

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
ORDINANCE 2026-13**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98, ARTICLE I OF THE BOROUGH CODE,
ENTITLED “AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FEES, BY REPLACING THE TEXT
OF THAT ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY**

WHEREAS, consistent with various amendments to the Borough Code as part of the Borough’s fourth round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, Borough Council seeks to amend Chapter 98, Article 1 of the Borough Code, establishing standards for the collection, maintenance and expenditure of development fees in accordance with State statute and regulation, and replacing in its entirety that text of Article I as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Article I of Chapter 98, concerning Affordable Housing Development Fees, shall read as follows:

Chapter 98. Fees.

Article I Affordable Housing Development Fees

§ 98-1. Purpose and applicability.

- A. This chapter establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees that are consistent with regulations set forth in P.L. 2024, c. 2, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq., N.J.A.C. 5:99-1 et seq. and as previously established in accordance with P.L. 2008, c. 46, Sections 8 and 32 through 38 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2) and the Statewide Nonresidential Development Fee Act (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7). Fees collected pursuant to this chapter shall be used for the sole purpose of providing very-low-, low- and moderate-income housing in accordance with a Court-approved Spending Plan.
- B. Pursuant to P.L.2024, c. 2, the authority relating to rulemaking on the collection of residential and non-residential development fees is appropriately delegated to the Department of Community Affairs, following the abolition of COAH, effective March 20, 2024. As such, municipalities which have obtained or are in the process of seeking compliance certification may retain and expend these development fees.
- C. The purpose of this chapter is to establish standards for the collection, maintenance and expenditure of development fees pursuant to the above. Fees collected pursuant to this chapter shall be used for the sole purpose of providing low- and moderate-income housing.

§ 98-2. Definitions.

- A. The definitions in the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls (UHAC) at N.J.A.C 5:80-26.2 and N.J.A.C. 5:99 shall be applicable where a term is not defined. In the event of a discrepancy between a definition in this section and UHAC and N.J.A.C. 5:99, the current UHAC or N.J.A.C. 5:99 definition shall be applicable. The following terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings:

ACT — The Fair Housing Act of 1985, P.L. 1985, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.), as amended through P.L. 2024, c.2.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT — The individual or entity designated by the Borough and approved by the Division to administer affordable units in accordance with this chapter, the regulations of the amended Fair Housing Act (P.L.1985, c. (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.)), as designated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:99-7, and the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26 et seq.

AFFORDABLE — A sales price or rent level that is within the means of a very low-, low- or moderate-income household as defined within N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq., and, in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7, as may be amended and supplemented, and, in the case of a rental unit, that the rent for the unit conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13, as may be amended and supplemented.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT — A development included in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and includes, but is not limited to, an inclusionary development, a municipal construction project or a 100% affordable development.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM(S) — Any method of creating or preserving actual housing units available to low- and moderate-income households or creating a realistic opportunity for the construction of such units, and any mechanism in a municipal fair share plan prepared or implemented to address a municipality’s fair share obligation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONITORING SYSTEM or AHMS — The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) or Department’s cloud-based software application, which shall be the central repository for municipalities to use for reporting detailed information regarding affordable

housing developments, affordable housing unit completions, and the collection and expenditures of funds deposited into the municipal affordable housing trust fund.

AFFORDABLE UNIT — A housing unit proposed or created pursuant to the Fair Housing Act and approved for crediting by the court and/or funded through an affordable housing trust fund.

BOROUGH — The Borough of Pennington, in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

COAH OR THE COUNCIL— The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, as previously established by the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.), prior to its abolition effective March 20, 2024 through P.L.2024, c.2.

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION — The certification issued to a municipality by a county-level housing judge pursuant to section 3 at P.L. 2024, c. 2, that protects the municipality from exclusionary zoning litigation during the current round of present and prospective need and through July 1 of the year the next affordable housing round begins, which is also known as a "judgment of compliance" resulting in an "order for repose." The term "compliance certification" includes a judgment of repose granted in an action filed pursuant to section 13 at P.L. 1985, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313).

