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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY DOCKET NO. 24,788
A-129

FRANK A. SANTORO, ESQ. 1500 Park Avenue P. O. Box 272 South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 (201) 561-6868 ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

CIVIL ACTION ON APPEAL FROM

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

ν.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX/OCEAN COUNTY

NO. C-4122-73

DEFENDANT BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL OF AN INTERLOCUTORY ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S REQUEST TO HAVE ITS CASE TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On the Brief:

FRANK A. SANTORO, ESQ.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS

On July 23, 1974, the Urban League of Greater

New Brunswick and seven individuals sued South Plainfield and 22 other Middlesex County towns on behalf of all low and moderate income families challenging the municipalities' zoning ordinances as exclusionary and, therefore, unconstitutional. After an extensive trial in 1976, Judge David Furman issued a ruling finding that the Borough of South Plainfield's zoning ordinance was unconstitutional and assigned South Plainfield a fair share obligation of 1,749 units, of which 45 percent were low income and 55 percent moderate income.

The Judgment of Judge Furman required rezoning within 90 days; however, no zoning revision occurred because in November 1976, the Appellate Division stayed the Judgment pending appeal. In 1979 the Appellate Division reversed the Judgment in its entirety. On January 20, 1983, the Supreme Court reversed the Appellate Division and remanded to the Trial Court for determination of the region and fair share allocation, as well as the implementation of land use ordinance revisions and the adoption of other affirmative measures. South Plainfield participated in the remand proceedings, discovery was had and negotiations leading up to the Stipulation followed by the Urban League's Motion for Summary Judgment. Summary Judgment was entered on May 22, 1984. The Stipulation and Summary Judgment provided for the rezoning of

eight specific sites, which would require between 553 and 603 low and moderate income units and with mandatory set asides, a total of 2,367 to 2,417 units to be added to the approximate 6,000 residential units currently in the Borough. The Borough's Planning Consultant was then in the process of preparing proposed zoning and affordable housing ordinances for review by the Borough's Planning Board and ultimate adoption by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield. In a motion brought in October 1984 by the Plaintiff Urban League, the Trial Court entered an Order dated December 13, 1984, consolidating the case of Elderlodge vs. Borough of South Plainfield and the Urban League case.

It was in January of 1985 that the matter was recommended by the Planning Board to the Governing Body for adoption. The ordinances were scheduled for introduction in February of 1985, with intended second reading and adoption March 11, 1985. Changes in the proposed ordinances were requested by Plaintiff Urban League and the Borough of South Plainfield Governing Body therefore referred the ordinances back to the Planning Board in accordance with State Statute, requesting their review of the recommended changes. The Trial Court issued an Order on July 3, 1985, restraining the Borough of South Plainfield from approving any site plans, subdivision applications, variances, conducting any land sales and consummating any pending land sales, pending the Borough of South Plainfield's adoption of the required ordinances.

On or about July 5, 1985, the State Legislature adopted the Fair Housing Act. On July 22, 1985, South Plainfield filed its Motion for Transfer. The Trial Court did not set the Transfer Motion down on short notice, as requested by the Borough of South Plainfield, and it was not until the August 2, 1985 hearing that the Trial Court issued a stay of the effectiveness of the ordinances until a decision on the Transfer Motion. Thereafter, the South Plainfield Borough Council finally adopted the ordinances under protest on August 7, 1985.

On October 2, 1985, Judge Serpentelli heard oral argument on the Borough of South Plainfield's request to transfer. At the time, the Court also heard the oral arguments of the Townships of Piscataway, Warren, Monroe and Cranbury.

The Court decided to deny all transfer requests. It is from that denial that this appeal is being taken.

POINT I

TRIAL COURT HAS ERRED IN ITS INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF "MANIFEST INJUSTICE" OF SECTION 16 OF CHAPTER 222, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1985.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act, Defendant/
Appellant Borough of South Plainfield moved to seek a transfer of
its case to the Council on Affordable Housing. Other municipalities, including the Township of Piscataway, Monroe Township,
Cranbury Township, Holmdel and Warren Township, likewise applied
for a similar transfer approval.

The Trial Court summarily denied the transfer requests of all of said municipalities on the basis that to grant such requests would result in a manifest injustice to a party to the litigation. In so doing, the Court supplied its own interpretation of manifest injustice, stating that its findings in that regard were "fact specific" and that "you know manifest injustice when you see it."

But the term manifest injustice has already been utilized in cases dealing with retroactive application of statutes. Thus, "When considering whether statute should be applied prospectively or retroactively, Supreme Court's quest is to ascertain the intention of legislation. When the Legislature has clearly indicated that the statute should be given retroactive effect, the Courts will give it that effect unless it will violate the

Constitution or result in manifest injustice." State DEP v. Ventron Corp., 94 N.J. 473 (1983) at 498.

Another case interpreting the test to be applied when a statute should be applied retroactively is found in <u>Gibbons v.</u>

<u>Gibbons</u>, 86 N.J. 515 (1981) where it was held that "when the Legislature has expressed the intent that a statute be applied retroactively, the Court should apply the statute in effect at the time of its decision; this expression of legislative intent may be either express, that is stated in the language of the statute or pertinent legislative history or implied, that is retroactive application may be necessary to make the statute workable or give it the most sensible interpretation";

AND

"Even if a statute may be subject to retroactive application, a final inquiry must be made, that is will retroactive application result in 'manifest injustice' to a party affected by such application of the statute; the essence of the inquiry is whether the affected party relied, to his or her prejudice, on the law that is now to be changed as a result of the retroactive application of the statute, and whether the consequences of such reliance are so deleterious and irrevocable that it be unfair to apply the statute retroactively." (emphasis supplied)

In Rothman v. Rothman, 65 N.J. 219 (1974), it was held

that:

"The rule favoring prospective applications of statutes, while a sound rule of statutory interpretation...is no more than a rule of statutory interpretation and is not to be applied mechanistically to every case."

In the Gibbons case there was no clear expression of legislative intent that the amendment to the statute on equitable distribution should be applied prospectively; in fact, it was inferred from legislative history that the Legislature intended the amendment to apply retroactively. In the matter of the Fair Housing Act, clearly the Legislature did intend the Act to have retroactive application and it cannot be said that in the specific instance of the Plaintiff Urban League that it (the Urban League) relied to its prejudice on the law that was changed as a result of the retroactive application of the Fair Housing Act.

The Trial Court in deciding whether or not manifest injustice would result from the granting of the transfers referred to the original draft language of Section 16 of the Fair Housing Act:

"...no exhaustion of the review and mediation procedures established in Sections 14 to 15 of this Act shall be required unless the Court determines that a transfer of the case to the Council is likely to facilitate and expedite the provision of a realistic opportunity for low and moderate income housing..."

Essentially, the Trial Court focused upon the phrase "likely to facilitate and expedite the provision of the realistic opportunity for low and moderate income housing" and thereby decided that the speed with which a case would be likely to move through the Council on Affordable Housing should be synonomous with the question of manifest injustice. The Court, in reviewing the different time periods described in the Act, estimated that

the "best case" would move through the Council in some 22 months. This, the Court concluded, was too long and, hence, manifestly unjust. However, the Legislature deleted the language "facilitating and expediting the provision..." and the Legislature did intend that some delay was obviously inherent in an administrative body's handling of exclusionary zoning matters, otherwise no administrative action dealing with items of general welfare which took time could withstand the "velocity of resolution" test, as applied by the Court below.

As stated above, the Trial Court utilized as a definition of manifest injustice the deleted language of the original draft of the Act, i.e. "...will the transfer facilitate and expedite the provision of a realistic opportunity (of housing availability to low/moderate income persons." (15a Appendix)

In such regard the Court below also said:

"...in the context of manifest injustice to the parties, we are asking whether or not the transfer will aid the lower income people by speeding a day when the realistic opportunity for housing will arrive." (15a Appendix)

AND

"Delay equates to postponing the day that the realistic opportunity is afforded and housing is built." (33a Appendix)

The Court below erred in the following ways: First, it improperly designated the standard for "manifest injustice" to be the velocity of resolution test stated above; secondly, it misapplied the standard to lower income families' constitutional

rights to have housing available promptly.

The speed by which any housing would be built is a factor explicitly rejected by the Legislature when it discarded the language of the original draft of Section 16 of the Act.

The Court below also indicated that the determination of manifest injustice, which it found to be fact specific as to those defendants presently before it, is and will be a balancing process in all cases. In applying such a balancing of the equities, the Court determined that the delay inherent in transferring the Defendant's case to the Council on Affordable Housing was manifestly injust to the lower income individuals represented by Plaintiff Urban League and that there was no manifest injustice to the Defendant municipality in not transerring its case. (emphasis added)

Again the Court erred since in applying the balancing test, it again utilized the Legislature's rejected "velocity of resolution" test.

"A Court has no discretion but to apply the statute in effect at the time of its decision." Kruvant v. Mayor of Cedar Grove, 82 N.J. 435 (1980)

AND

"A Court's duty in construing a statute is to determine the legislative intent and implement it." AMN, Inc. v. So. Brun. Twp. Rent Level Bd., 93 N.J. 518, 525 (1983)

In the case before the Court, neither of these standards of statutory construction were utilized. In fact, the Court below treated manifest injustice as just one of the standards to be applied in deciding transfer motions. In reality it also expressly utilized the stricken language of the original draft of Section 16.

Another factor not decided and yet decided by the Court below is the question of burden of proof and upon which party such burden rests. Under one of the leading cases on manifest injustice (Gibbons), the burden of proof is clearly upon the party seeking to prevent the transfer. As stated above, <u>Gibbons</u> stands for the proposition that:

"...a party claiming manifest injustice must demonstrate both that it relied to its prejudice on the prior law and that the consequences to it as a result of the reliance are deleterious and irrevocable". Gibbons v. Gibbons, supra.

The Court below ignored this burden of proof requirement by in essence placing such a burden upon the Defendant municipalities. It is submitted that were the test applied to what the Court indicated were the real parties in interest, lower income families, the result is obvious--no manifest injustice has been demonstrated since there is absolutely nothing in the record below to show that <u>any</u> lower income individual relied upon the prior law and that such reliance has been deleterious and irrevocable.

However, if such burden of proof test, as stated in <u>Gibbons</u>, were strictly construed as it applies to Defendant South Plainfield, it can be seen that South Plainfield's settlement was based upon the then case law of Mount Laurel II. The Fair Housing Act is a remedial statute and must be given an opportunity to work. It is, therefore, clear under cases such a <u>Castiglioni vs. Castiglioni</u>, 192 N.J. Super 594 (Ch. Div. 1984) that "where a judgment was sought to be modified...the Court agreed that the passage of a remedial statute was sufficient grounds for reopening the judgment."

The Court in such case further held that the modification of such judgment as a result of a remedial statute applies equally to both a judgment rendered after trial and one negotiated by settlement.

POINT II

THE UNIFORM DENIAL OF THE REQUESTS
TO TRANSFER THE CASES INVOLVING THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THE TOWNSHIPS
OF PISCATAWAY, WARREN, MONROE AND CRANBURY
AND OTHERS FRUSTRATES THE BASIC PURPOSE OF
THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 222, PUBLIC LAWS
1985, WHICH PURPOSE IS TO GET THESE
EXCLUSIONARY ZONING CASES OUT OF THE COURTS.

In addition to Defendant/Appellate Borough of South Plainfield's Transfer Motion request, various municipalities have requested transfer of their Mount Laurel cases to the Council on Affordable Housing. Among them are included the municipalities of Denville, Washington Township, Randolph, Tewksbury, Roseland, Township of Warren, Cranbury, Monroe, Piscataway, Manalapan, Bernards, Watchung, Bernardsville, Holmdel, Franklin, Scotch Plains, Hillsborough and Cherry Hill. With the possible exception of the Tewksbury and Scotch Plains application, every other request has so far been denied by the three Judges hearing Mount Laurel cases.

If this pattern of transfer request dispositions \mathcal{L} continues, it appears that all but the 16(b) bases (those filed within 60 days of the enactment of the Fair Housing Act) will be \mathcal{L} uniformly denied.

It is, therefore, asserted that if the Legislature did not intend to have pending exclusionary zoning cases transferred, there would be no Section 16 in the Act, but rather only Section 16(b). Obviously, the Legislature did intend to include the cases

such as Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield and the other similarly affected municipalities for it is clear that you know legislative purpose when you see it.

The Fair Housing Act has established a preference for the transfer of cases from the Courts to the Council on Affordable Housing.

The presumption that a transfer be permitted only when such transfer were likely to facilitate and expedite the provision of a realistic opportunity for law and moderate income housing is not part of the Act as adopted. This test and, hence, presumption was removed in favor of the "manifest injustice" test.

Clearly, the inference in the Legislature's removal of the prior language of Section 16 is that transfers would not likely facilitate and expedite the construction of housing. It is also clear that this deleted language not be used as a substitute for the "manifest injustice" test. The two sections are certainly unequal in meaning and in impact.

Providing for a "manifest injustice" weighing of the equities certainly is intended to limit and not to broaden the Court's discretion in deciding the transfer issue.

The Court below has employed the reverse illogical conclusion that because the Legislature removed the "facilitating and expediting" language, it didn't intend to also limit the Court's discretion. In fact, it (the Court) even suggests that this absent language can and should still be employed.

No other conclusion can be drawn when the Court's wholesale denial of transfers is based upon the "velocity of resolution" fact specific manifest injustice test.

The Trial Court's standard of "you know manifest injustice when you see it" has effectively removed over one hundred thirty cases from the Legislative decreed mediation and review process of the Council on Affordable Housing.

Continued interference by the Courts in the Legislative-Executive areas of zoning and housing can only result in real constitutional confrontation that now appears inevitable, and perhaps ultimate relief from these decried intrusions will await some higher appeals process.

POINT III

THE TRIAL COURT'S DECISION TO DENY SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER FLIES IN THE FACE OF THE JUDICIAL DECLARATIONS IN THE MOUNT LAUREL II DECISION STATING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN THE AREAS OF EXCLUSIONARY ZONING.

The Supreme Court in Mount Laurel II in its discussion of the constitutional basis for Mount Laurel and the judicial role stated:

"...the judicial role in this sensitive area is appropriate, since powerful reasons suggest, and we agree, that the matter is better left to the Legislature." Mount Laurel II at Page 212.

AND

"...so while we have always preferred legislative to judicial action in this field, we shall continue - until the Legislature acts..." Supra at Page 212.

ALSO

"The judicial role, however, which could decrease as a result of legislative and executive action, necessarily will expand to the extent that we remain virtually along in the field..." Ibid at Page 213.

AND

"Our deference to these legislative and executive initiatives can be regarded as a clear signal of our readiness to <u>deferfurther</u> to more substantial actions."

<u>Ibid</u> (emphasis supplied).

