

ORDINANCE 2026-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ADDRESSING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR
HOUSING ACT AND THE UNIFORM HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS AND ENSURING THE
BOROUGH'S COMPLIANCE WITH ITS AFFORDABLE
HOUSING OBLIGATIONS, AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE
"STOCKTON BOROUGH FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING ORDINANCE"**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton (the "Borough" or "Stockton") filed a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, captioned IMO Borough of Stockton, Docket No HUN-L-58-25 (the "Declaratory Judgment Action"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2, -304.3, and -304.1(f)(1)(c) of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq. (collectively, the "FHA"), and in accordance with Section II.A of Administrative Directive #14-24 ("Directive #14-24") of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the "Program"), seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Borough Planning Board adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 3, 2025 by way of resolution, which was endorsed by the Borough of Stockton Council on June 19, 2025 by way of Resolution No. 2025-51, in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and Administrative Directive #14-24 and pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC") filed a challenge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(2)(b) to the Borough's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on August 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and FSHC entered into a Settlement Agreement dated December 17, 2025, as authorized by Borough Council Resolution No. 2025-92, arising out of the Declaratory Judgment that determines the Borough's affordable housing obligation and the mechanisms for how the obligation will be addressed ("Settlement Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to and consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan, the Borough is required to adopt one or more ordinances to address compliance issues on or before March 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Mayor and Council seek to adopt this ordinance which shall be known as the "Stockton Borough Fourth Round Affordable Housing Ordinance."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The following regulations are hereby enacted for purposes of compliance with the Borough of Stockton's Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligations:

**STOCKTON BOROUGH FOURTH ROUND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE**

§1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) This ordinance is intended to ensure that low- and moderate-income units, referred to as affordable units, are created with controls on affordability over time and that low and moderate income households shall occupy these units.
- (b) The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all affordable housing development and procedures in the Borough of Stockton (“Stockton” or “Borough”).
- (c) This ordinance shall apply except where inconsistent with applicable law. Where any provision of this ordinance may be inconsistent or conflict with the provisions of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (C.52:27D-301, et seq.), as amended, Chapter 99 Fair Housing Act Regulations (N.J.A.C. 5:99-1, et seq.), as amended, and/or the New Jersey Uniform Housing and Affordability Controls (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq.), as amended, the provisions of the amended statute and/or regulation shall control. The Stockton Planning Board has adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq. The Housing Element and Fair Share Plan has been endorsed by the governing body. The Housing Element and Fair Share Plan describes the ways Stockton shall address its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing as determined by the Fair Housing Act, any applicable settlement agreements, judgments or orders of the Superior Court, the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, and other applicable State law and are documented in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (d) This ordinance implements and incorporates the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and addresses the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, as may be amended and supplemented. This ordinance is to be construed consistently with, and in accordance with, the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (e) Stockton shall file such monitoring and evaluation reports as may be required by the Fair Housing Act, the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., any applicable settlement agreements, and any orders of the Superior Court or the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program. Any such plan evaluation reports shall be available to the public at the Stockton Municipal Building, Municipal Clerk’s Office, and on the municipality’s website, if available.

§2. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms when used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given in this section:

“Accessory apartment” means a self-contained residential dwelling unit with a kitchen, sanitary facilities, sleeping quarters and a private entrance, which is created within an existing home, or through the conversion of an existing accessory structure on the same site, or by an addition to an

existing home or accessory building, or by the construction of a new accessory structure on the same site.

“Act” means the Fair Housing Act of 1985, P.L. 1985, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq.), as amended.

“Adaptable” means constructed in compliance with the technical design standards of the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.

“Administrative Agent” means the entity responsible for the administration of affordable units in accordance with this Ordinance and the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented, including any successor rules adopted by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

“Affirmative marketing” means a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and/or renters of affordable units in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, as may be amended and supplemented.

“Affordability average” means the average percentage of regional median income at which restricted units in an affordable housing development are affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

“Affordable” means a sales price or rent within the means of a low or moderate income household; in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at 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 at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13, as may be amended and supplemented.

“Affordable development” means a housing development all or a portion of which consists of restricted units.

“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 one hundred percent affordable development.