DCA or DEPARTMENT — The State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs.

DEVELOPER — The legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or of any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such land.

DEVELOPMENT FEE — Money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential and non-residential property as authorized pursuant to 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3, *Holmdel Builder's Association v. Holmdel Borough*, 121 N.J. 550 (1990) and the Fair Housing Act, as amended, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq., and regulated by applicable COAH Rules.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM — The Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, established pursuant to section 5 of P.L. 2024, c.2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-313.2). The Dispute Resolution Program is established within the Executive Branch of the State, for the purpose of resolving disputes associated with the Fair Housing Act with respect to municipalities seeking to obtain a certification of compliance of their adopted Housing Element & Fair Share Plan.

DIVISION — The Division of Local Planning Services within the Department of Community Affairs.

EMERGENT OPPORTUNITY — A circumstance that has arisen whereby affordable housing will be able to be produced through a delivery mechanism not originally contemplated by or included in a fair share plan that has been the subject of a compliance certification.

EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE or EAV— The assessed value of a property divided by the current average ratio of assessed to true value for the municipality in which the property is situated, as determined in accordance with Sections 1, 5, and 6 of P.L. 1973, c. 123 (N.J.S.A. 54:1-35a through 54:1-35c). Estimates at the time of issuance of a building permit may be obtained by the Tax Assessor utilizing estimates for construction cost. Final equalized assessed value will be determined at project completion by the Municipal Tax Assessor.

FAIR SHARE OBLIGATION — The total of the present need and prospective need as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

GREEN BUILDING STRATEGIES — Those strategies that minimize the impact of development on the environment and enhance the health, safety and well-being of residents by producing durable, low- maintenance, resource-efficient housing while making optimum use of existing infrastructure and community services.

HOUSING PROJECT — A project, or distinct portion of a project, which is designed and intended to provide decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations for persons of low- and moderate-income; such work or undertaking may include buildings, land, equipment, facilities, and other real or personal property for necessary, convenient, or desirable appurtenances, streets, sewers, water service, parks, site preparation, gardening, administrative, community, health, recreational, educational, welfare, or other purposes. The term "housing project" may also be applied to the planning of the buildings and improvements, the acquisition of property, the demolition of existing structures, the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of the improvements, and all other work in connection therewith.

MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT — Any development that includes both a non-residential development component and a residential development component, and shall include developments for which: (1) there is a common developer for both the residential development component and the non-residential development component, provided that for purposes of this definition, multiple persons and entities may be considered a common developer if there is a contractual relationship among them obligating each entity to develop at least a portion of the residential or non-residential development, or both, or otherwise to contribute resources to the development; and (2) the residential and non-residential developments are located on the same lot or adjoining lots, including, but not limited to, lots separated by a street, a river, or another geographical feature.

MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND — A separate, interest-bearing account held by a municipality for the deposit of development fees, payments in lieu of constructing

affordable units on sites zoned for affordable housing, barrier-free escrow funds, recapture funds, proceeds from the sale of affordable units, rental income, repayments from affordable housing program loans, enforcement fines, unexpended RCA funds remaining from a completed RCA project, application fees, and any other funds collected by the municipality in connection with its affordable housing programs, which shall be used to address municipal low- and moderate-income housing obligations within the time frames established by the Legislature and this chapter.

NEW JERSEY AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND — An account established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320.

NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Any building or structure, or portion thereof, including, but not limited to, any appurtenant improvements, which is designated to a use group other than a residential use group according to the State Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, promulgated to effectuate the State Uniform Construction Code Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq., including any subsequent amendments or revisions thereto;
2. Hotels, motels, vacation timeshares, and child-care facilities; and
3. The entirety of all continuing care facilities within a continuing care retirement community which is subject to the Continuing Care Retirement Community Regulation and Financial Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-330 et seq.

NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE — The fee authorized to be imposed pursuant to the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 40:55D-8.7.)