And finally in closing its opinion, the Court reiterated:

"as we said at the outset, while we have always preferred legislative to judicial action in this field, we shall continue - until the Legislature acts..."

On July 2, 1985, the Legislature acted by its adoption of Chapter 222 of Public Laws of 1985 "Fair Housing Act". The Trial Court's decision to deny Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield and the other municipalities' request to have their cases transferred to the Council on Affordable Housing is anathema to the Supreme Court's own policy statements and, hence, should be overturned.

POINT IV

THE STIPULATION ENTERED INTO IN MAY 1984 BY THE MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LACKED FORMAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND HENCE IS IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S. 40A:2-3, ET SEQ.

Defendant/Appellant never had a trial to determine fair share numbers because of the Stipulation entered into in May 1984 by its legal counsel. That Stipulation, which naturally resulted in a Summary Judgment being entered by the Court May 22, 1984, in favor of the Urban League, required that the Defendant/Appellant in one provision contribute the land and provide necessary financial support, including seed money and tax abatement as to one of the Mount Laurel sites. (Exhibit D)

Such a Stipulation was executed by Defendant/Appellant's legal counsel without Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield first having adopted a formal resolution at a public hearing called for such purpose.

Since the Stipulation requires the expenditure of public funds, it was an ultra vires act and is in direct contravention to the basic requirements set forth in the statutory provisions of N.J.S. 40A:2-3, et seq., which said section requires public hearings to be held by municipalities prior to their incurring future indebtedness for any purpose. Hence, the Stipulation is void and the Summary Judgment should therefore be set aside.

POINT V

THE TRIAL COURT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THE RESTRAINTS ON THE SALE OF BOROUGH OWNED LAND, WHERE SUCH LAND IS NOT INVENTORIED "MOUNT LAUREL" LAND, SINCE SUCH RESTRAINTS CONSTITUTE A TAKING.

By virtue of several Orders issued by the Trial Court, the Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield has been restrained and is continuing to be restrained from conducting land sales of Borough owned land, including the finalization of pending land sales. Such restraints have been imposed on all Borough owned land, regardless of its non-inclusion in Mount Laurel inventoried sites.

Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield has adopted under protest what it believes to reasonably comply in all respects to the Judgment against South Plainfield of May 22, 1984.

The remedies for noncompliance recited by the Supreme Court in Mount Laurel II did not authorize, nor could it authorize, such restraints, nor continue the restraints of Defendant/ Appellant Borough of South Plainfield's constitutional right to deal with its property as it chooses. Hence, since the Defendant/Appellant Borough of South Plainfield has made reasonable efforts to comply under protest, these restraints should be immediately removed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendant Borough of South
Plainfield respectfully requests this Honorable Court reverse the
Trial Court's decision and approve South Plainfield's application
to transfer its case to the Council on Affordable Housing.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK A. SANTORO, ESQ. Attorney for Defendant BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

y: /Kais

Dated: December 2, 1985

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY DOCKET NO. 24,788 A-129

FRANK A. SANTORO, ESQ. 1500 Park Avenue P. O. Box 272 South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 (201) 561-6868 ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

CIVIL ACTION
ON APPEAL FROM

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX/OCEAN COUNTY

NO. C-4122-73

ν.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

APPENDIX TO BRIEF OF DEFENDANT BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL OF AN INTERLOCUTORY ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S REQUEST TO HAVE ITS CASE TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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EXHIBIT A

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1 2	EUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION - OCEAN COUNTY DOCKET NO. C-4122-73, et als
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4	x x
5	URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER
6	NEW BRUNSWICK, : TRANSCRIPT OP Plaintiff,
7	vs.
8	THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET,
10	Defendant. :
11	x x
12	October 2, 1985 Toms River, New Jersey
13	TOWN KIVEL NEW CELSEY
14	BEFORE:
15	HONORABLE EUGENE D. SERPENTELLI, J.S.C.
16	APPEARANCES:
17	ERIC NEISSER, ESQUIRE and
18	J. M. PAYNE, ESQUIRE Por Urban League
19	ARNOLD K. MYTELKA, ESQUIRE
20	For Lori Associates and Habd Associates
21	JOSEPH MURRAY, ESQUIRE FOR AMG Realty, Inc. and Skytop
22	
23	
24	GAYLE GARRABRANDT, C.S.R. Official Court Reporter

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THE COURT: First I want to thank you all for coming today, and don't come back in a group like this again.

Secondly, I want to tell you that one of my law clerks commented upon the fact that the clerk was amazed at the youth of all of the attorneys involved in this case. And I think that's marvelous. Such young men involved in the case, except for the man at the end of the table, assured that he was a contemporary of mine, as a matter of fact. But that is true. That says something for the Bar.

Just so the record is amply clear, I don't intend to decide anything today other than the motions for transfer. I don't intend to deal with any collateral issues, and certainly with none of the constitutional issues involved in the Legislation.

And I want to make it amply clear as well that the findings in the five cases before the Court are fact-specific. They are not intended to establish an exhaustive definition of the meaning of manifest injustice. And I stress that because I know that other municipalities are waiting to hear the results of these first five cases here, as they are in matters pending before the other Mount Laurel

judges.

I think it is worthy to place the transfer provisions in a proper perspective. Counsel have, as one might expect, argued at both extremes, from the proposition that any transfer is manifestly unjust in these cases because of a host of reasons, including some vested rights, delay and so forth; and on the other side, there is the most extreme argument that no transfer should be denied because of the need for statewide uniformity, the alleged greater speed in the executive-legislative process, and the Supreme Court's preference for a legislative solution.

It seems clear that the legislation itself evidences through Section 16, which provides for these motions, and elsewhere, including Section 19, which deals with remands, Section 23, which deals with Court supervision of phasing, Section 12B, which relates to the interplay between the Court and the Council concerning regional contribution agreements, that the Legislature did not intend to exclude totally the Court from the process.

The legislation evidences an effort to strike a balance between the desire to place the housing issue squarely in the legislative-executive arena,

....

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and the need to recognize that, in some cases, because of fact-specific circumstances, it would be inappropriate, if not unlawful, to subject these cases to the Council on Affordable Housing Process.

And finally, as part of placing the issue in a proper perspective, something should be said about the emphasis by defendants on the oft-stated preference by the Court, our Supreme Court, and this Court, for whatever that is worth, that these matters, the housing matters, be left to the Legislature.

First, it is obviously clear that that's what Mount Laurel says, and that's what the Supreme Court wishes. That's what Mount Laurel I said, and that's what Mount Laurel II said. Ten years later, it still is the desire of the Court, and it should in fact motivate all appropriate deference to the legislation.

However, it must be noted that the Court's patience and the legislative default has created some circumstances in which it would no longer be viable to vindicate the constitutional obligation by a total abdication of the legislative-executive process; and indeed, Section 16 of the Act recognizes that.

Now, preference for a legislative-executive

solution cannot in all cases be translated to a circumstance where the constitutional imperative of Mount Laurel would be violated. At a minimum, the manifest injustice exception must contemplate that we avoid the situation in which a transfer would seriously undermine the constitutional imperative which the legislation itself must satisfy if the legislation is not to experience a constitutional infirmity.

To that extent, the term, "manifest injustice," must be interpreted in such a manner
as to support the fundamental goal of the Act, which
I perceive to be the satisfaction of a constitutional
mandate in a reasonable manner.

Next, I would like to turn briefly to the wording of Section 16 itself, and make some comments with respect thereto. I need not repeat the provisions of Section 16, except for the fact that there is a lot of reference in the briefs as to Section 16A and 16B; and, of course, there is no Section 16A in the statute. There is only a Section 16B.

So just so it is entirely clear what we are talking about, we are talking about that section which precedes Section 16B and reads: For those

exclusionary soning cases instituted more than sixty days before the effective date of this Act, any party to the litigation may file a motion with the Court to seek a transfer to the Council.

In determining whether or not to transfer, the Court shall consider whether or not the transfer would result in a manifest injustice to any party to the litigation.

Now, it is to be noted that the pertinent section does not define transfer, it obviously doesn't define manifest injustice, and it doesn't define party.

The language I have quoted starting with the words, quote, "Any party to the litigation may file a motion with the Court to seek transfer," unquote, replaced a different standard in the prior draft of the Act which reads in part, and I quote: "No exhaustion of the review and mediation procedures established in Section 14 and 15 of this Act shall be required unless the Court determines that a transfer of the case to the Council is likely to facilitate and expedite the provisions of a realistic opportunity for low and moderate income housing."

Now, it is by no means clear what the

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Legislature intended to accomplish by the change from a standard of facilitating and expediting the provision of low-cost housing to a standard of manifest injustice to any party. The briefs arque in all directions on that issue as well, and I don't have to summarize them.

I believe that it is fair to say that the final version more explicitly emphasizes the interests of the parties, whereas the prior version more explicitly emphasizes the expedition of the provision of lower income housing.

One cannot assume that the change in wording did not intend a change in meaning. Beyond that, however, absent some clear legislative history, which seems absent, it is extremely difficult to discern whether the Legislature sought to limit or broaden the Court's discretion, or whether it sought to limit or broaden the potential for transfer of cases which are more than sixty days old. And I would submit that strong interpretive arguments can be made on both sides.

I do not intend by this oral opinion to either reconcile the language or to give a complete definition to the term, "manifest injustice." If I did intend to do that, it wouldn't be an oral

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opinion, and I certainly would take a great deal of detail in selling that issue out.

That term, to me, tends to be fact-specific, and I therefore deem it more appropriate to define it in the context of each of the cases that appear before me today, and those which are scheduled for the next several weeks.

In that process, I believe that its full meaning will evolve as those motions are heard and as the motions now pending before the other Mount Laurel judges are heard and decided.

In cases at what I have referred to as the factual extremes, the term will be relatively easy to interpret. Like obscenity, to paraphrase Justice Stewart, you should be able to know it when you see it.

And finally, in terms of definition, as noted above, the statute does not define what is meant by the term, "transfer," or the term, "party."

Now, as to transfer, the issue might be relevant to the question of manifest injustice to the extent that if a case is transferred in its present posture, with the full record, and the Council being bound by issues decided, so to speak, the law of the case, the potential for delay and the

possible cost of relitigation might be reduced.

The procedural scheme which the statute reveals to me will be discussed shortly. But I must say that on an initial reading, without emphasizing this issue, I do not believe that it discloses an intent to bind the Council with what has happened in this court, seems to me to be contrary to the legislative purpose in enactment of the statute, and it certainly is not refuted by the clear language of the statute.

The defendant municipalities stress that the statute has established the potential for a fresh, new and comprehensive approach. And if there is a failure to agree on a housing element, mediation replaces litigation, pursuant to Section 17.

At least the Urban League plaintiff and some of the other plaintiffs argue that the record and the decided issues must follow the case, although it's not clear how that would fit into the legislative scheme created by the Act.

In any event, the cases before me today do not require me to decide that specific issue.

Now, as to the term, "party," I should note that both -- some of the plaintiff builders and the defendant municipalities have dealt rather

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gingerly and, in the case of some of the defendants, almost cavalierly, with the interests
of lower income households in Mount Laurel litigation.

Some of the builders have stressed the manifest injustice of a transfer in part on the grounds that they have a vested right, in effect, to build homes for the poor. I think to that extent, they inadequately assert their representation of the poor in this litigation if they don't go beyond saying that.

The defendant municipalities have followed suit even to the extent that one brief concedes that the Court should take into account the interest of all of the parties, including, quote, "the hidden beneficiaries."

Now, it should have long since been clear that the status of lower income households rises far above the category of hidden or third-party beneficiaries in Mount Laurel actions. Even where an Urban League or a Civic League, if that's the name now, or a civic group or another non-builder plaintiff is not involved, the lower income class must be considered a full party to this action.

The prospect of the builder's remedy is offered as a

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quid pro quo to sue on behalf of those persons whom the remedy will benefit.

Our Supreme Court has described Mount Laurel actions as institutional or public law litigation. It is at page 288 and 289 of the Decision and in Pootnote 43. They are brought to vindicate resistance to a constitutional obligation to the affected group. In that sense, they are class actions, and the class is very much a party.

Judge Skillman has said it well in Morris

County Fair Housing Council vs. Boonton Township,

197 New Jersey 359, at pages 365 and '66, where he
says, and I quote:

"A Mount Laurel case may appropriately viewed as a representative action which is binding on non-parties. The constitutional right protected by the Mount Laurel doctrine is the right of lower income persons to seek housing without being subject to economic discrimination caused by exclusionary soning.

"The public advocate and such organizations as the Fair Housing Council and the N.A.A.C.P. have standing to pursue Mount Laurel litigation on behalf of lower income persons.

Developers and property owners are also

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In fact, the Supreme Court has held that any individual demonstrating an interest in or any organisation that has the objective of securing lower
income housing opportunities in a municipality will
have standing to sue such municipality on Mount
Laurel grounds."

And he is quoting from Mount Laurel at that point, at page 337, where the Court says that, in referring to lower income people, that they are the group that has the, quote, "greatest interest," unquote, in ending exclusionary soning.

Continuing from Judge Skillman's opinion, and I quote: However, such litigants are granted standing not to pursue their own interests but, rather, as representatives of lower income persons whose constitutional rights are allegedly being violated by the exclusionary zoning.

Therefore, it is amply clear to me that the Court must look at lower income persons as at least an equal party to the litigation, even if I choose to ignore the Supreme Court suggestion that they have the greatest interest in the litigation, and that is so doing, I have to consider their interests from many standpoints, including but not limited to

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the delays which were involved in the vindication of their rights, the fact that every day in which this Court delays resolution of these cases, that they remain in substandard housing, and that they will continue there until these issues are resolved.

we have to consider the absence or diminished availability of the remedies to enforce compliance where cases are near completion or housing is imminent. We have to consider whether housing is imminent. We have to consider to what extent a transfer would relegate low and moderate income persons to reliance upon voluntary compliance by municipalities for any extended period.

And those are just some of the factors that the Court would take into account.

Now, before turning to the actual factual analysis of each case here today, something should be said about the consequences of a transfer as it relates to the potential for delay or expedition of the process which leads to the production of lower income housing.

This issue has been heavily briefed and, notwithstanding the difference in conclusions, the parties seem to agree that speed in the resolution of the issues and expediting lower income housing

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is at least one very important element involved in the definition of manifest injustice.

As a practical matter, then, the language of the prior draft of Section 16 becomes involved in the analysis. Will the transfer facilitate and expedite the provision of a realistic opportunity?

I am not suggesting that I have read that section back into the act, but only that the analysis of plaintiffs, indeed the defendants, have in fact read it back into the Act, and I think properly so.

I should also point out that it is not back into the Act as the exclusive definition, but rather, as I have indicated, an important element of manifest injustice. Presumably in the context of manifest injustice to the parties, we are asking whether or not the transfer will aid the lower income people by speeding a day when the realistic opportunity for housing will arrive.

