development fees.
- ii. Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of a municipal development fee ordinance shall be exempt from development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the approval. Where a site plan approval does not apply, a zoning and/or building permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for this purpose. The fee percentage shall be vested on the date that the building permit is issued.
- iii. Where there is an improvement to, expansion of, reconstruction or replacement of an existing residential structure requiring a Construction Permit, no development fee shall be required to be paid. The construction or improvement

of a permitted accessory structure on a lot containing an existing residential structure shall not require the payment of a development fee.

- iv. Development fees shall not be imposed on public school or municipal facilities.

5. Non-residential Development fees

a) Imposed fees

- i. Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, 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 non-residential construction.
- ii. Non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, 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.
- iii. 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 improvement and the equalized assessed value of the newly improved structure, i.e. land and improvement, at the time 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.

b) Eligible exactions, ineligible exactions and exemptions for non-residential development

- i. The non-residential portion of a mixed-use inclusionary or market rate development shall be subject to the two and a half (2.5) percent development fee, unless otherwise exempted below.
- ii. The 2.5 percent fee shall not apply to an increase in equalized assessed value resulting from alterations, change in use within existing footprint, reconstruction, renovations and repairs.
- iii. Non-residential developments shall be exempt from the payment of non-residential development fees in accordance with the exemptions required pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46, as specified in the Form N-RDF "State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/Exemption" Form. Any exemption claimed by a developer shall be substantiated by that developer.

- iv. A developer of a non-residential development exempted from the non-residential development fee pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46 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 of the non-residential development, whichever is later.
- v. 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 Township as a lien against the real property of the owner.

6. Collection procedures

- a) Upon the granting of a preliminary, final or other applicable approval, for a development, the applicable approving authority shall direct its staff to notify the construction official responsible for the issuance of a building 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 building permit shall notify the local tax assessor of the issuance of the first building permit for a development which is subject to a development fee.
- d) Within 90 days of receipt of that notice, the municipal tax assessor, based on the plans filed, shall provide an estimate of the equalized assessed value of the development.
- e) The construction official responsible for the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy shall notify the local assessor of any and all requests for the scheduling of a final inspection on property which is subject to a development fee.
- f) Within 10 business days of a request for the scheduling of a final inspection, the municipal assessor shall confirm or modify the previously estimated equalized assessed value of the improvements of the development; calculate the development fee; and thereafter notify the developer of the amount of the fee.

- g) Should the Township 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 subsection b. of section 37 of P.L.2008, c.46 (C.40:55D-8.6).
- h) Except as provided in Section 5.A.iii, fifty percent of the initially calculated development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the building permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at the time of the issuance of the building permit and that determined at the time of the issuance of certificate of occupancy.
- i) Appeal of development fees
 - 1) A developer may challenge residential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the County Board of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by the Board, collected fees shall be placed in an interest bearing escrow account by the Township. Appeals from a determination of the Board may be made to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.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.
 - 2) A developer may challenge non-residential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the Director of the Division of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by the Director, which shall be made within 45 days of receipt of the challenge, collected fees shall be placed in an interest bearing escrow account by the Township. Appeals from a determination of the Director may be made to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.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.

7. Affordable Housing trust fund

- a) There is hereby created a separate, interest-bearing housing trust fund to be maintained by the chief financial officer 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 affordable units;

2. developer contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible;
3. rental income from municipally operated units;
4. repayments from affordable housing program loans;
5. recapture funds;
6. proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and
7. any other funds collected in connection with the Township's affordable housing program.

c) Within seven days from the opening of the trust fund account, the Township shall provide COAH with written authorization, in the form of a three-party escrow agreement between the municipality, the bank, and COAH to permit COAH to direct the disbursement of the funds as provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:947-6.16(b)8.13(b). In the event of a failure by the Township of Mount Holly 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 Court; 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 Township of Mount Holly, 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 municipality 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. The Court may also impose such other remedies as may be reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances.

d) All interest accrued in the housing trust fund shall only be used on eligible affordable housing activities approved by the Court.

