

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

Morris County, New Jersey

No. R-52-12

Date of Adoption: April 16, 2012

Title or Subject: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A-2717 EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO COMMIT TO EXPEND COLLECTED DEVELOPMENT FEES AND PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU OF CONSTRUCTING AFFORDABLE UNITS

WHEREAS, P.L. 2008, c. 46 established a four year timetable for municipal housing trust dollars to be “committed for expenditure, or risk forfeiture to the State”; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Act did not define the term “committed for expenditure” and deferred to the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to promulgate regulations as to the requirements to be met for “committed” as well as a timetable for expenditures; and

WHEREAS, neither COAH nor the Department of Community Affairs has adopted, nor proposed, the regulations pursuant to P.L. 2008, c. 46; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of municipalities submitted spending plans to COAH, of which only a fraction of these plans were reviewed by the agency, and most of these municipalities have not been provided any guidance on their spending plans; and

WHEREAS, at the time of 2008 Act, COAH was prepared to adopt its “3rd round regulations” establishing municipal obligations under the “Fair Housing Act”; and

WHEREAS, COAH’s 3rd round regulations were highly controversial and fundamentally flawed, and subsequently set aside by the Appellate Division, and the appeal of that decision now awaits consideration by the State Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, eight years of litigation over COAH’s methodology has had a chilling effect not only on the development of affordable housing, but on the ability of local governments to commit trust fund dollars without knowledge of their respective obligations, and certainty that such commitment would count towards its housing obligation; and

WHEREAS, forfeiture of trust fund dollars starting in July 2012 would be fundamentally unfair, inequitable and indefensible since neither COAH nor DCA has provided the required guidance or certainty; and

WHEREAS, these trust fund dollars should be used as intended: to subsidize the costs for municipalities in meeting their affordable housing obligations while assuring that these costs do not fall to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, forfeiture of these dollars, estimated by some to be as much as \$200 million, would displace this financial obligation to the taxpayers in these communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Washington urges our State Legislators to support and approve A-2717, which will provide a four-year extension for municipalities to commit the municipal housing trust fund dollars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the sponsor of A-2717, Assemblyman Anthony Bucco, Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll, members of the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Office of the Governor.

ATTEST:

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON**

Deborah A. Burd, Acting Township Clerk

Kenneth W. Short, Mayor

I, Deborah A. Burd, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Township Committee held on April 16, 2012.

Deborah A. Burd, Township Clerk

Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING A-2717

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