And it is at this point that the arguments of the parties diverge, the parties claiming the transfer -- the plaintiffs claim the transfer will cause delay; and, of course, the municipalities claim it will cause expedition.

Part of that rests upon what reasonable time span we can assume will be involved under the

Act. As we know, it became effective on July 2nd, 1985; that Section 5A creates the Council, and 5D requires the governor to nominate the members within thirty days.

The nominations have been made, and I don't suppose it matters a great deal that they were a little late. But they have not yet been confirmed, unless there's some late action of which I am not aware.

procedural rules within four months after the confirmation of its last member initially appointed, or by January 1, 1986, whichever is earlier.

Given that the Council members have not been confirmed, it is likely that that confirmation will occur late in this year, and that procedural rules can be expected by May 1, 1986. I have reached that conclusion given the fact that the Legislature is not in session during another important time span during the month of October, in anticipation of November 5th.

Now, Section 9A requires any municipality which elects to submit a housing plan to the Council to notify the Council of its intent to participate within four months of the effective date of the

Section 7 requires the Council to adopt criteria and guidelines for the housing plan within seven months of the confirmation of the last member initially appointed, or January 1, 1986. Assuming confirmation of membership is accomplished near the end of this year, the Council will have until approximately August 1, '86 to adopt guidelines and criteria.

Section 9A gives the municipality five months from the date of adoption of the criteria to file its housing element. If the criteria were not adopted until August 1, 1986, the municipality would then have until January 1, 1987.

Section 13 provides that a municipality may file for substantive certification of its plan at any time within a six-year period from the filing of the housing element.

Nothing seems to expressly require expeditious filing for a substantive approval, assuming it is requested. The township has to give notice within an unspecified period of the requested certification. Once public notice is given, the forty-five day objection period begins to run. And it is not clear from the Act that there is a time limitation on the

Council to act on the requested certification.

Thus, though the objection period is fortyfive days, the review could be longer, and it might
be expected, in fact, it would normally make common
sense, not to commence the review until after the
objection period expires.

I am going to assume, however, that the town petitions for substantive certification on January 1, 1987; that it simultaneously gives notice on that day; and that the Council doesn't wait for the objection period to expire to start the review process.

None of those assumptions comport with the Court's experience of usual procedure; but, nonetheless, I think it is best to assume the best-case alternative. And the procedure would, nonetheless, consume forty-five days, because that's the objection period. And that would take the processing to approximately February 15th, 1987.

Now we have got the end of the forty-five day period, the Council is prepared to grant substantive certification on the theory that it has already reviewed the plan. The town must adopt its ordinance in forty-five days, or by April 1, 1987, under the assumptions which I have made.

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If at the end of the initial forty-five day period the Council denies certification or conditionally approves it, the municipality has sixty days to refile. That would be until April 15th, 1987, and the Council then has another unspecified period to review.

Assume that the Council reviews it on the same day that it is filed, which again flies in the face of human experience, and grants substantive certification. The municipality then has an additional forty-five days to adopt its implementing ordinance; and thus, the procedure might extend to June 1, 1987.

On the other hand, if an objection is filed, it must be done within forty-five days of the public notice. And assuming that that notice date expires on March 15th, 1987, mediation and review is commenced, no time limit is set on that process.

a reasonable scenario that a minimum of sixty days is required. That would take us, then, to April 15th, 1987. If mediation is unsuccessful, the matter is then referred to the Administrative Law Judge, who has ninety days to issue a decision unless the period is extended for good cause.

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I will assume that it is not extended, and that the procedure could thus be completed by July 15th, 1987. The Administrative Law Judge findings are then forwarded to the Housing Council pursuant to Section 15, with his record.

The Act becomes silent as to what happens at that point, but the Administrative Procedure Act would then take over, I assume, and Section 1:1-16.5 would allow the Council forty-five days to act on the decision by accepting, rejecting, modifying, or remanding the initial decision to the Administrative Law Judge.

Absent a remand, this then could extend the time involved to September 1, 1987.

Now finally, before reaching a conclusion with respect to these motions, it would be useful to briefly summarize the status of each of the cases before the Court today.

With respect to Warren, the AMG complaint was filed on December 31, 1980. Skytop was permitted to intervene in May of 1981, and Timber filed a complaint in July of 1981.

Judge Meredith rendered a decision after trial dated May 27th, 1982, invalidating the zoning ordinance and directing rezoning.

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The township adopted a new ordinance in December of '82. The plaintiff -- the plaintiffs AMG and Skytop were granted leave to appeal -- I'm sorry -- granted leave to file a supplementary complaint challenging the new ordinance, and they did so on January 17th, 1983, in apparent anticipation of Mount Laurel II, I guess, three days before.

There was a consolidation of several actions by this Court in July of 1983, and the first Mount Laurel trial to commence was started in January of 1984, and it lasted for twenty-one days. We not only consumed vast quantities of time, but vast quantities of coffee and danish.

The AMG opinion then was issued on July 16th, 1984, and interim judgment was entered on August 1, 1984, which set the fair share, ordered rezoning within ninety days, found the plaintiffs entitled to a builder's remedy subject to the issue of suitability.

An ordinance was submitted in December of 1984, and being reviewed by the Court Master, who has suspended his review pending determination of this transfer motion.

What's left to be done in Warren Township is, of course, the Master's completion of the review; a compliance hearing, if necessary; the preparation of a revised ordinance; an ordinance adoption, if not already accomplished.

I would estimate that that procedure could be accomplished in approximately four months.

The Cranbury Township timetable is similar in some of its respects to the other cases; and to that extent, I will not repeat.

The Urban League filed suit against Cranbury and the other three defendants here today in July of 1974. Judge Furman signed an implementing judgment, or a judgment implementing his opinion, on July 9, 1976. The Appellate Division reversed -- I have the date right here -- on January 20th, 1979. That's ironic. Three years to the date, if I have that correctly.

And the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court did whatever you'd like to describe it did with the case, but it certainly remanded it here. I read part of it as an affirmance of Judge Furman's findings and a reversal of the Appellate Division, but certainly a remand for a consideration in terms of Mount Laurel II. It found expressly that certain issues had been demonstrated by the plaintiff.

We then engaged in an eighteen-day trial. I

did not go back to the minutes to check, but I believe it is clear that South Plainfield didn't engage in all of it. At some point, it left the scene, and at some point, Monroe chose not to participate, and I don't mean settled, but chose not to participate.

I issued an opinion in July of 1984, invalidating the Cranbury ordinance. I determined
region, regional need and fair share. We set about
compliance. We are at the stage where all experts'
reports are in, we are awaiting the compliance
hearing principally as to the issues of site suitability in the broadest sense.

And I mean that as it relates to builder's remedy, as it relates to the issues of preservation, agricultural preservation, historic preservation, phasing.

But there are no apparent significant issues with respect to other aspects of compliance, at least that I am aware of.

What is left to be done there is a compliance hearing, which I have indicated earlier
has only not moved forward because of the Court's
schedule; a Master's revision of the ordinance if
it isn't approved in its present form.

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I can indicate for the record that if the matter were retained here, it would be the first compliance hearing of any length to be scheduled. It would be started in October and should be completed in November, and any necessary revision could be accomplished in sixty days. Ordinance adoption, if not already accomplished, could then be accomplished in another thirty days.

It appears to me that the case can be completed before year's end, or certainly by January.

The South Plainfield timetable with regard to the early part of the litigation tracks that of Cranbury. Ultimately, a voluntary stipulation was presented to the Court with the purpose of having the Court enter an order, on May 10th, 1984.

A fair share was reduced dramatically, and a fair share can be considered either six hundred or nine hundred. But even at the nine hundred figure, it was reduced almost by fifty percent over the prior figure. Realistically, I think it's a fair share of six hundred, so that, of course, the reduction is even greater.

The Plaintiff received a summary judgment based on the voluntary stipulation. An ordinance was adopted under protest. The plaintiff Urban

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League, to the best of my knowledge, approves the ordinance except for some technical problem concerning the specificity of the parcels involved in rezoning. And to the best of my knowledge, the review by Ms. Lerman has not raised any problem, either. The ordinance is in a form, according to her communications, acceptable to her.

And what is left to be done in that case is a very short compliance hearing, since everybody agrees; and that could certainly be accomplished within the next thirty days.

In the case of Monroe, again, the early status of that case tracks the other two. That also was governed by my letter opinion of July 27th. There was an implementing judgment in that one in August of 1984.

The opinion was July 27th, 1984. It set a fair share. It ordered resoning. After some difficulties, the township retained a planning expert, and the township submitted a compliance package on March 28th, 1985.

That one could have been moved as well, except before the Court got to it, it got diverted into collateral issues, including the failure of the township, the refusal of the township to pay the

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Court-appointed Master, putting aside its refusal to pay its counsel.

Furthermore, while the plan was being considered by the Court, the township approved a land parcel originally designated for Mount Laurel purposes to be used without set-asides; and therefore, a hearing had to be held on that issue. And what appears to be, in this interpretation of the Court's order, then occurred, as a I read it from the township, it appears as though the Court was bargaining with the municipality.

options, that it could, if it wished to avoid noncompliance, reduce its fair share by the number of
units lost in the unlawful approval; or it could
reinstate that tract and vacate the approval.

Of course, if the town chose to reduce its fair share, the Court expected voluntary compliance.

The township informed the Court in writing that it would do neither, on August 2nd, 1985. And in an order dated August 30th, 1985, the Court confirmed what it had said at the hearing of July 25th, that the compliance ordinance would automatically become non-compliant, because by the township -- its admission, one of the parcels

necessary to satisfy their fair share had been utilized for other purposes.

The Court order directed that the Master

provide a compliance plan by October -- by October 7th.

It chose a rather short time frame because of the

fact that there was a plan in existence which the

Master had worked very closely with, and that it was

really only necessary for the Master to select

another parcel and clean up any other defects, if

any, in the ordinance.

What is left to be done in Monroe is for the Master to file a report. And I might mention that she, too, is withholding further action pending today's motion and, therefore, that the report might not be filed by next Monday.

The Court would have to hold a relatively short compliance hearing thereafter, since the town found at least one of the parcels compliant, and the issues would be those raised by the plaintiffs to the extent that they felt improperly omitted.

If necessary, any Court-ordered revisions would follow, and I would anticipate that this procedure could be accomplished in three to four months.

Pinally, the Piscataway timetable again

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tracks the other three cases, except that at the end of the eighteen-day trial, the Court did not issue an opinion, because it felt that the methodology did not adequately reflect the capacity of Piscataway to absorb lower income housing.

And instead, the Court ordered the Master to inventory the suitable land. That report took a substantial period of time and was not received until the fall, and the township contested the report in November of 1984.

Restraints on approval of all sites found suitable by the Court-appointed expert were entered because of the limited amount of the land available. A supplemental report was received by the Court based upon additional issues raised by the parties on January 18th, 1985.

An evidentiary hearing on suitability, a site-by-site review, was held in February of '85, and a very time-consuming one at that.

At the end of that hearing, the Court felt that it would be appropriate and fair to the municipality to permit a site inspection; and at the same time, it took the opportunity to also inspect the Cranbury issues, and both inspections were summarized in a very brief transcription given to

counsel.

Thereafter, a letter opinion was sent forth, and rezoning was ordered within ninety days of July 23rd. The order incorporating that letter was dated September 17th, 1985, and directed rezoning by October 23rd, 1985.

What is left in Piscataway is somewhat more substantial than the other municipalities. A compliance hearing has to be held; and at that time, the Court has indicated that it will allow Piscataway did I say Cranbury? -- Piscataway to introduce additional avidence as to the unsuitability of parcels which have been found least facially suitable, if I can use that term. And that will consume some time.

Conversely, however, there are no substantial objections indicated with respect to builder remedy claims in Piscataway, so that there should not be any substantial time on that issue. The possible need for a Master revision, of course, exists at the completion of the hearing. It would appear that this procedure will take approximately five months, perhaps less, and perhaps a month more.

Now finally -- and I am almost finished -- with the overview of the statute's meaning, with a detailed review of the procedures and time frames

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under the Act, and an analysis as to the progress, if I can use that term, and status of each case before the Court, there remains only the issue of whether the case should be transferred.

The parties have suggested a host of criteria by which the application to transfer should be judged. I believe it would be useful to list them, not necessarily in order of preference, and clearly with no intention to imply approval of each factor.

I list them to preserve them for consideration in future matters. Clearly in this -- in the cases before the Court, certain factors predominate and others have little relevance. Indeed, in some cases, I am not sure that I share the fact that they have any relevance, at least with respect to these cases.

The factors suggested include the age of the case; the complexity of the issue; the stage of the litigation, that is, whether it's at discovery, pretrial, trial, compliance; the number and nature of previous determinations of substantive issues.

The relative degree of judicial and administrative expertise on the issues involved; the need for the development of an evidentiary record; conduct of the parties; the likelihood that the

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Council determinations would differ from the Court's; the likelihood that the Council's determinations would have a basis in broader statewide policy.

Whether harm would be caused by a delay in the transfer or, conversely, whether a delay -- whether a denial of the transfer would cause a greater delay.

Whether the Council process, absent the ability to impose restraint, would cause the irreparable loss of vacant developable land for Mount Laurel construction.

Would the transfer tend to facilitate or expedite the realistic opportunity for lower income housing? The possibility of a change in the housing market, which could occur if venue, that is, the Council or the Court, causes a delay.

Now, I am sure there are other issues that were mentioned. They may be encompassed or hidden within what I have listed, but there are none that I did not mention which are relevant to my decision.

As I noted, I see no need to dwell upon each of the factors.

The case before the Court, or the cases before the Court today, are at the one extreme of the transfer spectrum. If manifest injustice is to be found in any transfer motions before this

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Court, it must include all five here today.

Again, without definition, you can tell manifest injustice when you see it. The mere recitation
of the procedural history of these cases compels
that conclusion.

Without repeating the facts of each case, all of them have certain things in common. They have been in the system a long time, particularly, of course, the four Urban League cases, which are nearly teenagers. They have been arduous, they have been complex, they have taxed the resources of all of the parties involved.

To repeat even a portion of the process before the Council seems unnecessarily burdensome and unfair to all of the parties, even if the municipalities are rarely desirous of doing that.

In South Plainfield and in Piscataway there are restraints pending which serve to preserve the scarce available municipal land for lower income housing. In my view, these restraints will be the less by transfer; and in the interim period, further development will occur. Whether they could be reinstated is a very, very questionable issue under the Act.

Most importantly, and indeed of predominant

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importance in these cases, is the status of each case -- and that's why I took the time I did to review it -- and the inevitable delay which must be caused by the transfer.

