

TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-082

WHEREAS, the Township of Bedminster has filed or anticipates filing a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset County in furtherance of the Supreme Court’s March 10, 2015 decision captioned In re Adoption of N.J.A.C. 5:96 & 5:97 by N.J. Council on Affordable Housing, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (the “Supreme Court Decision”); and

WHEREAS, Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”), through the services of David Kinsey, has prepared what it considers to be the statewide fair share numbers (the “FSHC Numbers”) for use by the 15 vicinage Mt. Laurel Judges to calculate a municipality’s affordable housing obligation pursuant to the Supreme Court Decision; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Bedminster desires to participate in the preparation of a statewide fair share analysis to be undertaken by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (“Rutgers”), through Dr. Robert W. Burchell, Principal Investigator, and various other experts employed by Rutgers in order to establish a rational and reasonable methodology (the “Burchell Fair Share Analysis”) for determination of a municipality’s obligation to provide a realistic opportunity through its land use ordinances for its fair share of the region’s affordable housing needs in accordance with the Mount Laurel Doctrine as set forth in In the Matter of the Adoption of N.J.A.C. 5:96 and 5:97 by the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (“Decision”) and prior decisions of the Courts of New Jersey, and the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, Rutgers, utilizing Dr. Burchell as the Principal Investigator and author has agreed to prepare the Burchell Fair Share Analysis within 90 days of being retained to establish his view of the proper way to determine each municipality’s fair share obligation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burchell estimates the cost to prepare the initial Burchell Fair Share Analysis will be \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that there will be a need for Dr. Burchell to analyze any challenges to his conclusions and prepare a rebuttal report to said challenges which is not included in the \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that if each municipality contributes \$2,000, there will be sufficient monies to pay the cost to prepare the initial Burchell Fair Share Analysis, to analyze any challenges to the Initial Fair Share Analysis and to Prepare A Rebuttal Report given the number of municipalities that have expressed an interest in retaining Burchell; and

WHEREAS, a Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement (hereinafter MSSDA”), has been prepared (a) so that monies can be collected to enter into an agreement with Rutgers (hereinafter “the Rutgers Agreement”) and so that Burchell, along with various other experts from Rutgers, can perform the tasks described above and (b) so that the rights and responsibilities of each municipality that wishes to sign the agreement to retain Rutgers are defined; and

WHEREAS, the MSSDA provides that the Law Offices of Jeffrey R. Surenian and Associates, LLC (“Surenian”) will serve as the administrative entity to sign the Rutgers agreement on behalf of the municipalities that signed the MSSDA and paid the \$2,000 fee; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative given the time constraints for municipalities that wish to retain Burchell to sign the MSSDA and pay the \$2,000 fee so that Burchell can conduct the necessary analysis; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the foregoing, it is possible that the MSSDA may need to be changed as a result of ongoing negotiations with the Rutgers agreement following execution of the MSSDA and the payment of the \$2,000 fee; and

WHEREAS, in such an event, any member that objects to the changes that Rutgers may require shall have the opportunity to relinquish membership in the Municipal Group and to receive back the \$2,000 payment as more specifically set forth in the MSSDA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster, as follows:

The terms and conditions of the MSSDA attached hereto are hereby approved, ratified and confirmed.

The amount of \$2,000 is hereby authorized to be expended by the Township of Bedminster for Rutgers through Dr. Robert Burchell, Principal Investigator to prepare the Burchell Fair Share Analysis.

A certification of funds authorizing the aforesaid expenditure has been signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Bedminster and is appended hereto.

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the aforesaid MSSDA to memorialize the participation of the Township of Bedminster in the preparation of the Burchell Fair Share Analysis and to take any and all actions reasonably required to effectuate said Agreement.

The Township of Bedminster hereby authorizes Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq. to execute on behalf of the Township of Bedminster the Research Agreement with Rutgers to initiate and complete Burchell Fair Share Analysis and to do such other actions to effectuate the purposes of said Research Agreement.

If further changes to the MSSDA are needed as a result of finalizing the Rutgers Agreement, within ten (10) days of notification by Surenian of the changes, the Township of Bedminster will inform Surenian if it objects to the changes and wishes to withdraw from the Municipal Group and obtain a refund of the \$2000 it paid.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ATTEST:

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP
COMMITTEE:

By: _____
Judith Sullivan, RMC
Township Clerk

By: _____
Steven E. Parker, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith Sullivan, Township Clerk of Bedminster, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a Regular Meeting held on June 15, 2015.

Judith Sullivan, Township Clerk

Introduced	Seconded	Township Committee	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Steven E. Parker, Mayor				
		Bernie Pane				
		Lawrence F. Jacobs				
		Staci Santucci				
		Kenneth Olsen				