“Affordable housing program(s)” means any mechanism in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan prepared or implemented to address the municipality’s fair share obligation.

“Affordable Housing Trust Fund” or “AHTF” means the non-lapsing, revolving trust fund established in the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320 and N.J.A.C. 5:43 to be the repository of all State funds appropriated for affordable housing purposes. All references to the “Neighborhood Preservation Non-lapsing Revolving Fund” and “Balanced Housing” mean the AHTF.

“Affordable unit” or “restricted unit” means a dwelling unit, whether a rental unit or ownership unit, that is subject to the affordability controls of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended

and supplemented, but does not include a market rate unit financed under UHORP, MONI, CHOICE, or similar programs.

“Agency” means the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency established by P.L. 1983, c. 530 (N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1, et seq.) in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”).

“Age-restricted unit” means a housing unit designed to meet the needs of, and intended exclusively for, the residents of an age-restricted segment of the population where the adult member of the family who is the head of the household for the purposes of determining income eligibility and rent is a minimum age of either 62 years or 55 years, and meets the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 through 3619, except that due to death, a surviving spouse of less than 55 years of age is permitted to continue to reside in the unit.

“Assisted living residence” means a facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining and to assure that assisted living services are available when needed for four or more adult persons unrelated to the proprietor. Apartment units must offer, at a minimum, one unfurnished room, a private bathroom, a kitchenette, and a lockable door on the unit entrance.

“Certified household” means a household that has been certified by an administrative agent as a very low-income, a low-income, or a moderate-income household, as applicable.

“Deficient housing unit” means a housing unit with health and safety code violations that require the repair or replacement of a major system. A major system includes weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement, and load bearing structural systems.

“Developer” means any person, partnership, association, company or corporation that is the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option to contract or purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such property.

“Development” means the division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels; the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any use or change in the use of any building or other structure; or any mining, excavation, landfill, and any use or change in the use of any building or other structure or land, for which permission may be required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.

“Household income” means a household’s gross annual income calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of annual income pursuant to section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (“Section 8”), not in accordance with the determination of gross income for Federal income tax liability.

“Inclusionary development” means a development containing both affordable units and market rate units. This term includes, but is not limited to, new construction, the conversion of a non-

residential structure to residential use, and the creation of new affordable units through the reconstruction of a vacant residential structure.

“Low-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income equal to 50 percent or less of regional median income.

“Low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a low-income household.

“Major system” means the primary structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, or occupant service components of a building, including weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement and load bearing structural systems.

“Market rate units” means housing not restricted to low- and moderate-income households that may sell or rent at any price.

“Median income” means the median income by household size for the applicable housing region or county, as adopted annually by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or the DCA, as applicable.

“Moderate-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income in excess of 50 percent but less than or equal to 80 percent of regional median income.

“Moderate income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a moderate-income household.

“Non-exempt sale” means any sale or transfer of ownership of a restricted unit to one’s self or to another individual other than the transfer of ownership between spouses or civil union partners; the transfer of ownership between former spouses or civil union partners ordered as a result of a judicial decree of divorce or judicial separation, but not including sales to third parties; the transfer of ownership between family members as a result of inheritance; the transfer of ownership through an executor’s deed to a class A beneficiary; and the transfer of ownership by court order.

“Random selection process” means a lottery process by which currently income-eligible applicant-households are selected, at random, for placement in affordable housing units such that no preference is given to one applicant over another, except in the case of a veterans’ preference where such an agreement exists; for purposes of matching household income and size with an appropriately priced and sized affordable unit; or another purpose allowed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k)(3).

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

“Rent” means the gross monthly cost of a rental unit to the tenant, including the rent paid to the landlord, as well as an allowance for tenant-paid utilities computed in accordance with allowances published by DCA for its Section 8 program. With respect to units in assisted living residences, rent does not include charges for food and services.

“UHAC” means the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented.

“Very low-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income equal to 30 percent or less of regional median income.

“Very low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a very low-income household.

“Veteran” means a veteran as defined at N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.10.

“Veterans’ preference” means the agreement between a municipality and a developer or residential development owner that allows for low- to moderate-income veterans to be given preference for up to 50 percent of units in relevant projects, as provided for at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311j.