As the facts which I have recited show, each of the cases before this Court are near completion. The Court's best estimate is that they could be done in anywhere from a month to six months. And even if that estimate is overly-optimistic, the time span is significantly shorter than the approximate nearly two-year process through the Council.

Delay equates to postponing the day that
the realistic opportunity is afforded and housing
is built. In each of these cases, we have builders
ready to proceed, just as builders have promptly
moved to get construction underway in other towns
where compliance has already occurred.

Now, avoidance of delay at all costs should never be the goal. No one has demonstrated that the Court does not have the expertise to handle these matters and to meet the special issues involved.

It is not an issue of whether another body has that expertise in this setting. There is, rather, an issue of whether the Court lacks it. If

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it did, that might override all of the other considerations involved in this case. I don't believe it does.

In Cranbury, the Court has and will make every effort to evaluate Cranbury's claim of environmental and agricultural preservation. The site inspection was aimed at that goal in part, and the Master's report was sensitive to it. And it is simply incorrect to suggest that the Court cannot or will not deal adequately with the issue.

I will state for the record clearly that I was most impressed by the character of the community, by its prevailing rural character, and that it is incumbent upon this Court to take that into account when it reaches that posture.

In Piscataway's case, the Court has gone through a time-consuming and painstaking process, through an individual site inventory, a personal inspection, a prolonged case -- site-by-site hearing, in order to ensure a fair treatment in the town, and will extend that into the next compliance hearing.

I can't guess how a housing council would handle the Piscataway problem. I can only feel relatively assured that it is going to be handled

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Piscataway has the opportunity given to it expressly, in the opinion of the Court, to refine its capacity to handle its fair share.

It should be evident, finally, that all of the municipalities who have been before this Court have been evaluated on statewide criteria which have been carefully developed and which have been challenged and rechallenged and retested through the adversary process of various cases.

The fact of the matter is that no one has come forward with any comprehensive alternative methodology. The methodology which is utilized leaves room for adjustments based upon absence of vacant land, environmental constraints, need for the preservation of agriculture, historical preservation, recreational preservation, and other categories of land uses, prior land use patterns, prior efforts at providing a variety of housing, and many other practical and equitable considerations which would or could affect the fair share which is produced by a literal application of the methodology.

That flexibility has already resulted in a reduction of the Plainfield and Piscataway fair

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share by approximately fifty and forty percent respectively, and in Monroe by a Court offer to reduce the fair share based upon the special equities involved there. It will soon be addressed in both Cranbury and Warren.

Thus, I can comfortably conclude that in these cases not only is it manifestly unjust to the plaintiffs to transfer these cases, but it would not be and will not be unjust to the municipalities to retain them.

That, of course, is not the express test of the statute. The statute talks in terms of mani-fest injustice to a party, not the absence of injustice to another party.

But in reaching the conclusion, one must go through a balancing process in any event, since there may be some injustice in given cases to both sides.

In this case, I don't find that. I see only injustice to the plaintiffs. In this case, the balance tips dramatically one-sidedly in favor of a denial of motions to transfer.

The statutory test, as I said, is manifest injustice to any party. The defendants have proved -- have failed to prove the slightest

injustice to them, whereas the injustice to the lower income households and the plaintiffs is manifest.

Based upon those findings, I will accept the order from Mr. Neisser as to the four Urban League cases, from Mr. Murray as to the Warren case; and I deny the applications for transfer.

Any other issues will not be addressed today. If there is to be an application for a stay of the Court's ruling for the purposes of appeal, it is denied for the reasons expressed in this opinion.

One at a time. Let's just Mr. Coley.

MR. COLEY: What's -- I am not asking the Court to give me a legal opinion on this, but do you believe that this motion as it was made is under the aspects of the Mount Laurel case where there's no interim appeals made in a case?

THE COURT: I can't give you a legal opinion.

That's why I said if there's an application for a stay, I wouldn't deal with it. And I assumed you would first make that application. I think if there is any stay, the Appellate Division should consider it in light of the issue as to whether you have a

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right to appeal in the first place and, secondly, in light of the issue of whether a stay is appropriate, given the status of these cases as I have set them forth.

Was there another defendant's counsel?
Mr. Paley?

MR. PALEY: Your Honor, I have another issue that I'd like --

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Neisser.

MR. NEISSER: Yes. I would request the lifting of the prior -- of the Court's prior stay in its August 9th order as to South Plainfield, which stayed the effectiveness of their ordinances, soning and affordable housing ordinances, pending decision of the transfer motion.

Now that that's been decided, I would request that the stay be vacated.

THE COURT: I thought that was automatically in the order. I thought it said it will remain in effect until this -- until it is heard, stay the vacated --

MR. NEISSER: I would request Your Honor could set a date for hearing of the other motion of Cranbury, which is the builder's remedy moratorium, so that we can move forward towards compliance

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hearing.

THE COURT: I will do my best. In all candor, I'm swamped, and I do intend, as I have indicated today, to set a date for the Cranbury hearing. And that should be, and please get ready, toward the end of October.

I intend to set a very short date for the Plainfield hearing, South Plainfield hearing. And I have another eight transfer motions which I have to deal with, three more on Friday. So just be patient with me. I'll do my best.

If I may say, off the record

(Whereupon a brief discussion was held off the record.)

MR. SANTORO: Your Honor, when will Your
Honor decide the other issue of the restraints
that are currently on South Plainfield as far as
the non-Mount Laurel lands, so that when the phone
calls start coming in, I can advise them accordingly?
This is the borough property that's not in the
inventory, that's --

THE COURT: Do you have any objection to that, Mr. Neisser, as to the sales by the borough?

MR. NEISSER: Oh, yes, I certainly do.

THE COURT: Not the sales.

MR. NEISSER: The stay.

THE COURT: Any non-municipal lands not included in the compliance package can be removed from the stay.

MR. NEISSER: I thought they -- that stay was lifted by Your Honor on August 9th.

MR. SANTORO: Bidding permits were. We are talking now about the completion of transactions of land sales involving borough land that was not included in the Mount Laurel inventory.

MR. PALEY: Your Honor, I had a motion which was addressed to the blanket restraints on Piscataway, which I understand Your Honor has not decided and will reserve for another day.

Mr. Salsburg's partner was here earlier this morning, and left when you indicated that you would not address any other motions.

On his behalf, I would ask that at least his application, which he by letter had renewed for that particular parcel, be disposed of relatively expeditiously.

THE COURT: Do my best, although I have a tough time with removing any restraints in Piscataway, but I will do my best. You can pass that dicts on to him.

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MR. PALEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything further,

gentlemen? Thank you for your patience and for

your interesting arguments.

(End of proceedings.)

CERTIFICATE

I, GAYLE GARRABRANDT, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter of the State of New Jersey, certify that the
foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken by me stenographically on the date hereinbefore
mentioned.

GAYLE GARRABRANDT, C.S.R. Official Court Reporter

Date: 10-18-85

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C. 52:27D-301 et al.

P. L. 1985, CHAPTER 222, approved July 2, 1985

Senate Committee Substitute For 1985 Senate Nos. 2046 and 2334 (Second Official Copy Reprint)

An Acr concerning housing, ** [and] ** making an appropriation ** and amending P. L. 1975, c. 291**.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fair Housing
 Act."

2. The Legislature finds that:

a. The New Jersey Supreme Court, through its rulings in South Burlington County NAACP v. Mount Laurel, 67 N.J. 151 (1975) 4 and South Burlington County NAACP v. Mount Laurel, 92 N.J. 5 158 (1983), has determined that every municipality in a growth area has a constitutional obligation to provide **through its land use regulations** a realistic opportunity for a fair share of its region's present and prospective needs for housing for low and 84 moderate income families.

b. In the second Mount Laurel ruling, the Supreme Court stated that the determination of the methods for satisfying this constitutional obligation "is better left to the Legislature," that the court has "always preferred legislative to judicial action in their field," and that the judicial role in upholding the Mount Laurel doctrine "could decrease as a result of legislative and executive action."

c. The interest of all citizens, including low and moderate income families in need of affordable housing, would be best served by a comprehensive planning and implementation response to this constitutional obligation.

d. There are a number of essential ingredients to a comprehensive planning and implementation response, including the estab-

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italies thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*--Assembly committee amendments adopted February 28, 1985.

**--Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations May 13, 1985.

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lishment of reasonable fair share housing guidelines and standards, the initial determination of fair share by officials at the municipal level and the preparation of a municipal housing element, State review of the local fair share study and housing element, and continuous State funding for low and moderate income housing to replace the federal housing subsidy programs which have been almost completely eliminated.

e. The State can maximize the number of low and moderate income units provided in New Jersey by allowing its municipalities to adopt appropriate phasing schedules for meeting their fair share, so long as the municipalities permit a timely achievement of an appropriate fair share of the regional need for low and moderate income housing as required by the Mt. Laurel I and II

f. The State can, also, maximize the number of low and moderate income units by rehabiliating existing, but substandard, housing in the State, and, in order to achieve this end, it is appropriate to permit the transfer of a limited portion of the fair share obligations among municipalities in a housing region, so long as the transfer occurs on the basis of sound comprehensive planning, with regard to an adequate housing financing plan, and in relation to the access of low and moderate income households to employment opportunities.

**g. Since the urban areas are vitally important to the State, construction, conversion and rehabilitation of housing in our urban centers should be encouraged. However, the provision of housing in urban areas must be balanced with the need to provide housing

throughout the State for the free mobility of citizens.

h. The Supreme Court of New Jersey in its Mount Laurel decision demands that municipal land use regulations affirmatively afford a reasonable opportunity for a variety and choice of housing including low and moderate cost housing, to meet the needs of people desiring to live there. While provision for the actual construction of that housing by municipalities is not required, they are encouraged but not mandated to expend their own resources to help provide low and moderate income housing.**

3. The Legislature declares that the statutory scheme set forth in this act is in the public interest in that it comprehends a low and moderate income housing planning and financing mechanism in accordance with regional considerations and sound planning concepts which satisfies the constitutional obligation enunciated by the Supreme Court. *The Legislature declares that the State's preference for the resolution of existing and future disputes in-

volving exclusionary zoning is the mediation and review process set forth in this act and not litigation, and that it is the intention of this act to provide various alternatives to the use of the builder's remedy as a method of achieving fair share housing.*

4. As used in this act:

a. "Council" means the Council on Affordable Housing established in this act, which shall have primary jurisdiction for the administration of housing obligations in accordance with sound regional planning considerations in this State.

b. "Housing region" means a geographic area of no less than two nor more than four contiguous, whole counties which exhibit significant social, economic and income similarities, and which constitute to the greatest extent practicable the primary metropolitan statistical areas as last defined by the United States Census Bureau prior to the effective date of this act.

c. "Low income housing" means housing affordable according to federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to 50% or less of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is located.

d. "Moderate income housing" means housing affordable according to federal Department of Housing and Urban Development or other recognized standards for home ownership and rental costs and occupied or reserved for occupancy by household with a gross household income equal to more than 50% but less than 80% of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region in which the housing is located.

e. "Resolution of participation" means a resolution adopted by a municipality in which the municipality chooses to prepare a fair share "[study]" "plan" and housing element in accordance with this act.

f. "Inclusionary development" means a residential housing development in which a substantial percentage of the housing units are provided for a reasonable income range of low and moderate income households.

g. "Conversion" means the conversion of existing commercial, industrial, or residential structures for low and moderate income housing purposes where a substantial percentage of the housing units are provided for a reasonable income range of low and moderate income households.

h. "Development" means any development for which permission

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may be required pursuant to the "Municipal Land Use Law," P. L.

1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-1 et seq.).

*i. "Agency" means the New Jersey Mortgage and Housing Finance Agency established by P. L. 1983, c. 530 (C. 55:14K-1

et seq.).* 43

j. "Prospective Need" means a projection of housing needs based on development and growth which is reasonably likely to occur in a region or a municipality, as the case may be, as a result of actual determination of public and private entities. In determining prospective need consideration shall be given to approvals of development application, real property transfers and economic projections prepared by the State Planning Commission established by P. L. ..., c. ... (now pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 1464 of 1984).

5. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of Community Affairs a Council on Affordable Housing to consist of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State, of whom four shall be elected officials representing the interests of local government, at least one of whom shall be representative of an urban municipality having a population in excess of 40,000 persons and a population density in excess of 3,000 persons per square mile, and no more than one of whom may be a representative of the interests of county government; **[three] ** **two ** shall represent the interests of households in need of low and moderate housing, "Tat least]" one of whom shall represent the interests of the builders of low and moderate income housing, and shall have an expertise in land use practices and housing issues **and one of whom shall be the executive director of the agency, serving ex officio **; and **[two] ** ** three ** shall represent the public interest. Not more than five of the nine shall be members of the same political party. The membership shall be 17A balanced to the greatest extent practicable among the various hous-17B ing regions of the State.

b. The members shall serve for terms of six years, except that of the members first appointed, two shall serve for terms of four years, three for terms of five years, and ""[four]" ""three" for terms of six years. All members shall serve until their respective successors are appointed and shall have qualified. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, but for

the remainder of the unexpired term only.

c. The members **excluding the executive director of the agency ** shall be compensated at the rate of \$150.00 for each sixhour day, or prorated portion thereof for more or less than six

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hours, spent in attendance at meetings and consultations and all members shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their duties.

d. The Governor shall "[appoint]" "nominate" the members within 30 days of the effective date of this act and shall designate a member to serve as chairman throughout the member's term of office and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

e. Any member may be removed from office for misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty, or other conduct evidencing unfitness for the office, or for incompetence. A proceeding for removal may be instituted by the Attorney General in the Superior Court. A member or employee of the council shall automatically forfeit his office or employment upon conviction of any crime. Any member or employee of the council shall be subject to the duty to appear and testify and to removal from his office or employment in accordance with the provisions of P. L. 1970, c. 72 (C. 2A:81-17.2a et seq.).

6. a. The council may establish, and from time to time alter, such plan of organization as it may deem expedient, and may incur

expenses within the limits of funds available to it.

b. The council shall elect annually by a majority of its members one of its members, other than the chairman, to serve as vicechairman for a term of one year and until his successor is elected. The vice-chairman shall carry out all of the responsibilities of the chairman as prescribed in this act during the chairman's absence, disqualification or inability to serve.

c. The council shall appoint and fix the salary of an executive director who shall serve at its pleasure. The council may employ such other personnel as it deems necessary. All employees of the council shall be in the unclassified service of the Civil Service. The council may employ legal counsel who shall represent it in any proceeding to which it is a party, and who shall render legal advice to the council. The council may contract for the services of other professional, technical and operational personnel and consultants as may be necessary to the performance of its duties. *[Members and employees] * *Employees * shall be enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement System of New Jersey established under P. L. 1954, c. 84 (C. 43:15A-1 et seq.).

