

**NOTICE OF HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN COMPLIANCE
HEARING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG, COUNTY OF SOMERSET,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**In The Matter Of The Township Of Branchburg's Housing Element And Fair Share Plan
Docket No. SOM-L-898-15**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 14, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., a Compliance Hearing in the above reference matter is scheduled before the Honorable Thomas C. Miller, J.S.C., at the Somerset County Superior Court, 20 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. If the Courthouse remains closed, the hearing will take place via video conference. Courthouse closing information is available online at www.njcourts.gov. If the Courthouse remains closed, anyone interested in participating in the scheduled hearing should contact the Branchburg Township Attorney, William Willard, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing to obtain information on how they may participate. The Township Attorney can be contacted at: Email wwillard@newjerseylaw.net; Phone (908) 757-7800 Ext. 210.

The Township entered into Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center, dated August 28, 2019, ("Settlement Agreement") addressing its fair share affordable housing obligations through the Third Round and the compliance mechanisms pertaining to the satisfaction thereof. On December 18, 2019, the Court held a Fairness Hearing as to the Settlement Agreement and thereafter entered an Order, dated January 5, 2020, Approving the Settlement Agreement, Third Round Fair Share Number and Fair Share Compliance Plan on a Preliminary Basis with Conditions ("Order").

The purpose of the scheduled Compliance Hearing is for the Court to review the Township's adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and other compliance documents as set forth in Settlement Agreement and Order ("Affordable Housing Plan"). The Court will be asked to determine whether the adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and other compliance documents taken together fulfill the Township's obligation to provide a realistic opportunity to satisfy its Rehabilitation Obligation (12 units), Prior Round Obligation (302 units) and Third Round Fair Share Affordable Housing Obligation (1000 units) pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq., the substantive, applicable regulations of the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing ("COAH"), the New Jersey Supreme Court's March 10, 2015 decision in the matter of In re N.J.A.C. 5:96 & N.J.A.C. 5:97, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) and other applicable laws for the period 1987-2025. The Township will be seeking approval of its Affordable Housing Plan and a Judgment of Compliance and Repose protecting the Township from any Mount Laurel builder's remedy lawsuits through July 1, 2025.

The Settlement Agreement, Order, Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and Compliance Documents are available for public inspection at the Document Center on the Township's website www.branchburg.nj.us. These documents may also be obtained by contacting the Township Clerk, Marguerite Schmitt, at: Email maggie.schmitt@branchburg.nj.us; Phone (908) 526-1300 Ext. 103.

Any interested party may file written comments or objections to the Township's Affordable Housing Plan. Objections or comments must be filed with the Court on or before March 3, 2022 with copies to the following:

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This Notice is provided pursuant to a directive of the Court and is intended to inform interested parties of the Compliance Hearing before the Court reviews and evaluates whether to sign an order granting the Township a Judgment of Compliance and Repose through July 1, 2025. This Notice does not indicate any view by the Court as to compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Township Clerk