“Weatherization” means building insulation (for attic, exterior walls and crawl space), siding to improve energy efficiency, replacement storm windows, replacement storm doors, replacement windows and replacement doors, and is considered a major system for rehabilitation.

§3. MANDATORY SET-ASIDE ORDINANCE.

- (a) Any future development of five (5) or more residential units, at six (6) dwelling units per acre or greater, in the Borough developed through planning board approval, zoning board approval, redevelopment or a rehabilitation plan requires an affordable housing set aside of at least 20% of all units, with at least 50% of the restricted units in each development being affordable to low-income households, including 13% to very low-income households. All such affordable units, including the required bedroom distribution, shall be governed by controls on affordability and affirmatively marketed in conformance with UHAC, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq. or any successor regulation, and all other applicable law.
- (b) Developers shall not subdivide a project for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this requirement.
- (c) This requirement does not give any developer the right to any such rezoning, variance or other relief, or establish any obligation on the part of Stockton to grant such rezoning, variance or other relief. No subdivision shall be permitted or approved for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this requirement.

§4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Stockton shall use the following mechanisms to satisfy its affordable housing obligations, in accordance with and as set forth in its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan:

- (a) An Accessory Apartment program

- (1) All accessory apartments shall meet the following conditions:
 - (i) Accessory apartments shall be permitted by the zoning ordinance for various zoning districts, provided the units are affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Accessory apartments may be developed as low-income or moderate-income units, consistent with the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
 - (ii) Accessory apartments shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey, in addition to all applicable building codes.
 - (iii) At the time of initial occupancy of the unit and for at least ten years thereafter, the accessory apartment shall be rented only to a low- or moderate-income household.
 - (iv) Every rental of accessory apartments shall be affordable to low- or moderate-income households in accordance with UHAC.
 - (v) There shall be a recorded deed or declaration of covenants and restrictions applied to the property upon which the accessory apartment is located, running with the land and limiting the subsequent rental or sale of the unit and the accessory apartment.
 - (vi) The appropriate utility authority must certify that there is water and sewer infrastructure with sufficient capacity to serve the proposed accessory apartment. Where the proposed location is served by an individual well and/or septic system, the additional capacity necessitated by the new unit must meet applicable New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection standards.
 - (vii) The Stockton accessory apartment program shall not restrict the number of bedrooms in any accessory apartment.
 - (viii) No accessory apartment created under this section shall exceed the gross floor area of the existing principal dwelling on the lot.
 - (ix) The governing body may waive municipal building permit fees in cases involving affordable accessory apartment development under this section and may establish an annual license and inspection fee, if required.
- (2) The maximum number of creditable accessory apartments shall be equal to no more than ten units or an amount equal to ten percent of the Stockton fair share obligation, whichever is greater, unless a greater number is approved by the court or applicable State agency.

- (3) In the event there are accessory apartments under this program, Stockton shall designate an administrative entity to administer the accessory apartment program with responsibilities including advertising, income qualifying prospective renters, setting rents and annual rent increases, maintaining a waiting list, distributing any subsidy, securing certificates of occupancy, qualifying properties, handling application forms, filing deed restrictions and monitoring reports, and affirmatively marketing the accessory apartment program in accordance with UHAC.

(d) Other affordable housing programs

Stockton may also rely on other mechanisms identified in its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including but not limited to municipally-sponsored new construction, inclusionary zoning, supportive and alternative housing, group homes, age restricted housing within statutory caps, and any other mechanisms approved through the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, settlement agreement or court order.

§5. Inclusionary Zoning

(a) Presumptive densities and set asides

To ensure the efficient use of land through compact forms of development and to create realistic opportunities for the construction of affordable housing, any inclusionary zoning in Stockton shall be designed to provide a realistic opportunity for the construction of affordable units at densities and set asides consistent with Stockton's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, any applicable settlement agreements, and applicable law.