8 Use of funds

- a) The expenditure of all funds shall conform to a spending plan approved by the Court. Funds deposited in the housing trust fund may be used for any activity approved by the Court to address the Township's fair share obligation and may be set up as a grant or revolving loan program. Such activities include, but are not limited to: preservation or purchase of housing for the purpose of maintaining or implementing affordability controls; housing rehabilitation; new construction of affordable housing units and related costs; accessory apartments; market to affordable program; regional housing partnership programs; conversion of existing non-residential buildings to create new affordable units; green building strategies designed to be cost saving and in accordance with accepted national or State standards; purchase of land for affordable housing; improvement of land to be used for affordable housing; extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure to affordable housing sites; financial assistance designed to increase affordability; administration necessary for implementation of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and/or any other activity permitted by the Court and specified in the approved Spending Plan.
- b) Funds shall not be expended to reimburse the Township for past housing activities.
- c) At least 30 percent of all development fees collected and interest earned shall be used to provide affordability assistance to low- and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the municipal Fair Share Plan. One-third of the affordability assistance portion of development fees collected shall be used to provide affordability assistance to those households earning 30 percent or less of median income by region.
 - i. Affordability assistance programs may include down payment assistance, security deposit assistance, low interest loans, rental assistance, assistance with homeowners association or condominium fees and special assessments, and assistance with emergency repairs.
 - ii. Affordability assistance to households earning 30 percent or less of median income may include buying down the cost of low or moderate income units in the municipal Fair Share Plan to make them affordable to households earning 30 percent or less of median income.
 - iii. Payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site and funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls shall be exempt from the affordability assistance requirement.
- d) The Township 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.

- e) No more than 20 percent of all revenues collected from development fees, may be expended on administration, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits for municipal employees or consultants' fees necessary to develop or implement a new construction program, prepare a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and/or administer an affirmative marketing program or rehabilitation program.
 - i. In the case of a rehabilitation program, no more than 20 percent of the revenues collected from development fees shall be expended for such administrative expenses.
 - ii. Administrative funds may be used for income qualification of households, monitoring the turnover of sale and rental units, and compliance with the Court's monitoring requirements. Legal or other fees related to litigation opposing affordable housing sites or related to securing or appealing a judgement from the Court are not eligible uses of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

9. Monitoring

- a) The Township 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 an 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 Township), funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls, barrier free escrow funds, rental income from Township owned affordable housing units, repayments from affordable housing program loans, and any other funds collected in connection with the Township of Mount Holly's affordable housing programs, as well as an accounting of the expenditures of revenues and implementation of the Spending Plan approved by the Court.

10. Ongoing collection of fees

- a) The ability for the Township to impose, collect and expend development fees shall expire with its substantive certification or judgment of compliance unless the Township has filed an adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with the Court, has petitioned for substantive certification or judgment of compliance and repose, and has received the Court's approval of its development fee ordinance.

- b) If the Township of Mount Holly fails to renew its ability to impose and collect development fees prior to the expiration of substantive certification or judgment of compliance and repose, it may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within its municipal 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 Township shall not impose a residential development fee on a development that receives preliminary or final site plan approval after the expiration of its substantive certification or judgment of compliance, nor shall the Township retroactively impose a development fee on such a development. The Township shall not expend development fees after the expiration of its substantive certification or judgment of compliance.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY

If any paragraph, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court or administrative agency or competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs or sections hereof.

SECTION 4. INCONSISTENCY

All ordinances or part of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law and filing with the County Planning Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Amendment shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provisions so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance within applicable law.

First Reading: October 30, 2019

Councilmember	Motion	2nd	Yea	Nay	Recuse	Abstain	Absent
L. Brown			X				
J. Codianni		X	X				
R. DiFolco	X		X				
K. McCandless			X				
J. Jones			X				

Second Reading: November 25, 2019

Councilmember	Motion	2nd	Yea	Nay	Recuse	Abstain	Absent
L. Brown							X
J. Codianni	X		X				
R. DiFolco							X
K. McCandless		X	X				
J. Jones			X				

TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT HOLLY

JASON JONES, Mayor

Attest:

SHERRY MARNELL, Acting Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Holly, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, held on the 30th day of October, 2019, and was considered for final passage after a public hearing at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Holly to be held on the 25th day of November 2019.

SHERRY MARNELL, Acting Township Clerk