7. It shall be the duty of the council, "[six]" "seven" months after the ** [effective date of this act] ** ** confirmation of the last mem-24 ber initially appointed to the council, or January 1, 1986, whichever

2B is earlier **, and from time to time thereafter, to:

a. Determine housing regions of the State I, in the establishment

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of which the council shall give particular attention to the recommendations of the Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers, the State University]*;

b. Estimate the present and prospective need for low and moderate income housing at the State and regional level;

c. Adopt criteria and guidelines for:

- 10 (1) Municipal determination of its present and prospective fair share of the housing need in a given region. Municipal fair share 11A shall be determined after crediting on a one to one basis each 11B current unit of low and moderate income housing of adequate 11c standard, including any such housing constructed or acquired as 11p part of a housing program specifically intended to provide housing 11E for low and moderate income households";
- (2) Municipal adjustment of the present and prospective fair share based upon available vacant and developable land, infra-13 structure considerations or *environmental or* historic preservation factors "and adjustments shall be made whenever:
 - (a) The preservation of historically or important architecture and sites and their environs or environmentally sensitive lands may be jeopardized,
 - (b) The established pattern of development in the community would be drastically altered,
 - (c) Adequate land for recreational, conservation or agricultural and farmland preservation purposes would not be provided.

(d) Adequate open space would not be provided,

- (e) The pattern of development is contrary to the planning designations in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan prepared pursuant to P. L. ..., c. ... (now pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 1464 of 1984).
- (f) Vacant and developable land is not available in the municipality, and
- (g) Adequate public facilities and infrastructure capacities are not available, or would result in costs prohibitive to the public if provided **; and
- (3) Phasing of present and prospective fair share housing requirements pursuant to section 23 of this act.
- d. Provide population and household projections for the State and housing regions.
- **e. May in its discretion, place a limit, based on a percentage of existing housing stock in a municipality and any other criteria including employment opportunities which the council deems appropriate, upon the aggregate number of units which may be allocated to a municipality as its fair share of the region's present and prospective need for low and moderate income housing. **

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In carrying out the above duties, *including, but not limited to, present and prospective need estimations* the council shall give appropriate weight to pertinent research studies, government reports, decisions of other branches of government, implementation of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan prepared pursuant to P. L. ..., c. (now pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 1464 of 1984) and public comment. *To assist the council, the State Planning Commission established under that act shall provide the council annually with economic growth, development and decline projections for each housing region for the next six years.* The council shall develop procedures for periodically adjusting regional need based upon the low and moderate income housing that is provided in the region through "Tthe Fair Housing Trust Fund Account established in section 20 of this act or] ** any "*Tother" federal, State, municipal or private housing pro-

8. Within four months after the ** [effective date of this act] ** **confirmation of the last member initially appointed to the council, or January 1, 1986, whichever is earlier **, the council shall, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), "[adopt]" "propose" procedural rules.

9. *a.* Within four months after the effective date of this act, each municipality which so elects shall, by a duly adopted resolution of participation, notify the council of its intent to submit to the council its fair share housing plan. Within "[four]" "five" months after the council's adoption of its criteria and guidelines, the municipality shall prepare and file with the council a housing element, based on the council's criteria and guidelines, and any **[adopted] ** **fair share housing ** ordinance **[revisions] ** 84 **introduced and given first reading and second reading in a hear-8n ing pursuant to R. S. 40:49-2** which **[implement] ** ** imple-8c ments** the housing element.

*b. A municipality which does not notify the council of its participation within four months may do so at any time thereafter. In any exclusionary zoning litigation instituted against such a municipality, however, there shall be no exhaustion of administrative remedy requirements pursuant to section 16 of this act unless the municipality also files its fair share plan and housing element with the council prior to the institution of the litigation.

10. A municipality's housing element shall be designed to achieve the goal of access to affordable housing to meet present and "[future]" "prospective" housing needs, with particular attention to low and moderate income housing, and shall contain at least:

a. An inventory of the municipality's housing stock by age, condition, purchase or rental value, occupancy characteristics, and type, including the number of units affordable to low and moderate income household **and substandard housing capable of being re-8a habilitated, and in conducting this inventory the municipality shall 8b have access, on a confidential basis for the sole purpose of conduct-8c ing the inventory, to all necessary property tax assessment records 8d and information in the assessor's office, including but not limited 8d to the property record cards**;

b. A projection of the municipality's housing stock, including the probable future construction of low and moderate income housing, for the next six years, taking into account, but not necessarily limited to, construction permits issued, approvals of applications for development and probable residential development of lands;

c. An analysis of the municipality's demographic characteristics, including but not necessarily limited to, household size, income level and age;

d. An analysis of the existing and probable future employment characteristics of the municipality;

e. A determination of the municipality's present and prospective fair share for low and moderate income housing and its capacity to accommodate its present and prospective housing needs, including its fair share for low and moderate income housing; and

f. A consideration of the lands that are most appropriate for construction of low and moderate income housing and of the existing structures most appropriate for conversion to, or rehabilitation for, low and moderate income housing, including a consideration of lands of developers who have expressed a commitment to provide low and moderate income housing.

11. a. In adopting its housing element, the municipality may provide for its fair share of low and moderate income housing by means of any technique or combination of techniques which provide a realistic opportunity for the provision of the fair share. The housing element shall contain an analysis demonstrating that it will provide such a realistic opportunity, and the municipality shall establish that its land use and other relevant ordinances have been revised to incorporate the provisions for low and moderate income housing. In preparing the housing element, the municipality shall consider the following techniques for providing low and moderate income housing within the municipality, as well as such other techniques as may be published by the council or proposed by the municipality:

(1) Rezoning for densities necessary to assure the economic

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viability of any inclusionary developments, either through mandatory set asides or density bonuses, as may be necessary to meet all or part of the municipality's fair share;

(2) Determination of the total residential zoning necessary to

assure that the municipality fair share is achieved;

(3) Determination of measures that the municipality will take to assure that low and moderate income units remain affordable to low and moderate income households "[over a 30-year period]" 22A *for an appropriate period of not less than six years*;

(4) A plan for infrastructure expansion and rehabilitation if necessary to assure the achievement of the municipality's fair

share of low and moderate income housing;

(5) Donation or use of municipally owned land or land condemned by the municipality for purposes of providing low and moderate income housing;

(6) Tax abatements for purposes of providing low and moderate

income housing;

(7) Utilization of funds obtained from ** [the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account established pursuant to section 20 of this act or] ** any ** [other] ** State or federal subsidy toward the construction of low and moderate income housing; and

(8) Utilization of municipally generated funds toward the con-

struction of low and moderate income housing.

b. The municipality may provide for a phasing schedule for the achievement of its fair share of low and moderate income housing which is not inconsistent with section 23 of this act.

c. The municipality may propose that a portion of its fair share be met through a regional contribution agreement. The housing element shall demonstrate, however, the manner in which that portion will be provided within the municipality if the regional contribution agreement is not entered into. The municipality shall provide a statement of its reasons for the proposal.

*d. Nothing in this act shall require a municipality to raise or expend municipal revenues in order to provide low and moderate

income housing.

12. a. A municipality may propose the transfer of up to **[331/3%]** **50%** of its fair share to another municipality within its housing region by means of a contractual agreement into which two municipalities voluntarily enter. A municipality proposing to transfer to another municipality shall provide the council with the housing element and statement required under subsection c. of section 11 of this act, and shall request the council to determine a match with a municipality filing a statement of intent pur-

suant to subsection e. of this section. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, the agreement may be entered into upon obtaining substantive certification under section 14 of this act, or anytime thereafter. The regional contribution agreement entered into shall specify how the housing shall be provided by the second municipality, hereinafter the receiving municipality, and the amount of contributions to be made by the first municipality, hereinafter

the sending municipality.

b. A municipality which is a defendant in an exclusionary zoning suit and which has not obtained substantive certification pursuant to this act may request the court to be permitted to fulfill a portion of its fair share by entering into a regional contribution agreement. If the court believes the request to be reasonable, the court shall request the council to review the proposed agreement and to determine a match with a receiving municipality or municipalities pursuant to this section. The court may establish time limitations for the council's review, and shall retain jurisdiction over the matter during the period of council review. If the court determines that the agreement provides a realistic opportunity for the provision of low and moderate income housing within the housing region, it shall provide the sending municipality a credit against its fair share for housing to be provided through the agreement in the manner provided in this section.

The agreement shall be entered into prior to the entry of a final judgment in the litigation. In cases in which a final judgment was entered prior to the date this act takes effect and in which an appeal is pending, a municipality may request consideration of a regional contribution agreement provided that it is entered into within 120 days after this act takes effect. In a case in which a final judgment has been entered, the court shall consider whether or not the agreement constitutes an expenditious means of provid-

ing part of the fair share.

c. Regional contribution agreements shall be approved by the council, after review by the county planning board or agency of the county in which the receiving municipality is located. The council shall determine whether or not the agreement provides a realistic opportunity for the provision of low and moderate income housing within convenient access to employment opportunities. The council shall refer the agreement to the county planning board or agency which shall review whether or not the transfer agreement is in accordance with sound comprehensive regional planning. In its review, the county planning board or agency shall consider the master plan and zoning ordinance of

the sending and receiving municipalities, its own county master plan, and the State development and redevelopment plan. ** [The county planning board or agency shall receive a fee from the Fair Housing Trust Fund to reimburse it for the expenses of reviewing the regional contribution agreement. In the event that there is no county planning board or agency in the county in which the receiving municipality is located, the council shall also determine whether or not the agreement is in accordance with sound comprehensive regional planning. After it has been determined that the agreement provides a realistic opportunity for low and moderate income housing within convenient access to employment opportunities, and that the agreement is consistent with sound comprehensive regional planning, the council shall approve the regional contribution agreement by resolution. All determinations of a county planning board or agency shall be in writing and shall be made within such time limits as the council may prescribe, beyond which the council shall make those determinations and no fee shall be paid to the county planning board or agency pursuant to this subsection.

d. In approving a regional contribution agreement, the council shall set forth in its resolution a schedule of the contributions to be appropriated annually by the sending municipality. A copy of the adopted resolution shall be filed promptly with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, and the director shall thereafter not approve an annual budget of a sending municipality if it does not include appropriations necessary to meet the terms of the resolution. Amounts appropriated by a sending municipality for a regional contribution agreement pursuant to this section are exempt from the limitations or increases in final appropriations imposed under P. L. 1976, c. 68 (C. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.).

e. The council shall maintain current lists of municipalities which have stated an intent to enter into regional contribution agreements as receiving municipalities, and shall establish procedures for filing statements of intent with the council. No receiving municipality shall be required to accept a greater number of low and moderate income units through an agreement than it has expressed a willingness to accept in its statement, but the number stated shall not be less than a reasonable minimum number of units, not to exceed 100, as established by the council. The council shall require a project plan from a receiving municipality prior to the entering into of the agreement, and shall submit the project plan to the "[Department of Community Affairs]. *agency* for its

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95 review as to the feasibility of the plan prior to the council's approval of the agreement. The "[department]" "agency" may recommend and the council may approve as part of the project plan a provision that the time limitations for contractual guarantees or resale controls for low and moderate income units included in the 100 project shall be less than 30 years, if it is determined that modification is necessary to assure the economic viability of the project.

f. The council shall establish guidelines for the duration and 103 amount of contributions in regional contribution agreements. In 104 doing so, the council shall give substantial consideration to the 105 average of: (1) the median amount required to rehabilitate a 106 low and moderate income unit up to code enforcement standards; 107 (2) the average internal subsidization required for a developer to 108 provide a low income housing unit in an inclusionary development; 109 (3) the average internal subsidization required for a developer to 110 provide a moderate income housing unit in an inclusionary develop-111 ment. Contributions may be prorated in municipal appropriations 112 occurring over a period not to exceed six years **and may include 113 an amount agreed upon to compensate or partially compensate the 114 receiving municipality for infrastructure or other costs generated 114A to the receiving municipality by the development**. Appropria-114B tions shall be made and paid directly to the receiving municipality 114c or municipalities.

g. The council shall require receiving municipalities to file an116 nual reports with the "[Department of Community Affairs]"
117 "agency" setting forth the progress in implementing a project
118 funded under a regional contribution agreement, and the "[depart119 ment]" "agency" shall provide the council with its evaluation of
120 each report. The council shall take such actions as may be necessary
121 to enforce a regional contribution agreement with respect to the
122 timely implementation of the project by the receiving municipality.

13. A municipality which has filed a housing element may, at any time during a six year period following the filing of the housing element, petition the council for a substantive certification of its element and ordinances or institute an action for declaratory judgment granting it six-year repose in the Superior Court. The municipality shall publish notice of its petition in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality and county and shall make available to the public information on the element and ordinances in accordance with such procedures as the council shall establish. The council shall also establish a procedure for providing public notice of each petition which it receives.

14. Unless an objection to the substantive certification is filed

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11 12 with the council by any person within 45 days of the publication of the notice of the municipality's petition, the council shall review the petition and shall issue a substantive certification if it shall find that:

a. The municipality's fair share plan is consistent with the rules 6 7 and criteria adopted by the council and not inconsistent with achievement of the "Iregion's I low and moderate income housing needs *of the region as adjusted pursuant to the council's criteria 9A and quidelines adopted pursuant to subsection c. of section 7 of this 9B act*; and

b. The combination of the elimination of unnecessary housing cost generating features from the municipal land use ordinances and regulations, and the affirmative measures in the housing element and implementation plan make the achievement of the municipality's fair share of low and moderate income housing realistically possible after allowing for the implementation of any regional contribution agreement approved by the council.

In conducting its review, the council may meet with the municipality and may deny the petition or condition its certification upon changes in the element or ordinances. *Any denial or conditions for approval shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the denial or conditions. If, within 60 days of the council's denial or conditional approval, the municipality refiles its petition with changes satisfactory to the council, the council shall issue a sub-

stantive certification.

••Once substantive certification is granted the municipality shall have 45 days in which to adopt its fair share housing ordinance approved by the council.**

15. a. The council shall engage in a mediation and review process in the following situations: (1) if an objection to the municipality's petition for substantive certification is filed with the council within the time specified in section 14 of this act; or (2) if a request for mediation and review is made pursuant to section 16 of this act.

b. In cases in which an objection is filed to substantive certification the council shall meet with the municipality and the objectors and attempt to mediate a resolution of the dispute. If the mediation is successful, the council shall issue a substantive certification if it finds that the criteria of section 14 of this act have been met.

c. If the mediation efforts are unsuccessful, "Tthen the council shall conduct a review process in which objectors shall have the right to present their objections in the form of written submissions or expert reports and a reasonable opportunity shall be given to the objectors, the municipality, and their experts to be heard,

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but the review process shall not be considered ** ** the matter shall be transferred to the Office of Administrative Law as ** a contested case as defined in the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, 184 c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seg.).

