



Warren Township Seeks Court Approval of Affordable Housing Plan

Warren Township could learn by the end of the year whether the Township Committee's plan to meet the Township's State-mandated Affordable Housing obligation has Court approval.

The Township Committee voted on October 10, 2018 to support a proposed Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center of NJ, the court-assigned advocate for low- and moderate-income residents.

On December 4, 2018, Judge Thomas C. Miller will hold a "Fairness and Preliminary Compliance Hearing" to determine whether the proposed agreement provides *a realistic opportunity* for the Township to satisfy its portion of the regional need for housing among those in low- and moderate-income brackets.

Technically, the agreement is referred to as "The Warren Township Housing Element and Fair Share Compliance Plan (the "Plan") for the Affordable Housing Period 1987-2025." It includes historical development and other arrangements that enabled the Township to meet prior obligations as well as development proposed to meet current obligations. These include the Prior Round (1987- 1999) obligation of 543 units, a Present Need of 38 units, and a Third Round (1999-2025) obligation of 890 units. Learn more about the history of Affordable Housing in Warren by going to the Warren Township website and clicking on Affordable Housing button on the home page or by clicking [here](#).

"The Township Committee has been as transparent as legally possible during the development of the Plan," said Committeeman Mick Marion, who serves as liaison to the Affordable Housing Committee.

"In addition to holding public discussions at dozens of Township Committee meetings, we've issued press releases, e-blasts and provided information on the website," he said. Mr. Marion urged residents to stay informed about the Affordable Housing process by reviewing such materials as they are released.

The proposed Settlement Agreement, which details the Township's total affordable housing obligation and compliance with those affordable housing obligations, can be examined and/or photocopied (for a fee) 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday in the Township Clerk's office at the Warren Township Town Hall, 46 Mountain Boulevard. It can also be found on the Warren Township website or by clicking [here](#).

While the Agreement represents negotiations between the Township, potential developers

and Fair Share Housing Center, others may also appear at the hearing, including owner/developers of the properties identified in the Plan, a developer who objects to the terms of the proposed Agreement, and any resident who provides advance written objection to the Plan.

The Hearing is at 11 a.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at the Somerset County Courthouse, 20 North Bridge Street, Somerville, Court Room HCH1, and is open to the public. Township Committeewoman Carolann Garafola, liaison to the Affordable Housing Committee, encouraged residents to attend the hearing. “There’s no better way to understand the process which led the Township Committee to approve the agreement,” Ms. Garafola said.

For further details regarding the hearing, the notice of the hearing is posted on the Warren Township website.

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