(b) Phasing

In inclusionary developments, the following phasing schedule shall be followed:

Maximum Percentage of Market-Rate Units Completed	Minimum Percentage of Low- and Moderate-Income Units Completed
No more than 10 percent	1 affordable unit
No more than 25 percent of market units plus 1	25 percent of affordable units
No more than 50 percent of market units	50 percent of affordable units
No more than 75 percent of market units	75 percent of affordable units
No more than 90 percent of market units	100 percent of affordable units

(c) Design

In inclusionary developments, to the extent possible and practical, low- and moderate-income units shall be integrated with the market rate units.

(d) Payments in lieu and off site construction

Standards for the collection of payments in lieu of constructing affordable units or standards for constructing affordable units off site shall be in accordance with applicable law, including the Fair Housing Act and any requirements of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program. Payment in Lieu deposited into the affordable housing trust fund must be accounted separately, and, if assessed, a development fee cannot be charged for the same development.

(e) Utilities.

Affordable units shall utilize the same type of heating source and generally the same utility systems as market rate units within the affordable development, except where otherwise approved for energy efficiency or affordability.

§6. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

The following general guidelines apply to all newly constructed developments that contain low- and moderate-income housing units, including any currently unanticipated future developments that will provide low- and moderate-income housing units.

- (a) For purposes of determining affordability averages and bedroom distributions, all restricted units within any single-family development in Stockton shall be treated as one scattered-site affordable development. This treatment affects only the calculations of affordability and bedroom counts for single-family developments, is not to be construed to require that the restricted units be developed or administered as one scattered-site affordable development, and does not affect multifamily developments.
- (b) For purposes of determining affordability averages and bedroom distributions, unless stated otherwise, non-integer values calculated pursuant to this subsection are to be rounded up to the nearest whole number. However, non-integer values calculated pursuant to (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (f)(2), (f)(3), or (f)(5) below may be rounded down or up to the nearest whole number in either direction. For example, 33.1901 will typically be rounded up to 34, but may be rounded down to 33 or up to 34 if calculated pursuant to (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (f)(2), (f)(3), or (f)(5) below.
- (c) The average rent for all restricted units within each affordable development is affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of median income.
- (d) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (l) below, in each affordable development, restricted units that are not age-restricted or supportive housing must be structured in conjunction with realistic market demands such that:
 - (1) At a minimum, the number of bedrooms within the restricted units equals twice the number of restricted units;
 - (2) Two-bedroom and/or three-bedroom units compose at least 50 percent of all restricted units;
 - (3) No more than 20 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are efficiency or one-bedroom units;

- (4) At least 30 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are two-bedroom units;
 - (5) At least 20 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are three-bedroom units; and
 - (6) The remainder of the restricted units, if any, are allocated at the discretion of the developer in accordance with Stockton's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (e) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (k) below, in each affordable development, restricted units that are age-restricted or supportive housing must be structured such that, at a minimum, the number of bedrooms within the restricted units equals the number of restricted units. For example, the standard may be met by creating a two-bedroom unit for each efficiency unit. In affordable developments with 20 or more restricted units that are age-restricted or supportive housing, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units must compose at least five percent of those restricted units.
- (f) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (k) below, in each affordable development, the following income distribution requirements must be satisfied by all of the restricted units in the development as well as by, considered in isolation, the restricted units that are age-restricted, the restricted units that are supportive housing, and the restricted units that are neither age-restricted nor supportive housing:
- (1) At least 50 percent of all restricted units are low-income or very-low-income units;
 - (2) At least 50 percent of all restricted efficiency or one-bedroom units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (3) At least 50 percent of all restricted two-bedroom units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (4) At least 50 percent of all restricted three-bedroom units are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (5) At least 50 percent of all restricted units with four or more bedrooms, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units; and
 - (6) Any very-low-income units are distributed between each bedroom count as proportionally as possible, to the nearest whole unit, to the total number of restricted units within each bedroom count. For example, if half of the restricted units are two-bedroom units, then half of the very-low-income units should be two-bedroom units.
- (g) For the purposes of determining bonus credits pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311(k)(5), the minimum number of three-bedroom units required pursuant to subsections (d), (e) and (f)

of this section is determined by taking 20 percent of the total number of family housing units in Stockton's Fair Share Plan and Housing Element, not by summing up the three-bedroom-unit requirements calculated for each affordable development.