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF CONSTRUCTING AFFORDABLE UNITS — The payment of funds to the municipality by a developer when affordable units are not produced on a site zoned for an inclusionary development.

REHABILITATION — The repair, renovation, alteration, or reconstruction of any building or structure, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE — Money paid by a developer for the improvement of residential property as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2 and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3.2.

SPENDING PLAN — A plan to predict funds that will be paid into a municipality's affordable housing trust fund and to allocate how those funds will be spent to advance the interest of low and moderate income households subject to limitations required by law.

§ 98-3. Residential Development Fees.

A. Imposition of Fees.

- (1) Within the Borough of Pennington, all residential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below and developers of developments that include affordable housing, shall pay a fee of 1.5% of the equalized assessed value for all new residential development provided no increased density is permitted. Development fees shall also be imposed and collected when an additional dwelling unit is added to an existing residential structure; in such cases, the fee shall be calculated based on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the property due to the additional dwelling unit.
- (2) 1.5% of the increase in equalized assessed value (EAV) due to expansion, full or partial demolition and reconstruction, improvement, and/or alteration of any dwelling unit, which results in a 10% or greater increase in floor area.
- (3) 1.5% of the increase in equalized assessed value (EAV) due to the construction, expansion, full or partial demolition and reconstruction, improvement, and/or alteration of any accessory building other than a shed or gazebo.
- (4) When an increase in residential density is permitted pursuant to a "d" variance granted under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(d)(5), developers shall be required to pay a "bonus" development fee of 6% of the equalized assessed value for each additional unit that may be realized, except that this provision shall not be applicable to a development that will include affordable housing. If the zoning on a site has changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application, the base density for the purposes of calculating the bonus development fee shall be the highest density permitted by right during the two-year period preceding the filing of the variance application.

B. Eligible Exactions, Ineligible Exactions and Exemptions for Residential Developments.

- (1) Affordable housing developments and/or developments where the developer has made a payment in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units, if permitted by ordinance or by agreement with the Borough of Pennington, shall be exempt from the payment of development fees.
- (2) Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of this chapter and any preceding ordinance permitting the collection of development fees shall be exempt from the payment of development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the original approval. Where site plan approval is not applicable, the issuance of a zoning permit and/or construction permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for the purpose of determining the right to an exemption. In all cases, the applicable fee percentage shall

be determined based upon the Development Fee Ordinance in effect on the date that the construction permit is issued.

- (3) The expansion, full or partial demolition and reconstruction, improvement, and/or alteration of any dwelling unit which results in less than a ten-percent increase in floor area shall be exempt. The expansion, full or partial demolition and reconstruction, improvement, and/or alteration of any dwelling unit which results in greater than a ten-percent increase in floor area shall pay a development fee of 1.5% of the increase in equalized assessed value of the property.
- (4) Any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local building, fire, health, sanitary or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
- (5) Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a state inventory of historic places but a development fee shall be charged for any new dwelling constructed as a replacement for a previously existing dwelling on the same lot that was or will be demolished, unless the owner resided in the previous dwelling for a period of one year or more prior to obtaining a demolition permit. Where a development fee is charged for a replacement dwelling, the development fee shall be calculated on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the new structure as compared to the previous structure.
- (6) Structural alterations that do not increase gross floor area of a building or structure or increase the equalized assessed value of a property shall be exempted from paying a development fee.
- (7) Nonprofit organizations constructing residential projects which have received tax-exempt status pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, providing current evidence of that status is submitted to the Municipal Clerk, together with a certification that services of the organization are provided at reduced rates to those who establish an inability to pay existing charges, shall be exempted from paying a development fee.
- (8) Federal, state, county and local governments shall be exempted from paying a development fee.
- (9) Homes replaced as a result of a natural disaster, fire or flood shall be exempt from the payment of a development fee. (This exemption applies only for the owner of record at the time of the fire, flood, or natural disaster.)

§ 98-4. Nonresidential Development Fees.