** [The council may impose reasonable time limitations, such as one or two days, or such other period as the council determines to be appropriate in a particular case, upon the length of the hearing. The council may also impose reasonable limitations upon the length of presentation by both the municipality and by the objectors who challenge the adequancy of the housing element or the revisions of the land use ordinance, and upon the length of cross examination. The review process may be conducted by a panel of three council members, one from each category, *[staff,]* or an administrative law judge, as the council determines. After considering the submissions, reports, and testimony, the council, or a panel of three council members consisting of one local government, one housing and one public member, shall determine whether to grant substantive certification pursuant to section 14 of this act, to deny the petition, or to grant conditional approval. The representative of an urban municipality shall be considered a public member for the purpose of establishing panels. The council shall give detailed reasons for its decision. Any appeal of a council decision granting or denying substantive certification shall be to a trial court, which shall conduct an adjudicatory hearing.

d. In review and mediation processes instituted in accordance with section 16 of this act, the council shall attempt to mediate a resolution of the dispute between the litigants, provided that no agreement shall be entered by which a developer provides less than a substantial percentage of low and moderate income housing. The mediation process shall commence as soon as possible after the request for mediation and review is made, but in no case prior to the council's determination of housing regions and needs pursuant to section 7 of this act. In the event that the mediation between the litigants is successful, the municipality shall have the option of choosing whether or not to also seek substantive certification as provided in section 13 of this act. If mediation is not successful, the council shall conduct a review process as set forth in subsection c. to determine whether or not the municipality is entitled to substantive certification. T. . . The Office of Administrative Law shall expedite its hearing process as much as practicable by promptly assigning an administrative law judge to the matter; promptly scheduling an evidentiary hearing; expeditiously conducting and concluding the evidentiary hearing; limiting the time al-

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lotted for briefs, proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, forms of order or other disposition, or other supplemental material; and the prompt preparation of the initial decision. A written transcript of all oral testimony and copies of all exhibits introduced into evidence shall be submitted to the council by the Office of Administrative Law simultaneously with a copy of the inital decision. The evidentiary hearing hall be concluded and the initial decision issued no later than 90 days after the transmittal of the matter as a contested case to the Office of Administrative Law by the council, unless the time is extended by the Director of Administrative Law for good cause shown.**

16. For those exclusionary zoning cases instituted more than 60 days before the effective date of this act, "Ino exhaustion of the review and mediation procedures established in sections 14 and 15 of this act shall be required unless the court determines that a transfer of the case to the council is likely to facilitate and expedite the provision of a realistic opportunity for low and moderate income housing " any party to the litigation may file a motion with the court to seek a transfer of the case to the council. In determining whether or not to transfer, the court shall consider whether or not the transfer would result in a manifest injustice to any party to the litigation. If the municipality fails to file a housing element and 11A fair share plan with the council within "[four]" "five" months from 11B the date of transfer, or promulgation of criteria and guidelines by 11c the council pursuant to section 7 of this act, whichever occurs later, 11D jurisdiction shall revert to the court.

b. Any person who institutes litigation less than 60 days before the effective date of this act or after the effective date of this act challenging a municipality's zoning ordinance with respect to the opportunity to provide for low or moderate income housing, shall file a notice to request review and mediation with the council pursuant to sections 14 and 15 of this act. In the event that the municipality adopts a resolution of participation within the period established in *subsection a. of* section 9 of this act, the person shall exhaust the reveiw and mediation process of the council before being entitled to a trial on his complaint.

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17. a. In any exclusionary zoning case filed against a municipality which has a substantive certification and in which there is a requirement to exhaust the review and mediation process pursuant to section 16 of this act, there shall be a presumption of validity attaching to the housing element and ordinances implementing the

housing element. To rebut the presumption of validity, the complainant shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate **by clear

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and convincing evidence ** that the housing element and ordinances implementing the housing element do not provide a realistic opportunity for the provision of the municipality's fair share of low and moderate income housing after allowing for the implementation of any regional contribution agreement approved by the council.

b. There shall be a presumption of validity attaching to any regional contribution agreement approved by the council. To rebut the presumption of validity, the complainant shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate **by clear and convincing evidence** that the agreement does not provide for a realistic opportunity for the provision of low and moderate income housing 18A within the housing region.

c. The council shall be made a party to any exclusionary zoning suit against a municipality which receives substantive certification, and shall be empowered to present to the court its reasons for

granting substantive certification.

18. If a municipality which has adopted a resolution of participation pursuant to section 9 of this act fails to "Isubmit] "meet the deadline for submitting* its housing element to the council prior to the institution of exclusionary zoning litigation, the obligation to exhaust administrative remedies contained in subsection b. of section 16 of this act automatically expires. The obligation also expires if the council rejects the municipality's request for substantive certification or conditions its certification upon changes which are not made within the period established in this act or within an extension of that period agreed to by the council and all litigants.

19. If the council has not completed its review and mediation process for a municipality within six months of receipt of a request by a party who has instituted litigation, the party may file a motion with a court of competent jurisdiction to be relieved of the duty to exhaust administrative remedies. In the case of review and mediation requests filed within nine months after this act takes effect, the six-month completion date shall not begin to run until nine months after this act takes effect.

20. "There is established in the State General Fund an account entitled the "Fair Housing Trust Fund Account." There shall be established within that account the following subaccounts: a general account and an account for each housing region established by the council to be entitled the "(insert names of counties in the housing region) Regional Housing Trust Fund Account." Funds in the account shall be maintained by the State Treasurer and may be held in depositories as the State Treasurer may select,

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and be invested and reinvested as are other funds in the custody of the State Treasurer in the manner provided by law, provided that all revenues from investments shall be credited to the account.

The State Trensurer shall credit to the general account all moneys appropriated to the "Fair Housing Trust Fund Account" pursuant to this act and 10% of the annual amount of realty transfer fees collected pursuant to P. L. 1968, c. 49 (C. 46:15-5 et seq.) and paid to the State Treasurer pursuant to section 4 of that act (C. 46:15-8).

There shall be credited to each regional housing trust fund account 90% of the annual amount of realty transfer fees collected pursuant to P. L. 196S, c. 49 (C. 46:15-5 et seq.) in the housing region to which a regional housing trust fund account pertains and paid to the State Treasurer pursuant to section 4 of that act (C. 46:15-8).

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account shall be an eligible fund for the purposes of providing housing to low and moderate income households, and any federal, State or local government, agency or instrumentality may appropriate, deposit or invest or reinvest its funds in the account for those purposes. No such funds shall be deposited therein without the approval of the council and the State Treasurer, and the State Treasurer shall provide for the separate maintenance, holding and accounting for those funds within the general account of the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account to the extent required by law.] ** **The Neighborhood Preservation Program within the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Housing and Development, established pursuant to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs' authority under section 8 of P. L. 1975, c. 248 (C. 52:27D-149), shall establish a separate Neighborhood Preservation Nonlapsing Revolving Fund for monies appropriated by section 33 of this act.

a. The commissioner shall award grants or loans from this fund to municipalities whose housing elements have received substantive certification from the council, to municipalities subject to builder's remedy as defined in section 31 of this act or to receiving municipalities in cases where the council has approved a regional contribution agreement and a project plan developed by the receiving municipality. The commissioner shall assure that a substantial percentage of the loan or grant awards shall be made to projects and programs in those municipalities receiving State aid pursuant to P. L. 1978, c. 14 (C. 52:27D-178 et seq.).

b. The commissioner shall establish rules and regulations gov-

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reasonable percentage of the construction costs of the low and moderate income housing to be provided.

e. Any grant or loan agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall incorporate contractual guarantees and procedures by which the division will ensure that any unit of housing provided 100 for low and moderate income households shall continue to be oc-101 cupied by low and moderate income households for at least 20 years 102 following the award of the loan or grant except that the division 103 may approve a guarantee for a period of less than 20 years where 104 necessary to ensure project feasibility.**

21. ** [Funds in the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account shall be appropriated annually by the Legislature, and shall be used solely by the council for awards of assistance, loans or grants to or on behalf of public or private housing projects or programs which will provide affordable low and moderate income housing.

Amounts appropriated to the general account pursuant to this act shall be used within the first 18 months following the organization of the council. Except as provided below, amounts deposited in the general account thereafter shall be applied by the council generally in the State for the purposes set forth in subsections a. through h. of this section. Amounts deposited annually in the general account from realty transfer fees shall be used annually by the council for personnel, administrative and technical services, for litigation costs incurred by the council, and for reimbursing county planning boards and agencies for costs incurred in reviewing regional contribution agreements. The State Treasurer shall adopt regulations under which county planning boards and agencies shall report costs incurred in performing these duties, for the purpose of making payments from the general account within the limits established by legislative appropriations.

Amounts deposited annually in a regional housing trust fund account shall be used exclusively within the housing region to which the account pertains.

Except as provided above, amounts in the general account of the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account, and amounts in the regional housing trust fund accounts shall be applied for the following purposes:

- a. Rehabilitation of substandard housing units occupied or to be occupied by low and moderate income households pursuant to contractual guarantees for at least 30 years following the awarding of the loan or grant;
- b. Accessory conversions for housing units occupied or to be occupied by low and moderate income households pursuant to

4 contractual guarantees for at least 30 years following the awarding 5 of the loan or grant;

c. Conversion of nonresidential space to residential purposes provided a substantial percentage of the resulting housing units are occupied or to be occupied by low and moderate income households pursuant to contractual guarantees for at least 30 years following the awarding of the loan or grant;

d. Inclusionary developments of which a substantial percentage of the housing units will be occupied by low and moderate income households for at least 30 years pursuant to contractual guarantees;

e. Grants of assistance to receiving municipalities under regional contribution agreements entered into under this act for costs of necessary studies, surveys, plans and permits, engineering, architectural and other technical services, costs of land acquisition and any buildings thereon, and costs of site preparation, demolition and infrastructure development for projects undertaken pursuant to a regional contribution agreement;

f. Assistance to a local housing authority, nonprofit or limited dividend housing corporation or association for rehabilitation or restoration of housing units which it administers which: (1) are unusable or in a serious state of disrepair; (2) can be restored in an economically feasible and sound manner; and (3) can be retained in a safe, decent and sanitary manner, upon completion of rehabilitation or restoration.

g. Such other housing programs for low and moderate income housing, including infrastructure projects directly facilitating the construction of low and moderate income housing not to exceed a reasonable percentage of the construction costs of the low and moderate income housing to be provided, as the council may deem necessary.

The council shall assure that a substantial percentage of the loan or grant awards made from the general account of the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account shall be made available to projects and programs in those municipalities receiving State aid pursuant to P. L. 1978, c. 14 (C. 52:27D-178 et seq.). The council shall assure that priority shall be accorded in loan and grant awards from a regional housing trust fund account to projects and programs in municipalities in the housing region which have filed statements of intent to enter into regional contribution agreements as receiving municipalities for grants of assistance pursuant to subsection e. of this section. Receiving municipalities entering into regional contribution agreements shall receive priority for additional assistance set forth in subsections a. through g. of this section from a regional housing trust fund account for at least one other low and

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moderate income housing unit for each housing unit accepted under a regional contribution agreement. Priority accorded under this section shall be subject to the availability of funds in the regional housing trust funds account and to a favorable evaluation of feasibility pursuant to section 22 of this act.

The council shall establish rules and regulations governing the qualifications of applicants, the application procedures, and the criteria for awarding grants and loans and the standards for establishing the amount, terms and conditions of each grant or loan.] ** **The agency shall establish affordable housing programs to assist municipalities in meeting the obligation of developing communities to provide low and moderate income housing:

a. Of the bond authority allocated to it under section 20 of P. L. 1983, c. 530 (C. 55:14K-20) the agency will allocate, for a reasonable period of time established by its board, no less than 25% to be used in conjunction with housing to be constructed or rehabilitated with assistance under this act.

b. The agency shall to the extent of available funds, award assistance to affordable housing programs located in municipalities whose housing elements have received substantive certification from the council, or which have been subject to a builder's remedy or which are in furtherance of a regional contribution agreement ap-100 proved by the council. During the first 12 months from the effective 101 date of this act and for any additional period which the council may 102 approve, the agency may assist affordable housing programs which 103 are not located in municipalities whose housing elements have been 104 granted substantive certification or which are not in furtherance of 105 a regional contribution agreement provided the affordable housing 106 program will meet all or in part a municipal low and moderate in-107 come housing obligation.

108 c. Assistance provided pursuant to this section may take the form 109 of grants or awards to municipalities, prospective home purchasers, 110 housing sponsors as defined in P. L. 1983, c. 530 (C. 55:14K-1 et 111 seq.), or as contributions to the issuance of mortgage revenue 112 bonds or multi-family housing development bonds which have the 113 effect of achieving the goal of producing affordable housing.

d. Affordable housing programs which may be financed or as-115 sisted under this provision may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Assistance for home purchase and improvement including 117 interest rate assistance, down payment and closing cost assistance, 118 and direct grants for principal reduction;

(2) Rental programs including loans or grants for developments 120 containing low and moderate income housing, moderate rehabilita121 tion of existing rental housing, congregate care and retirement 122 facilities:

123 (3) Financial assistance for the conversion of nonresidential

124 space to residences;

125 (4) Other housing programs for low and moderate income hous-126 ing, including infrastructure projects directly facilitating the con-127 struction of low and moderate income housing; and

128 (5) Grants or loans to municipalities, housing sponsors and com-129 munity organizations to encourage development of innovative ap-

130 proaches to affordable housing, including:

131 (a) Such advisory, consultation, training and educational ser-132 vices as will assist in the planning, construction, rehabilitation and 133 operation of housing; and

134 (b) Encouraging research in and demonstration projects to de-135 velop new and better techniques and methods for increasing the 136 supply, types and financing of housing and housing projects in the 137 State.

e. The agency shall establish procedures and guidelines governing the qualifications of applicants, the application procedures and the criteria for awarding grants and loans for affordable housing programs and the standards for establishing the amount, terms

142 and conditions of each grant or loan.

f. In consultation with the council, the agency shall establish 144 requirements and controls to insure the maintenance of housing 145 assisted under this act as affordable to low and moderate income 146 households for a period of not less than 20 years; provided that 147 the agency may establish a shorter period upon a determination 148 that the economic feasibility of the program is jeopardized by the 149 requirement and the public purpose served by the program out-150 weights the shorter period. The controls may include, amoung 151 others, requirements for recapture of assistance provided pursuant 152 to the act or restrictions on return on equity in the event of failure 153 to meet the requirements of the program. With respect to rental 154 housing financed by the agency pursuant to this act or otherwise 155 which promotes the provision or maintenance of low and moderate 156 income housing, the agency may waive restrictions on return on 157 equity required pursuant to P. L. 1983, c. 530 (C. 55:14K-1 et seq.) 158 which is gained through the sale of the property or of any interest 159 in the property or sale of any interest in the housing sponsor.