- (h) In determining the initial rents and initial sale prices for compliance with the affordability average requirements for restricted units other than age-restricted units and assisted living facilities, the following standards apply:
 - (1) An efficiency unit is affordable to a one-person household;
 - (2) A one-bedroom unit is affordable to a one-and-one-half-person household;
 - (3) A two-bedroom unit is affordable to a three-person household;
 - (4) A three-bedroom unit is affordable to a four-and-one-half-person household; and
 - (5) A four-bedroom unit is affordable to a six-person household.
- (i) For age-restricted units and assisted living facilities, the following standards apply:
 - (1) An efficiency unit is affordable to a one-person household;
 - (2) A one-bedroom unit is affordable to a one-and-one-half-person household;
 - (3) A two-bedroom unit is affordable to a two-person household or to two one-person households; and
 - (4) A three-bedroom unit is affordable to a two-and-one-half-person household.
- (j) The provisions of this section do not apply to affordable developments financed pursuant to UHORP, MONI, or CHOICE or to assisted living residences, each of which must comply with applicable Agency regulations.
- (k) The requirements of subsections (d), (e), and (f) above must be satisfied by all restricted units in Stockton, considered in the aggregate. The individual requirements of subsections (d), (e), and (f) above may be waived or altered for a specific affordable development with written approval from the Dispute Resolution Program if such waiver or alteration would not result in a material deviation from the municipal housing element and fair share plan. Any waiver or alteration that would result in a material deviation from the municipal housing element and fair share plan must receive written approval from the Dispute Resolution Program or, if the municipality does not participate in the Dispute Resolution Program, from a county-level housing judge.
- (l) Accessibility requirements
 - (1) The first floor of all restricted townhouse dwelling units and all restricted units in all other multistory buildings shall be subject to the technical design standards of the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, and all applicable accessibility requirements.
 - (2) All restricted townhouse dwelling units and all restricted units in other multistory buildings in which a restricted dwelling unit is attached to at least one other dwelling unit shall have:

- (i) An adaptable toilet and bathing facility on the first floor;
 - (ii) An adaptable kitchen on the first floor;
 - (iii) An interior accessible route of travel on the first floor;
 - (iv) An adaptable room that can be used as a bedroom, with a door or the casing for the installation of a door, on the first floor; and
 - (v) An accessible entranceway as set forth at P.L. 2005, c. 350 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311a, et seq.) and the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.
- (3) Where a unit has been constructed with an adaptable entrance, upon the request of a disabled person who is purchasing or will reside in the dwelling unit, an accessible entrance shall be installed, using funds deposited by the developer in the affordable housing trust fund for this purpose, consistent with applicable law.
 - (4) Full compliance with these provisions shall not be required where an entity demonstrates that it is site impracticable to meet the requirements, as determined in accordance with the Barrier Free Subcode.
- (m) Maximum rents and sales prices
- (1) In establishing rents and sales prices of affordable housing units, the administrative agent shall follow the procedures set forth in UHAC, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4, -26.6, -26.7, and -26.13, as may be amended and supplemented, utilizing the regional income limits established by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or applicable State agency.
 - (2) The average rent for all restricted rental units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of regional median income. The maximum rent for all restricted rental units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of regional median income, except as permitted where an enhanced very low income set aside is provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4.
 - (3) The developers and municipal sponsors of restricted rental units shall establish at least one rent for each bedroom count for very low income, low income, and moderate-income units, provided that at least 13 percent of all restricted units within Stockton are affordable to very low-income households.
 - (4) At least 50 percent of the restricted rental units in each affordable development shall be affordable to low-income households, and at least 13 percent of all restricted rental units shall be affordable to very low-income households, consistent with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4.

