



Town of East Greenwich State of Rhode Island

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL NO. 2026.09 REGARDING LOW-AND-MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING

WHEREAS, the Town of East Greenwich recognizes the importance of increasing the availability of low- and moderate-income housing to support a diverse and sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted a State-approved Comprehensive Community Plan, which includes a Housing Element outlining goals, policies, and implementation strategies to address local housing needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town is actively working to increase its affordable housing inventory, which currently stands at approximately 7.21%, through a combination of rental assistance programs, deed-restricted affordable units, and inclusionary zoning initiatives; and

WHEREAS, several housing developments and initiatives are underway or have been recently completed, including, **Brookside Terrace 1&2, Soria, and the Imperial, with others in the permitting process, including any comprehensive permit applications**, which collectively represent meaningful progress toward the State's 10% affordable housing goal; and

WHEREAS, the Town has experienced, or may experience, a concentration of comprehensive permit applications within certain areas, raising concerns regarding impacts to roadway infrastructure, school capacity, utilities, emergency response services, and overall community planning; and

WHEREAS, the Town must balance the need for additional affordable housing with the capacity of municipal infrastructure, environmental considerations, and the preservation of neighborhood character; and

WHEREAS, recent amendments to the Rhode Island Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act have constrained municipal authority in the review of comprehensive permit applications and reduced the discretion of local review boards compared to conventional development review processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of East Greenwich respectfully urges the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Governor to reinstate the "required findings for denial" provisions within the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act (R.I. General Laws §45-53-4); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council requests the enactment of legislation to allow affordable housing units to be counted toward a municipality's progress toward the 10% affordable housing threshold at the time a building permit is issued; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such changes would provide municipalities with greater ability to manage the timing, scale, and geographic distribution of development, thereby supporting thoughtful planning and mitigating undue impacts on infrastructure, public services, and municipal finances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council respectfully calls upon the City and Town Councils of Rhode Island to support and join in this request to the General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Town's State Senator and Representatives, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, and all municipalities within the State of Rhode Island for their consideration.

ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of East Greenwich this 23rd day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:

Leigh A. Carney

Leigh A. Carney, MMC
Town Clerk

