

ORDINANCE 1220-2014

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A DEVELOPMENT FEE, AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE COLLECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND EXPENDITURE OF DEVELOPMENT FEES

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, and State of New Jersey, as a result of a builders remedy suit filed against the Borough, have been working with a Special Master to create an approved affordable housing plan for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside have determined that the adoption of a Development Fee to coincide with such affordable housing plan is in the interest of the Borough.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council as follows:
_____, a new section of the Borough Code is hereby adopted as follows:

1. Purpose

a) In Holmdel Builder's Association v. Holmdel Township, 121 N.J. 550 (1990), the New Jersey Supreme Court determined that mandatory development fees are authorized by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 (the Act), N.J.S.A. 52:27d-301 et seq., and the State Constitution, subject to the Council on Affordable Housing's (COAH's) adoption of rules.

b) Pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46 section 8 (C. 52:27D-329.2) and the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), COAH is authorized to adopt and promulgate regulations necessary for the establishment, implementation, review, monitoring and enforcement of municipal affordable housing trust funds and corresponding spending plans. Municipalities that are under the jurisdiction of the Council or court of competent jurisdiction and have a COAH-approved spending plan may retain fees collected from non-residential development.

c) This ordinance establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees in accordance P.L.2008, c.46, Sections 8 and 32-38. Fees collected pursuant to this ordinance shall be used for the sole purpose of providing low- and moderate-income housing. This ordinance shall be interpreted within the framework of the rules on development fees, codified at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.

2. Basic requirements

a) This ordinance shall not be effective until approved by the COAH pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:96-5.1.

b) The Borough of Mountainside shall not spend development fees until COAH has approved a plan for spending such fees in conformance with N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.10 and N.J.A.C. 5:96-5.3.

3. Definitions

a) The following terms, as used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings:

i. "Affordable housing development" means 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 percent affordable development.

ii. "COAH" or the "Council" means the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing established under the Fair Housing Act which previously had primary jurisdiction for the administration of housing obligations in accordance with sound regional planning consideration in the State.

iii. "Development fee" means money paid by a developer for the improvement of property as permitted in N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.3.

iv. "Developer" means 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.

v. "Equalized assessed value" means 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 (C.54:1-35a through C.54:1-35c).

vi. "Green building strategies" means 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.

4. Residential Development fees

a) Imposed fees

i. Within the affordable housing district(s), residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee of 1% of the equalized assessed value for residential development provided no increased density is permitted.

ii. When an increase in residential density pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d(5) (known as a "d" variance) has been permitted, developers may be required to pay a development fee of 6% of the equalized assessed value for each additional unit that may be realized. However, 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 development

i. Affordable housing developments, developments where the developer is providing for the construction of affordable units elsewhere in the municipality, and developments where the developer has made a payment in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units shall be exempt from development fees.

ii. Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of a municipal development

fee ordinance shall be exempt from development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the approval. Where a site plan approval does not apply, a zoning and/or building permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for this purpose. The fee percentage shall be vested on the date that the building permit is issued.

iii. Owner-occupied residential structures demolished and replaced as a result of a fire, flood, or natural disaster shall be exempt from paying a development fee.

iv. Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure undergoes a change to a more intense use, is demolished and replaced, or is expanded, if the expansion is not otherwise exempt from the development fee requirement. The development fee shall be calculated on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the improved structure.

5. Collection procedures

a) Fifty percent of the development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the building permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at building permit and that determined at issuance of certificate of occupancy.

i Appeal of development fees

1) 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. 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, 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.

2) A developer may challenge non-residential 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. 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.

6. Affordable Housing trust fund

a) There is hereby created a separate, interest-bearing housing trust fund to be maintained by the chief financial officer for the purpose of depositing development fees collected from residential and non-residential 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 affordable units;
2. developer contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached 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 the Borough's affordable housing program.

c) Within seven days from the opening of the trust fund account, the Borough shall provide COAH with written authorization, in the form of a three-party escrow agreement between the municipality, the bank, and COAH to permit COAH to direct the disbursement of the funds as provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.13(b).

d) All interest accrued in the housing trust fund shall only be used on eligible affordable housing activities approved by COAH.

8. Use of funds

a) The expenditure of all funds shall conform to a spending plan approved by COAH. Funds deposited in the housing trust fund may be used for any activity approved by COAH to address the Borough's fair share obligation and may be set up as a grant or revolving loan program. Such activities include, but are not limited to: preservation or purchase of housing for the purpose of maintaining or implementing affordability controls, rehabilitation, new construction of affordable housing units and related costs, accessory apartment, market to affordable, or regional housing partnership programs, conversion of existing non-residential buildings to create new affordable units, green building strategies designed to be cost saving and in accordance with accepted national or state standards, purchase of land for affordable housing, improvement of land to be used for affordable housing, extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure to affordable housing sites, financial assistance designed to increase affordability, administration necessary for implementation of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, or any other activity as permitted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.7 through 8.9 and specified in the approved spending plan.

b) Funds shall not be expended to reimburse the Borough for past housing activities.

c) At least 30 percent of all development fees collected and interest earned shall be used to provide affordability assistance to low- and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the municipal Fair Share Plan. One-third of the affordability assistance portion of development fees collected shall be used to provide affordability assistance to those households earning 30 percent or less of median income by region.

i. Affordability assistance programs may include down payment assistance, security deposit assistance, low interest loans, rental assistance, assistance with homeowners association or condominium fees and special assessments, and assistance with emergency repairs.

ii. Affordability assistance to households earning 30 percent or less of median income may include buying down the cost of

low or moderate income units in the municipal Fair Share Plan to make them affordable to households earning 30 percent or less of median income.

iii. 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.

d) 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, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:96-18.

e) No more than 20 percent of all revenues collected from development fees, may be expended on administration, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits for municipal employees or consultant fees necessary to develop or implement a new construction program, a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and/or an affirmative marketing program. In the case of a rehabilitation program, no more than 20 percent of the revenues collected from development fees shall be expended for such administrative expenses. Administrative funds may be used for income qualification of households, monitoring the turnover of sale and rental units, and compliance with COAH's monitoring requirements. Legal or other fees related to litigation opposing affordable housing sites or objecting to the Council's regulations and/or action are not eligible uses of the affordable housing trust fund.

9. Monitoring

a) The Borough shall complete and return to COAH all monitoring forms included in monitoring requirements related to the collection of development fees from residential and non-residential developers, payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site, funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls, barrier free escrow funds, rental income, repayments from affordable housing program loans, and any other funds collected in connection with the Borough's housing program, as well as to the expenditure of revenues and implementation of the plan approved by the court. All monitoring reports shall be completed on forms designed by COAH.

10. Ongoing collection of fees

a) The ability for the Borough to impose, collect and expend development fees shall expire with its judgment of compliance unless the Borough has filed an adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan with the COAH, has petitioned for substantive certification, and has received COAH's approval of its development fee ordinance. If the Borough fails to renew its ability to impose and collect development fees prior to the expiration of the judgment of compliance, it may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within its municipal trust fund. Any funds so forfeited shall be deposited into the "New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund" established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C. 52:27D-320). The Borough shall not impose a residential development fee on a development that receives preliminary or final site plan approval after the expiration of its substantive certification or judgment of compliance, nor shall the Borough retroactively impose a development fee on such a development. The Borough shall not expend development fees after the expiration of its substantive certification or judgment of compliance.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication and in the manner provided by law.