- (5) The maximum sale price of restricted ownership units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 70 percent of regional median income, and each affordable development must achieve an affordability average of no more than 55 percent of regional median income for restricted ownership units.
- (6) At least 50 percent of the restricted ownership units in each affordable development shall be affordable to low-income households, and at least 13 percent of all restricted ownership units shall be affordable to very low-income households.
- (7) The initial purchase price for all restricted ownership units shall be calculated so that the monthly carrying cost of the unit, including principal and interest based on a mortgage loan equal to 95 percent of the purchase price and an interest rate consistent with the Federal Reserve H.15 rate, together with taxes, homeowner and private mortgage insurance, and condominium or homeowner association fees, does not exceed 28 percent of the eligible monthly income of the appropriate size household, subject to the affordability average requirements of UHAC.
- (8) The initial rent for a restricted rental unit shall be calculated so as not to exceed 30 percent of the eligible monthly income of the appropriate size household, subject to the affordability average requirements of UHAC.
- (9) The resale price of restricted ownership units and increases in rents of restricted rental units shall be determined in accordance with UHAC.
- (10) Tenant paid utilities that are included in the utility allowance shall be so stated in the lease and shall be consistent with the utility allowance approved by the DCA for its Section 8 program or other applicable guidance.

§7. Affirmative Marketing Requirements.

- (a) At such time as affordable housing units are created, Stockton shall adopt by resolution an affirmative marketing plan, subject to approval of the Division of Housing and Community Resources or its successor, compliant with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) The affirmative marketing plan shall be a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and renters of affordable units in the housing region in which Stockton is located. The plan shall attract persons of all majority and minority groups, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, disability, age (except for housing for older persons as permitted by law), number of children, source of lawful income, or any other characteristic protected by the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq., and shall be intended to reach potentially eligible households that are least likely to apply for the units.

- (c) At such time as an administrative agent is appointed, said agent shall ensure the affirmative marketing of affordable units. Stockton may designate a qualified municipal staff person approved by the State to serve as administrative agent for this purpose, or it may contract with one or more experienced administrative agents approved by the State.
- (d) The affirmative marketing plan shall, at a minimum:
- (1) Describe the random selection method that will be used to select occupants of affordable housing units and identify any occupancy preferences permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k);
 - (2) Identify the media to be used in advertising and publicizing the availability of affordable units, including newspapers and other publications, online housing search websites, municipal and county websites, social media platforms, and non-digital means such as flyers or postings at public buildings and transportation locations;
 - (3) Identify specific community and regional organizations that will assist in the outreach to low- and moderate-income households, including but not limited to Fair Share Housing Center, the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP, the Latino Action Network, local branches of the NAACP serving the housing region, senior citizen advocacy organizations, and supportive housing advocacy organizations;
 - (4) Describe how the plan will provide language access, including outreach and materials in languages commonly spoken in the municipality and region; and
 - (5) Set forth application procedures and requirements, including any application fees, consistent with UHAC.
- (e) In implementing the affirmative marketing program, the administrative agent shall:
- (1) Post a listing of available affordable housing units on the New Jersey Housing Resource Center at least sixty (60) days before the random selection process or lottery for such units, in accordance with applicable statutes and UHAC;
 - (2) Within one business day of listing rental units that are reserved for individuals with special needs who are homeless, or that constitute permanent supportive housing, notify the local Continuum of Care of the availability of such units;
 - (3) Publish at least one (1) advertisement in a regional newspaper serving the housing region;
 - (4) Advertise the units on at least one (1) widely-used housing search website; and
 - (5) Undertake at least two additional regional marketing strategies, one (1) digital and one (1) non-digital, using the sources identified in the affirmative marketing plan,

and continue advertising and outreach until all units being brought to market at that time have been sold or rented or until sufficient applications have been received to fill the units plus anticipated turnover.

- (f) In carrying out the affirmative marketing process, the administrative agent shall comply with the Fair Chance in Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 46:8-52 through -64, and all applicable provisions of Federal and State fair housing law.
- (g) The municipal housing liaison shall monitor the implementation of the affirmative marketing plan by each administrative agent and developer and shall report on affirmative marketing activities in any required municipal monitoring reports.

§8. RANDOM SELECTION AND OCCUPANCY PREFERENCES.