A. Imposition of Fees.

- (1) Within all zoning districts, nonresidential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee equal to 2.5% of the equalized assessed value of the land and improvements, for all new nonresidential construction on an unimproved lot or lots.
- (2) Within all zoning districts, nonresidential developers, except for developers of the types of developments specifically exempted below, shall also pay a fee equal to 2.5% of the increase in equalized assessed value resulting from any additions to existing structures to be used for nonresidential purposes.
- (3) Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure is demolished and replaced. The development fee of 2.5% shall be calculated on the difference between the equalized assessed value of the preexisting land and improvements and the equalized assessed value of the newly improved structure, i.e., land and improvements, and such calculation shall be made at the time a final certificate of occupancy is issued. If the calculation required under this section results in a negative number, the nonresidential development fee shall be zero.

B. Eligible Exactions, Ineligible Exactions and Exemptions for Residential Developments.

- (1) The nonresidential portion of a mixed-use inclusionary or market rate development shall be subject to a 2.5% development fee, unless otherwise exempted below.
- (2) The 2.5% development fee shall not apply to an increase in equalized assessed value resulting from alterations, change in use within the existing footprint, reconstruction, renovations and repairs.
- (3) Nonresidential developments shall be exempt from the payment of nonresidential development fees in accordance with the exemptions required pursuant to the Statewide Nonresidential Development Fee Act (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), as specified in Form N-RDF, "State of New Jersey Nonresidential Development Certification/Exemption." Any exemption claimed by a developer shall be substantiated by that developer.
- (4) A developer of a nonresidential development exempted from the nonresidential development fee pursuant to the Statewide Nonresidential Development Fee Act shall be subject to the fee at such time as the basis for the exemption no longer applies, and shall make the payment of the nonresidential development fee, in that event, within three years after that event or after the issuance of the final certificate of occupancy for the nonresidential development, whichever is later.
- (5) If a property which was exempted from the collection of a nonresidential development fee thereafter ceases to be exempt from property taxation, the owner of the property shall remit the fees required pursuant to this section within 45 days of the termination of the property tax exemption. Unpaid nonresidential development fees under these circumstances may be enforceable by the Borough of Pennington as a lien against the

real property of the owner.

- (6) Federal, state, county and local governments constructing nonresidential housing shall be exempted from paying a development fee.

§ 98-5. Collection of Fees.

- A. Upon the granting of a preliminary, final or other applicable approval for a development, the approving authority or entity shall notify or direct its staff to notify the Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a construction permit.
- B. For nonresidential developments only, the developer shall also be provided with a copy of Form N-RDF, "State of New Jersey Nonresidential Development Certification/Exemption," to be completed as per the instructions provided. The developer of a nonresidential development shall complete Form N-RDF as per the instructions provided. The Construction Official shall verify the information submitted by the nonresidential developer as per the instructions provided in the Form N-RDF. The Tax Assessor shall verify exemptions and prepare estimated and final assessments as per the instructions provided in Form N-RDF.
- C. The Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a construction permit shall notify the Borough Tax Assessor of the issuance of the first construction permit for a development which is subject to a development fee.
- D. Within 21 days of receipt of such notification, the Borough Tax Assessor shall prepare an estimate of the equalized assessed value of the development based on the plans filed.
- E. The Construction Official responsible for the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy shall notify the Borough Tax Assessor of any and all requests for the scheduling of a final inspection on a property which is subject to a development fee.
- F. Within 10 business days of a request for the scheduling of a final inspection, the Borough Tax Assessor shall confirm or modify the previously estimated equalized assessed value of the improvements associated with the development; calculate the development fee; and thereafter notify the developer of the amount of the fee.
- G. Should the Borough of Pennington fail to determine or notify the developer of the amount of the development fee within 10 business days of the request for final inspection, the developer may estimate the amount due and pay that estimated amount consistent with the dispute process set forth in Subsection b. of Section 37 of P.L. 2008, c. 46 (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.6).
- H. Unless otherwise provided within these requirements, 50% of the initially calculated development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the construction permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the time of issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at the time of issuance of the construction permit and that determined at the time of issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

§ 98-6. Appeal of Development Fees.