160 g. The agency may establish affordable housing programs 161 through the use or establishment of subsidiary corporations or de-162 velopment corporations as provided in P. L. 1983, c. 530 (C. 163 55:14K-1 et seq.). The subsidiary corporations or development

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164 corporations shall be eligible to receive funds provided under this 165 act for any permitted purpose.**

22. ** [a. Except for housing receiving assistance under subsection b. of this section, the council shall refer all housing proposed to be funded in whole or in part from amounts deposited in the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account to the *[Division of Housing in the Department of Community Affairs 1 * *agency * for evaluation as to the feasibility of the housing. The council shall not finance any housing for which the "[division]" "agency" does not provide a 7 favorable evaluation of feasibility. With respect to housing to be undertaken in municipalities which have filed statements of intent 10 to enter into regional contribution agreements, or which have entered into agreements, the *[division] * *agency* may recommend 11 12 as part of the feasibility evaluation, and the council may approve, a 13 provision that the low and moderate income housing units shall be 14 subject to contractual guarantees or resale controls for a time of less than 30 years, if it is determined that modification is necessary to assure the economic viability of the housing. The council may 17 establish procedures and time limitations for the conduct of the feasibility evaluations, beyond which the council may proceed with 19 the housing notwithstanding the "[division's]" "agency's" failure 19a to complete a feasibility evaluation.

b. The council, may enter into agreement with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Financing Agency under which amounts credited to the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account shall be used to assist, in whole or in part, low and moderate income housing to be financed by the agency. An agreement shall be specific as to the housing, and shall set forth the times and schedule according to which amounts in the account shall be provided to the agency. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the State Treasurer, who shall administer the agreement in the course of his maintenance of the account. Agreements entered into under this subsection shall be subject to the requirement that amounts credited to a regional housing trust fund account shall be used exclusively within the housing region to which the account pertains. 1 ** ** Any municipality which has reached a settlement of any exclusionary zoning litigation prior to the effective date of this act, shall not be subject to any exclusionary zoning suit for a six year period following the effective date of this act. Any such municipality shall be deemed to have a substantively certified housing element and ordinances, and shall not be required during that period to take any further actions with respect to provisions for low and moderate income housing in its land use ordinances or regulations. **

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23. a. A municipality which has an action pending or a judgment entered against it after the effective date of this act, or which had a judgment entered against it prior to that date and from which an appeal is pending, or which brings an action for declaratory judgment pursuant to section 13 of this act, shall upon municipal request be allowed to phase in its obligation for a fair share of low and moderate income housing. If such a phase-in is requested by the municipality, the court shall implement a phase-in for the issuance of final approvals, as defined in section 3.1 of P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-4), for low and moderate income housing, which shall be based on an analysis of the following factors:

(1) The size of the municipal *[obligation]* *fair share*;

(2) The present and projected capacity of the community's infrastructure, taking into account expansion and rehabilitation of existing facilities;

(3) Vacant developable land;

(4) Likely absorption rate for housing in light of market forces;

(5) Reasonable development priorities among areas of the community; and

(6) Past performance in providing low and moderate income housing, including credit for low and moderate income senior or disabled citizen housing.

b. The phase-in schedule shall provide for the grant of preliminary approvals to the developer subject to the phase-in schedule for final approvals in accordance with time periods set forth in sections 34, 36 and 48 of P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-46, 48 and 61), provided that such preliminary approvals shall confer vested rights as defined in subsection a. of section 37 of P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-49) for the period until the developer has the ability to proceed to final approval pursuant to the phase-in schedule. In any phase-in schedule for a development, all final approvals shall be cumulative.

c. The court shall, where appropriate, also implement a phase-in schedule for the market units in the inclusionary development which are not low and moderate income, giving due consideration to the plan for low and moderate income housing established in this section and the need to maintain the economic viability of the development.

d. In entering the phase-in order, the court shall consider whether or not it is necessary to condition the phase-in order upon a phase-in schedule for the construction of other development in the municipality to minimize an imbalance between available housing units and available jobs, or to prevent the sites which are the most appropriate or the only possible sites for the construction of low

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and moderate income housing from being used for other purposes, or to prevent limited public infrastructure capacities from being entirely utilized for other purposes.

e. In entering a phasing order, the court, upon municipal request, shall implement a specific phasing schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments. The court shall take into account the six analysis factors enumerated in subsection a. of this section, giving particular attention to:

(1) The size of the municipal "Tobligation" "fair share" which is to be provided in inclusionary developments;

(2) The extent and projected capacity of the community's infrastructure, taking into account expansion and rehabilitation of existing facilities; and

(3) The extent and pattern of growth within the municipality and region during the six years prior to the implementation of the phase-in plan.

The following time periods shall be guidelines for a phasing schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments, subject, however, to upward or downward modification based upon a review of the analysis factors:

Any municipality which has a fair share obligation to provide 2,000 or more low and moderate income units in inclusionary developments shall be entitled to consideration of a phase-in schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments of at least 20 years from the effective date of this act.

Any municipality which has a fair share obligation to provide between 1,500 and 1,999 low and moderate income units in inclusionary developments shall be entitled to consideration of a phasein schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments of at least 15 years from the effective date of this act.

Any municipality which has a fair share obligation to provide between 1,000 and 1,499 low and moderate income units in inclusionary developments shall be entitled to consideration of a phasein schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments of at least 10 years from the effective date of this act.

Any municipality which has a fair share obligation to provide between 500 and 999 low and moderate income units in inclusionary developments shall be entitled to consideration of a phase-in schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments of at least six years from the effective date of this act.

Any municipality which has a fair share obligation to provide less than 500 low and moderate income units in inclusionary developments shall be entitled to consideration of a phase-in schedule for the issuance of final approvals in inclusionary developments

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for such period of time, including a period of at least six years, as is determined to be reasonable pursuant to the analysis factors.

f. As part of a phasing order concerning inclusionary developments, the court may approve a municipal plan, or implement another plan, concerning priorities among developers and sites, and the timing in the issuance of final approvals to particular developers. Any plan concerning priorities and the timing of final approvals shall take into consideration:

(1) The location of various sites and their suitability for development pursuant to environmental protection and sound planning criteria, including their consistency with reasonable provisions

100 of municipal master plans;

101 (2) Infrastructure capacity or the ability to provide the capacity 102 for the site, and the readiness of a particular developer to com103 mence construction;

(3) Any settlements or court orders establishing priorities

105 among developers.

Consistent with the overall phasing schedule adopted pursuant 107 to the analysis factors, the municipality shall make a good faith 108 effort to time the issuance of final approvals for particular de-109 developments which it approves in a manner which enables the 110 realistic and economically viable construction of the development. 111 To this end, the municipality shall take into consideration the need 112 for sufficient development in a particular project to permit timely 113 recovery of infrastructure costs, and, in the case of a development 114 which will have a homeowners' association, to prevent the imposi-115 tion of excessive homeowners' fees because of the failure to achieve 116 economies of scale. In the case of developers who have previously 117 constructed residential developments in this State, a municipality 118 shall also take into consideration the greatest number of units 119 which the developer has constructed in any one development in 120 the State within any one year period; this factor shall be considered 121 if the municipality seeks to phase the issuance of final approvals 122 for the inclusionary development over a period greater than one 123 year.

24. The *[Division of Housing in the Department of Community Affairs]* *agency* shall establish procedures for entering into, and shall enter into, contractual agreements with willing municipalities or developers of inclusionary developments whereby the *[division]* *agency* will administer resale controls and rent controls in municipalities where no appropriate administrative agency exists. The contractual agreements shall be for the duration of the controls and shall involve eligibility determinations, determination of initial occupants, the marketing of units, maintenance of eligibility lists

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for subsequent purchasers or renters, and determination of maximum resale prices or rents. The division may enter into agreements whereby some or all of these responsibilities are performed by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.]* The *[division]* *agency* may charge the municipality or inclusionary developer a reasonable per unit fee for entering into such an agreement, or may charge a reasonable fee to a low or moderate income household at the time the home is sold subject to the resale control or both. "[Division]" "Agency" fees shall be established according to methods or schedules approved by the "[council]" "State Treasurer*;

25. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a municipality may purchase, **[condemn or otherwise acquire] ** **lease or acquire by gift ** real property and any estate or interest therein, which the municipal governing body determines necessary or useful for the construction or rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing or conversion to low and moderate income housing.

The municipality may provide for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of buildings, structures or other improvements necessary or useful for the provision of low and moderate income housing, and may provide for the reconstruction, conversion or rehabilitation of those improvements in such manner as may be necessary or useful for those purposes.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law regarding the conveyance, sale or lease of real property by municipalities, the municipal governing body may, by resolution, authorize the private sale and conveyance or lease of a housing unit or units acquired or constructed pursuant to this section, where the sale, conveyance or lease is to a low or moderate income household or nonprofit entity and contains a contractual guarantee that the housing unit will remain available to low and moderate income households for a period of at least 30 years.

26. Within ** [24] ** **12** months after the effective date of this act and every ** [two years] ** ** year ** thereafter, the * [council] * *agency * ** and the council ** shall report ** separately ** to the Governor and the Legislature on the effects of this act in promoting the provision of low and moderate income housing in the several housing regions of this State. **[The report shall give specific attention to the manner in which amounts expended from the Fair Housing Trust Fund Account, and amounts transferred between sending municipalities and receiving municipalities, have or have not been sufficient in promoting this end. I . The " [report] . "reports" may include recommendations for any revisions or changes in this

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11A act which the "[council] "agency" "[believes] " "and the coun-11B cil believe** necessary to more nearly effectuate this end.

12 Within 36 months after the effective date of this act, the council 13 shall report to the Governor and the Legislature concerning the 14 actions necessary to be taken at the State, regional, county and municipal levels to provide for the implementation and admin-16 istration of this act on a regional basis, including any revisions 17 or changes in the law necessary to accomplish that end. The council 18 may include in the report any recommendations or considerations 19 it may wish to provide regarding the advisability of implementing 20 and administering the act on a regional basis.

27. Amounts expended by a municipality in preparing and implementing a housing element and fair share plan pursuant to this act shall be considered a mandated expenditure exempt from the limitations on final appropriations imposed pursuant to P. L. 1976,

5 c. 68 (C. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.).

*28. **[For a period of 12 months following the effective date of this act, no judicial judgment or judgments issued on or after January 20, 1983, which require the provision of low and moderate income housing in a municipality, shall be implemented to the extent that the judgment or judgments require provision of any housing in the municipality which is not affordable to low or moderate income households, provided that nothing in this section shall affect any rights heretofore granted to a developer pursuant to municipal approval of a development application, or as a result of any court judgment or order, or any settlement of litigation.

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The Attorney General shall, not later than 30 days after this act becomes effective, file a complaint in the Superior Court for a declaratory judgment determining the constitutionality of this section. If that complaint is not filed within 30 days after the effective date of this act, this section shall be null and void. 1. **No builder's remedy shall be granted to a plaintiff in any exclusionary zoning litigation which has been filed on or after January 20, 1983, unless a final judgment providing for a builder's remedy has already been rendered to that plaintiff. This provision shall terminate upon the expiration of the period set forth in subsection a. of section 9 of this act for the filing with the council of the municipality's housing element.

For the purposes of this section, "final judgment" shall mean a judgment subject to an appeal as of right for which all right to

25 appeal is exhausted.

> For the purposes of this section "exclusionary zoning litigation" shall mean lawsuits filed in courts of competent jurisdiction in this

State challenging a municipality's zoning and land use regulations on the basis that the regulations do not make realistically possible the opportunity for an appropriate variety and choice of housing for all categories of people living within the municipality's housing region, including those of low and moderate income, who may desire to live in the municipality.

For the purpose of this section "builder's remedy" shall mean a court imposed remedy for a litigant who is an individual or a profit-making entity in which the court requires a municipality to utilize zoning techniques such as mandatory set asides or density bonuses which provide for the economic viability of a residential development by including housing which is not for low and moderate income households.**

**29. Section 19 of P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-28) is amended to read as follows:

Preparation; contents; modification.

a. The planning board may prepare and, after public hearing, adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.

b. The master plan shall generally comprise a report or statement and land use and development proposals, with maps, diagrams and text, presenting, where appropriate, the following elements:

- (1) A statement of objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality are based;
- (2) A land use plan element (a) taking into account the other master plan elements and natural conditions, including, but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands; (b) showing the existing and proposed location, extent and intensity of development of land to be used in the future for varying types of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, educational and other public and private purposes or combination of purposes; (c) showing the existing and proposed location of any airports and the boundaries of any airport hazard areas delineated pursuant to the "Air Safety and Hazardous Zoning Act of 1983," P. L. 1983, c. 260 (C. 6:1-80 et seq.); and (d) including a statement of the standards of population density and development intensity recommended for the municipality;
- (3) A housing plan element pursuant to section 10 of P. L. . . , c. . (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2046 and Senate

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Bill No. 2334), including, but not limited to, residential standards and proposals for the construction and improvement of housing;

(4) A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about, and through the municipality;

(5) A utility service plan element analyzing the need for and showing the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities;

(6) A community facilities plan element showing the location and type of educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas;

(7) A recreation plan element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation;

- (8) A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, open space, water, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, wildlife and other natural resources:
- (9) An energy conservation plan element which systematically analyzes the impact of each other component and element of the master plan on the present and future use of energy in the municipality, details specific measures contained in the other plan elements designed to reduce energy consumption, and proposes other measures that the municipality may take to reduce energy consumption and to provide for the maximum utilization of renewable energy sources; and
- (10) Appendices or separate reports containing the technical foundation for the master plan and its constituent elements.
- c. The master plan and its plan elements may be divided into subplans and subplan elements projected according to periods of time or staging sequences.
- d. The master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan to (1) the master plans of contiguous municipalities, (2) the master plan of the county in which the municipality is located and (3) any comprehensive guide plan pursuant to section 15 of P. L. 1961, c. 47 (C. 13:1B-15.52).

30. Section 49 of P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-62) is amended to read as follows:

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49. Power to zone.

a. The governing body may adopt or amend a zoning ordinance relating to the nature and extent of the uses of land and of buildings and structures thereon. Such ordinance shall be adopted after the planning board has adopted the land use plan element and the housing plan element of a master plan, and all of the provisions of such zoning ordinance or any amendment or revision thereto shall either be substantially consistent with the land use plan element and the housing plan element of the master plan or designed to effectuate such plan Felement ? elements; provided that the governing body may adopt a zoning ordinance or amendment or revision thereto which in whole or part is inconsistent with or not designed to effectuate the land use plan element and the housing plan element, but only by affirmative vote of a majority of the full authorized membership of the governing body, with the reasons of the governing body for so acting recorded in its minutes when adopting such a zoning ordinance; and provided further that, notwithstanding anything aforesaid, the governing body may adopt an interim zoning ordinance pursuant to subsection 77 b. of this act.