- (a) The administrative agent shall use a random selection process to select income eligible households for referral to restricted units, consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k), as may be amended and supplemented. The random selection process may occur before or after household income certification and may divide the applicant pool into groups based on bedroom count, income category, or other factors expressly permitted by UHAC.
- (b) Occupancy preferences shall be limited to those expressly permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k), which may include:
 - (1) A preference for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households who live or work within the housing region;
 - (2) A subordinate preference, subject to the regional preference, for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households who live or work in New Jersey;
 - (3) For preservation or replacement projects, a preference for income eligible households displaced by rehabilitation or demolition of restricted units; and
 - (4) A veterans' preference for up to fifty percent of the restricted units in a particular project, if permitted by State law and UHAC.
- (c) No residency preference limited solely to Stockton shall be used unless expressly permitted by statute, UHAC, and any applicable court order or mediation agreement.
- (d) Any occupancy preferences shall be described in the affirmative marketing plan and in the administrative agent's operating manual.

§9. OCCUPANCY STANDARDS.

- (a) Any unit that, prior to the effective date of the amendments to the regulations as promulgated pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1), received substantive certification from the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), was part of a judgment of

compliance from a court of competent jurisdiction, or became subject to a grant agreement or other contract with either the State or a political subdivision thereof, shall be subject to the UHAC regulations (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq.) that were in effect prior to the effective date of the amendments promulgated pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2.

(b) Developments approved as part of a compliance certification or that otherwise contain restricted units subject to the UHAC regulations shall satisfy the following occupancy standards:

(1) For any 100-percent affordable development comprising one or more restricted units:

- (i) Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the applicable municipal code or the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever is greater;
- (ii) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window; and
- (iii) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating;

(2) For developments comprising market-rate rental units and restricted rental units:

- (i) Restricted units must use the same building standards (for example, plumbing, insulation, siding) as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome) within the same development, except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes;
- (ii) Restricted units and market-rate units within the same affordable development must be sited such that restricted units are not concentrated in less desirable locations;
- (iii) Restricted units may not be physically clustered so as to segregate restricted and market-rate units within the same development or within the same building, but must be interspersed throughout the development, except that age-restricted and supportive housing units may be physically clustered if the clustering facilitates the provision of on-site medical services or on-site social services;
- (iv) Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits;

- (v) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating and, if market-rate units provide cooling and heating, restricted units must use the same type of cooling and heating sources as market-rate units of the same unit type;
 - (vi) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window;
 - (vii) Restricted units must be of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome) as market-rate units within the same building; and
 - (viii) Restricted units must be of at least the same size as the most common market-rate unit(s) of the same type and bedroom count within the same development, but under no circumstances shall any restricted unit or bedroom be less than 90 percent of the minimum size prescribed by the applicable municipal code or Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever prescribes the greater minimum size;
- (3) For developments containing for-sale units, including those with a mix of rental and for-sale units, subsection (b)2 above shall govern the rental units, while for-sale units shall adhere to the following:
- (i) Restricted units must use the same building standards as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome, single-family home), except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes;
 - (ii) Restricted units may be clustered, provided that the buildings or housing product types containing the restricted units are integrated throughout the development and are not concentrated in an undesirable location or in undesirable locations;
 - (iii) Restricted units may be of different housing product types than market-rate units, provided that developments containing market-rate townhomes or single-family homes offer restricted housing options that also include townhomes or single-family homes;
 - (iv) Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the applicable municipal code or the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever provides the greater minimum square footages;

- (v) Penthouse and end units may be reserved for market-rate sale, provided that the overall number, value, and distribution of affordable units across the development is not negatively impacted by such reservation(s);
- (vi) Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits;
- (vii) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window; and
- (viii) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating.

§10. CONTROL PERIODS FOR RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS.

- (a) Control periods for restricted ownership units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.5 and -26.6, as may be amended and supplemented. Each restricted ownership unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance until the municipal obligation to maintain controls under UHAC has expired.
- (b) The deed restriction and mortgage lien securing the affordability controls for restricted ownership units shall be in the form required by UHAC and shall be recorded as a first or second lien on the property, as required by UHAC.
- (c) The administrative agent shall have the responsibility to ensure that deed restrictions, mortgage liens, and all other affordability controls required by UHAC and this ordinance are properly executed and recorded and shall monitor compliance.
- (d) Enforcement mechanisms, including but not limited to restrictions on refinancing, capital improvements, resale, and transfer, shall be in accordance with UHAC.