- A. A developer may challenge residential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the County Board of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by the Board, collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by the Borough of Pennington. Appeals from a determination of the Board may be made to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, N.J.S.A. 54:48-1 et seq., within 90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.
- B. A developer may challenge nonresidential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the Director of the Division of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by the Director, which shall be made within 45 days of receipt of the challenge, collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by the Borough of Pennington. Appeals from a determination of the Director may be made to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1, et seq., within 90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.

§ 98-7. Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

- A. There is hereby created a separate, interest-bearing Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be maintained by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Pennington for the purpose of depositing development fees collected from residential and nonresidential developers and proceeds from the sale of units with extinguished controls.
- B. The following additional funds shall be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shall at all times be identifiable by source and amount:
 - (1) Payments in lieu of on-site construction of a fraction of an affordable unit, where permitted by ordinance or by agreement with the Borough of Pennington
 - (2) Funds contributed by developers to make 10% of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached dwelling unit development accessible;
 - (3) Rental income from municipally operated units;
 - (4) Repayments from affordable housing program loans;
 - (5) Recapture funds;
 - (6) Proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and

- (7) Any other funds collected in connection with Pennington's affordable housing program.
- C. In the event of a failure by the Borough of Pennington to comply with trust fund monitoring and reporting requirements or to submit accurate monitoring reports; or a failure to comply with the conditions of the judgment of compliance or a revocation of the judgment of compliance; or a failure to implement the approved Spending Plan and to expend funds within the applicable required time period as set forth in *In re Tp. of Monroe*, 442 N.J. Super. 565 (Law Div. 2015) (aff'd 442 N.J. Super. 563); or the expenditure of funds on activities not approved by the Court; or for other good cause demonstrating the unapproved use(s) of funds, the Court may authorize the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (LGS), to direct the manner in which the funds in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall be expended, provided that all such funds shall, to the extent practicable, be utilized for affordable housing programs within the Borough of Pennington, or, if not practicable, then within the County or the Housing Region.
 - (1) Any party may bring a motion before the Superior Court presenting evidence of such condition(s), and the Court may, after considering the evidence and providing the municipality a reasonable opportunity to respond and/or to remedy the noncompliant condition(s), and upon a finding of continuing and deliberate noncompliance, determine to authorize LGS to direct the expenditure of funds in the Trust Fund or impose such other remedies as may be reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances.
- D. Interest accrued in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall only be used to fund eligible affordable housing activities approved by the Court.

§ 98-8. Use of Funds.

