

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION No. 17-195

**RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE LOCAL
AFFORDABLE HOUSING BURDENS AND PROVIDE DEFINED
RULES AND RELIEF IN PROVIDING THEREOF**

WHEREAS, municipalities do not have the resources to provide court mandated housing with the Mount Laurel doctrine without proper funding; and

WHEREAS, law suits increase housing four-fold through court mandates and without an affirmative defense municipalities can do nothing to stop growth and sprawl, costing millions of dollars outside of local budgets; and

WHEREAS, property taxes must be raised exponentially to pay the costs associated with court mandates and, therefore, population, further overburdening taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of unfunded court mandates has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, expected state population growth .3 percent does not provide sufficient demand to justify court mandated 30 percent housing supply increase; further congesting our state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is already the most densely populated state in the country with 1,195 persons per square mile; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and public welfare in this municipality will be reduced, negatively impacting infrastructure, water and sewer capacities; school class sizes and school services; municipal services such as volunteer and staffed ambulatory services and fire departments, police departments, public transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and rentals is not due to a lack of units, rather it stems from residents paying property taxes that are unaffordable and increasing by roughly \$700 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey should relieve the burden of unfunded court mandates and provide statewide parity and predictability in regard to municipal affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is urged to pass Assembly Bill No. 4666 imposing an end-of-year moratorium on all affordable housing litigation; and Assembly Bill No. 4667 establishing the "Affordable Housing Obligation Study Commission" to assist in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis foisted upon municipalities by the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state and the legislature to assist municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to reasonably address affordable housing needs in New Jersey to preserve the integrity of the state and its quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington urges the state and the legislature to aid municipalities over-burdened by court-mandated affordable housing.

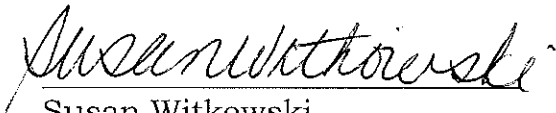
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically must reach a solution to affordable housing in New Jersey.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that certified copies of the of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Charles A. Richman, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Brammick, our State Senator Gerald Cardinale, our Assembly(wo)men Holly Schepisi and Robert Auth, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

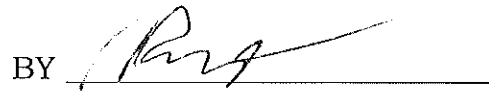
ATTEST:

APPROVED:

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON



Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk



Robert Bruno
Council President

DATED: April 10, 2017

MOTION		SECOND		COUNCIL	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruno		Bruno		Bruno	X			
Calamari		Calamari	X	Calamari	X			
Cascio		Cascio		Cascio	X			
Sears	X	Sears		Sears	X			
Ullman		Ullman		Ullman	X			