§11. RESTRICTIONS FOR RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS, HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION FEES AND RESALE PRICES.

- (a) Price restrictions and resale prices for restricted ownership units shall be governed by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6 and -26.7, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Homeowner association fees for restricted ownership units shall be treated in accordance with UHAC, and the administrative agent shall approve homeowner association fee schedules to ensure that affordability is maintained.
- (c) The administrative agent shall establish resale prices for restricted ownership units based upon the formula required by UHAC and this ordinance.

§12. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS.

- (a) The administrative agent shall review and approve requests for capital improvements by owners of restricted ownership units prior to the commencement of the improvements, consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.9.
- (b) Eligible capital improvements and treatment of capital improvement costs in calculating resale prices shall be as set forth in UHAC and this ordinance.

§13. CONTROL PERIODS FOR RESTRICTED RENTAL UNITS.

- (a) Control periods for restricted rental units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.11 and -26.12, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Each restricted rental unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance until the municipal obligation to maintain controls under UHAC has expired.

§14. RENT RESTRICTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS.

- (a) Rent restrictions for restricted rental units shall be governed by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Annual increases in rents shall be consistent with UHAC and any applicable settlement agreements or court orders.
- (c) The administrative agent shall annually review and approve proposed rent increases for restricted rental units.

§15. TENANT INCOME ELIGIBILITY.

- (a) Tenant income eligibility shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14, as may be amended and supplemented, and shall be determined as follows:
 - (1) Very low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 30 percent of regional median income.
 - (2) Low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 50 percent of regional median income.
 - (3) Moderate-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 80 percent of regional median income.
- (b) The administrative agent shall certify a household as eligible for a restricted rental unit when the household satisfies UHAC income eligibility requirements, and the proposed rent does not exceed applicable affordability standards.

§16. ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) The position of municipal housing liaison (“MHL”) for Stockton shall be established at the time affordable housing units are proposed, and shall be appointed by resolution or other appropriate action.
- (b) The MHL must be either a full-time or part-time employee of Stockton and shall meet all qualification and training requirements imposed by the State.
- (c) The MHL shall be responsible for oversight and administration of the affordable housing program for Stockton, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Serving as the Borough’s primary point of contact for all inquiries from the State, affordable housing providers, administrative agents, and interested households;
 - (2) Coordinating the implementation of the affirmative marketing plan and affordability controls;
 - (3) Supervising any contracted administrative agent;
 - (4) Monitoring the status of all restricted units in Stockton’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan;
 - (5) Preparing monitoring and reporting forms as required by the State or the court. AHMS access may be authorized only by the MHL (or designee who must be a municipal employee); and
 - (6) Where applicable, providing the administrative agent with the municipal operating manual(s), Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and ordinances.
- (d) Stockton shall, as may be required, appoint one or more administrative agents for ownership units and one or more administrative agents for rental units, which may or may not be the individual(s) or entity(ies), to carry out the responsibilities of an administrative agent as set forth in UHAC and this ordinance.

§17. ENFORCEMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REGULATIONS.

- (a) The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforceable by Stockton, the State, or any other party entitled by law to enforce affordable housing controls, in accordance with UHAC, the Fair Housing Act, and applicable case law.
- (b) A violation of the requirements of this ordinance, including but not limited to failure to file required reports, failure to comply with affirmative marketing requirements, or unauthorized transfer or rental of a restricted unit, shall be subject to enforcement action, which may include legal or equitable relief, fines, or other remedies as authorized by law.

- (c) Stockton may, to the extent permitted by law, pursue any remedies available at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this ordinance, UHAC regulations, and any deed restriction or mortgage instrument used to secure affordability controls.

§18. APPEALS.

Appeals from all decisions of an administrative agent designated pursuant to this ordinance shall be filed in writing to the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program or with the Superior Court of New Jersey or such other body or agency as may be authorized by law.

§19. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

- (a) All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed as to such inconsistencies.
- (b) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.
- (c) This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted: February 9, 2026

Certification:

I, Laurie A. Courter, Clerk of Stockton Borough hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted at the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council on February 9, 2026

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, RMC