- A. Funds deposited in the housing trust fund may be used for any eligible activity as set forth in the amended Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.), N.J.A.C. 5:99-2, and for any housing activity as approved by the Dispute Resolution Program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2.a(4) to address the municipal fair share or by the Division pursuant to N.J.S.A. N.J.A.C. 5:99-4. Such activities include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) A rehabilitation program whose purpose is to renovate deficient housing units that are occupied by low- and moderate-income households, in accordance with the New Jersey State Housing Code, N.J.A.C. 5:28, or the requirements of the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6, as applicable, and costs related to the rehabilitation of the unit. Any recaptured funds from a rehabilitation program shall be deposited into the Borough's affordable housing trust fund and subject to the provisions thereof;
 - (2) New construction of affordable housing units and related development costs; in the case of inclusionary developments, eligible costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;
 - (3) Creation of a market to affordable program to pay down the cost of unrestricted units and offer them in sound condition, for sale or rent, at affordable prices to low- and moderate-income households to address all or a portion of the affordable housing obligation;
 - (4) Extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure directly serving affordable housing development sites; in the case of inclusionary developments, costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;
 - (5) RCAs, approved prior to July 17, 2008;
 - (6) Acquisition and/or improvement of land to be used for affordable housing;
 - (7) Accessory dwelling units;
 - (8) The extension of expiring controls;
 - (9) The construction of group homes and supportive and special needs housing;
 - (10) Maintenance and repair of affordable housing units;
 - (11) To defray the costs of structured parking; in the case of inclusionary developments, eligible costs shall be prorated based on the proportion of affordable housing units included in the development;
 - (12) Affordability assistance in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.5;
 - (13) Repayment of municipal bonds issued to finance low- and moderate-income housing activity;
 - (14) Any other activity as specified in the approved spending plan or as approved by the Division as an emergent affordable housing opportunity; or
 - (15) Any other activity approved by the Division
- B. Until a new spending plan is approved pursuant to the declaratory judgement action filed in accordance with the amended Fair Housing Act, the Borough shall be entitled to expend funds from the housing trust fund in accordance with its Third Round Court Approved Spending Plan or in accordance with the Fair Housing Act as amended in March 2024.
- C. At least 30% of all development fees collected and interest earned shall be used to provide affordability assistance to very-low-, low- and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the Municipal Fair Share Plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.5. One-third of the affordability assistance portion of development fees collected shall be used to provide affordability assistance to those households earning 30% or less of regional median income by region.
 - (1) Affordability assistance programs include, but are not limited to, downpayment assistance, security deposit assistance, low-interest loans, and rental assistance.
 - (2) Affordability assistance to households earning 30% or less of regional median income may include offering a subsidy to developers of inclusionary or 100 percent

affordable housing developments or buying down the cost of low- or moderate-income units in the Municipal Fair Share Plan to make them affordable to households earning 30% or less of regional median income, including special needs and supportive housing opportunities.

- D. Payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site and funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls shall be exempt from the affordability assistance requirement. The Borough may contract with a private or public entity to administer any part of its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including the requirement for affordability assistance or any program or activity for which the Borough expends development fee proceeds, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 *et seq.* and N.J.A.C. 5:99-1 *et seq.*
- E. No more than 20% of the revenues collected from development fees each year shall be expended on administration in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.4. Administrative expenses may include costs reasonably related to the determination of the fair share obligation and the development of a municipal housing element and fair share plan and may include fees necessary to develop or implement affordable housing programs, an affirmative marketing program, and/or expenses that are reasonably necessary for compliance with the processes of the Program, including, but not limited to, the costs to the Borough of resolving a challenge pursuant to the Program. Administrative expenses may also include costs associated with functions carried out in compliance with UHAC, including activities related to the marketing program and waitlist management, administering the placement of occupants in housing units, income qualification of households, monitoring the turnover of sale and rental units, preserving existing affordable housing, and compliance with the Division's monitoring requirements. The proportion of a municipal employee's salary related to the MHL or RCA administrator functions and fees for required educational programs, may be paid as an administrative expense from the municipal affordable housing trust fund.

§ 98-9. Monitoring.

- A. Pennington shall comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.4, and as set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:99-5.

§ 98-10. Ongoing Collection of Fees.

- A. The ability for the Borough of Pennington to impose, collect and expend development fees shall expire with the expiration of the repose period covered by its Compliance Certification unless the Borough of Pennington has first filed an adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with the Court or with a designated state administrative agency, has petitioned for an Amended Compliance Certification from the Court.
- B. If the Borough of Pennington fails to renew its ability to impose and collect development fees prior to the expiration of its Compliance Certification, it may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Any funds so forfeited shall be deposited into the "New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund" established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320.

Introduced: _____
Advertised: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Adopted: _____
Published: _____

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Sterling, Borough Clerk

James Davy, Mayor

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
ORDINANCE 2026-13**

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OF THAT ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY**

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON INTRODUCTION

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Angarone					Rubenstein				
Chandler					Stern				
Kassler-Taub					Valenza				

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON ADOPTION

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Angarone					Rubenstein				
Chandler					Stern				
Kassler-Taub					Valenza				