The zoning ordinance shall be drawn with reasonable consideration to the character of each district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses and to encourage the most appropriate use of land. The regulations in the zoning ordinance shall be uniform throughout each district for each class or kind of buildings or other structures or uses of land, including planned unit development, planned unit residential development and residential cluster, but the regulations in one district may differ from those in other districts.

b. No zoning ordinance and no amendment or revision to any zoning ordinance shall be submitted to or adopted by initiative or referendum.

c. The zoning ordinance shall provide for the regulation of any airport hazard areas delineated under the "Air Safety and Hazardous Zoning Act of 1983," P. L. 1983, c. 260 (C.6:1-80 et seq.), in conformity with standards promulgated by the Commissioner of Transportation.

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31. Until August 1, 1988, any municipality may continue to regulate development pursuant to a zoning ordinance in accordance with section 49 of the "Municipal Law Use Law," P. L. 1975, c. 291 (C. 40:55D-62) as same read before the effective date of this act.

"[29.]" "32." If any part of this act shall be held invalid, the holding shall not affect the validity of remaining parts of this act. If a part of this act is held invalid in one or more of its applications, the act shall remain in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid application."

C 222-32

1 *[28.]* **[*30.*]** **33.** There is appropriated to the Council 2 on Affordable Housing from the General Fund the sum of \$1,000,000.00, and there is appropriated **[to the Fair Housing 4 Trust Fund Account]** from the General Fund the sum of **[\$25,000,000.00 to effectuate the purposes of that account.]** 6 **\$17,000,000.00 to be allocated as follows:

a. \$2,000,000.00 to the Neighborhood Preservation Fund established pursuant to the "Maintenance of Viable Neighborhoods Act" 8 P. L. 1975, c. 248 (C. 52:27D-146 et seq.) which shall be used to 9 effectuate the purposes set forth in section 20 of this act. b. 10 \$15,000,000.00 to the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency to be used to effectuate the purpose of section 21 of this act.

Of the amounts herein appropriated a reasonable sum, approved by the Treasurer may be expended for the administration of this act by the Department of Community Affairs and the agency.**

[29.] **[*31.*]** **34.** This act shall take effect immediately but shall remain inoperative until the enactment of P. L. ..., c. ... (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 3117).

EXHIBIT C

FRANK A. SANTORO
2013 PARK AVENUE
P. O. BOX 272
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N. J. 07080
(201) 561-6868
ATTORNEY FOR Defendants

Plaintiff

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER
NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

vs.

Defendant

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants,

VS.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD BY ITS MAYOR AND COUNCIL, et al.,

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY Civil Action No. C-4122-73

LAW DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY No. 56349-81

Docket No. C-4122-73

CIVIL ACTION

NOTICE OF MOTION TO TRANSFER ACTION TO COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND OTHER RELIEF

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday, July 23, 1985 at 2:00 p.m upon short notice determined by the Court, the Borough of South Plainfield, defendants in the above matter shall move before the Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli at the Court House, Toms River, New Jersey for an Order:

TO: The Honorable Eugene D: Serpentelli
Assignment Judge, Superior Court
Ocean County Court House
Toms River, New Jersey 08754

John M. Mayson Clerk, Superior Court Hughes Justice. Complex Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Eric Neisser, Esq.
Barbara J. Williams, Esq.
John M. Payne, Esq.
Constitutional Litigation Clinic
Rutgers Law School
15 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Peter J. Calderone, Esq.
Attorney for South Plainfield Planning Board
19 Holly Park Drive
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

William V. Lane, Esq.
Attorney for South Plainfield Board of Adjustment 324 East Broad Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07091

Angelo H. Dalto, Esq.
Attorney for <u>Elderlodge</u> Plaintiff
1550 Park Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Raymond Miller, Esq.
Attorney for Tonsar Corp.
2301 Maple Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Leonard H. Selesner, Esq. Attorney for Gal-Ker, Inc. 225 Millburn Avenue Millburn, New Jersey 07041

John George, Esq.
Attorney for Larry Massaro
277 South Plainfield Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Donald R. Daines, Esq.
Attorney for K. Hovnanian Companies of New Jersey
10 Highway 35, PO Box 500
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

Joseph Buccellato
2232 Park Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

(1) Permitting the Borough of South Plainfield to transfer the matter of the adoption of Affordable Housing Ordinances Nos. 1009 and 1010, which said ordinances were introduced by defendants at a public hearing July 8, 1985, to the Council on Affordable Housing under the applicable provisions of the "Fair Housing Act".

(2) To dissolve the restraints imposed upon defendants under Court Order dated July 3, 1985 in so far as those restraints prevent the defendants from issuing building permits, site plan and subdivision approvals and consummating current and pending land sale transactions involving the sale and/or exchange and transfer of Borough owned lands for all real estate located in the Borough not subject to the "least cost housing" provisions of Ordinance 1009.

(3) Such other and further relief that the Court deems equitable and just.

In support of this motion, defendants will rely upon the certification of Frank A. Santoro, Esq., attorney for defendants, and a Memorandum of Law in support. A proposed form of Order is attached.

FRANK A. SANTORO

Attorney for Defendants Borough of South Plainfield

Dated: July 18, 1985

FRANK A. SANTORO
2013 PARK AVENUE
P. O. BOX 272
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N. J. 07080
(201) 561-6868
ATTORNEY FOR Defendants

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY Civil Action No. C-4122-73

Plaintiff

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al., Plaintiffs, MIDDLESEX COUNTY No. 56349-81

LAW DIVISION

V8.

Defendant

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

vs.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD BY ITS MAYOR AND COUNCIL, et al.,

Defendants.

Docket No. C-4122-73

CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO TRANSFER ACTION TO COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Frank A. Santoro, hereby certifies as follows:

(1) I am an attorney at law of the state of New Jersey and the municipal attorney for the Borough of South Plainfield, one of the defendants in the above captioned matter. I have served in this capacity since January 1, 1985 and am fully familiar with the litigation of this matter, including the hearings

before the Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli on November 2, 1984, and June 24, 1985, and the Orders of the Court issued as a result of those hearings.

- (2) On June 24 and 27, 1985, the New Jersey Legislature adopted Senate Bills Nos. 2046 and 2334 entitled "The Fair Housing Act". On July 3, 1985, Governor Thomas H. Kean signed the aforesaid legislation into law.
- (3) The Judgement as to the Borough of South Plainfield dated May 22, 1984, requires the Borough to zone for 900 "least cost" housing units by 1990 and designates seven sites in the Borough to accommodate such zoning; requiring as it does, densities of from 12 to 15 units per acre and mandatory 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income set asides. With such set asides, the Borough of South Plainfield shall be required to allow for the construction of up to 4500 new residential housing units.
- (4) The Borough of South Plainfield has a current housing stock of approximately 6000 residential units comprising mainly single family residences. The required increase in the number of housing units will drastically impact the Borough's fiscal capabilities for such things as the construction of new schools, new roads, expanded police and fire services. More importantly, the required increase in the number of housing units and the density of same shall severely impair the established pattern of development in the Borough; deplete available land for recreational, conservation, agricultural and farmland

preservation purposes; and seriously overload the public facilities and infrastructure capacities of the Borough.

- (5) The Borough of South Plainfield shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid "Fair Housing Act", a Resolution of Participation and prepare and file a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan within the time proscribed by Section 9 of the Act.
- (6) The Borough of South Plainfield may propose to transfer up to 50 percent of its fair share to another municipality within its housing region in accordance with Section 12 of the Act.
- (7) In order that the defendant Borough of South Plainfield be allowed to avail itself of the benefits of the aforesaid "Fair Housing Act" provisions, it is requested that the Court approve the transfer of the case forthwith and grant the further relief requested regarding the dissolution of the restraints against the issuance of building permits, site plan and subdivision approvals and consummating existing land sale transactions for non-Mount Laurel inventoried lands.

I hereby certify that the above statements are true. I am aware that if any of the above statements are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment.

FRANK A. SANTORO

Attorney for Defendant

Borough of South Plainfield

Dated: July 18, 1985

FRANK A. SANTORO
2013 PARK AVENUE
P. O. BOX 272
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N. J. 07080
(201) 561-6868
ATTORNEY FOR Defendants

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY Civil Action No. C-4122-73

Plaintiff

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al., Plaintiffs, LAW DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY No. 56349-81

US.

Defendant

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

vs.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD BY ITS MAYOR AND COUNCIL, et al.,

Defendants.

Docket No. C-4122-73

CIVIL ACTION

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO TRANSFER ACTION TO COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Defendant, Borough of South Plainfield, moves to request the Court's permission to transfer the action as against it to the Council on Affordable Housing. Defendant, Borough of South Plainfield, also requests that the Court dissolve the restraints as to the issuance of building permits, site plan and subdivision approvals and consummating land sale or

exchanges of Borough owned lands, all said items as they pertain to non-Mount Laurel inventoried lands.

The legislation just enacted and entitled "Fair Housing Act" provides the basis for the defendant's requested relief:

"16. For those exclusionary zoning cases instituted more than 60 days before the effective date of this act, any party to the litigation may file a motion with the court to seek a transfer of the case to the council. In determining whether or not to transfer, the court shall consider whether or not the transfer would result in a manifest injustice to any party to the litigation. If the municipality fails to file a housing element and fair share plan with the council within five months from the date of transfer, or promulgation of criteria and guidelines by the council pursuant to section 7 of this act, whichever occurs later, jurisdiction shall revert to the court."

FAIR HOUSING ACT Section 16 Senate Bills 2046 & 2334

and

Section 9, FAIR HOUSING ACT, supra

"9.a. Within four months after the effective date of this act, each municipality which so elects shall, by a duly adopted resolution of participation, notify the council of its intent to submit to the council its fair share housing plan. Within five months after the council's adoption of its criteria, and guidelines, the municipality shall prepare and file with the

council a housing element, based on the council's criteria and guidelines, and any fair share housing ordinance introduced and given first reading and second reading in a hearing pursuant to R.S. 40:40-2 which implements the housing element.

b. A municipality which does not notify the council of its participation within four months may do so at any time thereafter In any exclusionary zoning litigation instituted against such a municipality, however, there shall be no exhaustion of administrative remedy requirements pursuant to section 16 of this act unless the municipality also files its fair share plan and housing element with the council prior to the institution of the litigation."

This Court has stated, as indeed it must, that "rezoning under Mount Laurel II doesn't prejudice the town's right to appeal...seeing that the legislature acts as it should act so the courts don't have to..." Transcript pp 10-11, Hearing of November 2, 1984 before Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli.

The legislature has acted. It has provided a mechanism whereby the defendant Borough of South Plainfield can have its fair share numbers determined not by court appointed masters and experts, but by the Council on Affordable Housing.

The procedure and requested Order to Transfer on behalf of the defendant Borough of South Plainfield is hence in perfect harmony with what this Court has said and with what the New Jersey Supreme Court has said in Mount Laurel II, e.g., "We agree that the matter is better left with the legislature...We note that

there has been some legislative initiative in this field. We look forward to more: So. Burlington County NAACP v. Township of Mount Laurel, 92 N.J. 158(1983)@212.

The legislature has now established the mechanisms whereby "every municipality in a growth area...can provide through its land use regulations, a realistic opportunity for a fair share of its region's present and prospective needs for housing for low and moderate income families."

Those mechanisms which satisfy the constitutional obligations established by Mount Laurel II are adequately set forth in the "Fair Housing Act", the legislature declaring "the State's preference for the resolution of existing and future disputes involving exclusionary zoning is the mediation and review process set forth in this act and not litigation..." FAIR HOUSING ACT, Legislative Findings (emphasis added).

While the term "builder's remedy" is used in the Act, it is not defined therein. Hence, it is submitted that the Act was not intended to apply only to "builder's remedy" types of exclusionary zoning suits, but to any exclusionary zoning suit such as the instant case before the Court in which a final judgement has not been entered.

For purposes of the Act, "final judgement" is defined to mean a judgement subject to an appeal as of right for which all right to appeal is exhausted.

The judgement as to defendant Borough of South Plainfield entered by the Court on May 22, 1984 contained no right to appeal, indeed Mount Laurel II precluded any and all

interlocutory appeals. "Mount Laurel II", 92 N.J. 158(1983) at pp 290-291.

Finally, the test to be employed by the Court in acting upon this defendant's request to transfer is also set forth in Section 16 of the "Act".

"In determining whether or not to transfer, the Court shall consider whether or not the transfer would result in a manifest injustice to any party to the litigation."

It is respectfully submitted that the refusal to permit the requested transfer would be the "manifest injustice" for all of the above set for reasons and the reasons contained in the Certification of defendant's attorney.

The additional relief requested by this defendant comprises the dissolving of the restraints prohibiting the Borough of South Plainfield and its boards, agencies and officials from issuing building permits, site plan and subdivision approvals, consummating the finalization of land sale transactions involving Borough owned land. It is submitted that pending the "substantive certification" by the Council on Affordable Housing of the Borough's housing element that, restraining non-Mount Laurel II lands from development would be improper under all doctrines of equity and fairness to the property owners of the Borough not directly affected by the Court orders Mount Laurel II inventoried lands.

Hence, for all of the aforesaid reasons, the Court is respectfully requested to grant this defendant the relief herein sought.

Attorney for Defendant Borough of South Plainfield

Dated: July 18, 1985 FRANK A. SANTORO
2013 PARK AVENUE
P. O. BOX 272
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N. J. 07080
(201) 561-6868
ATTORNEY FOR Defendants

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY Civil Action No. C-4122-73

Plaintiff

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al., Plaintiffs, LAW DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY No. 56349-81

vs.

Defendant

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

Docket No. C-4122-73

ORDER

vs.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD BY ITS MAYOR AND COUNCIL, et al.,

Defendants.

This matter having been opened to the Court on motion of defendant, Borough of South Plainfield, and the Court having considered the Certification of Defendants and Memorandum of Law submitted in support thereof and the Affidavits, Memorandum of Law submitted by Plaintiffs in opposition to said motion, and the Court having heard oral argument in open court on July 1985 from all parties present,

It is hereby ORDERED this day of July, 1985 that:

- (1) The defendant, Borough of South Plainfield, be and hereby is permitted to transfer the matter of the adoption of defendant's proposed Ordinances 1009 and 1010 to the Council on Affordable Housing;
- (2) That the restraints imposed upon defendant, Borough of South Plainfield, preventing the defendant from issuing building permits, site plan and subdivision approvals and consummating current and pending land sale transactions for property not subject to the "least cost housing" provisions of proposed Ordinance 1009 be and hereby are dissolved.
- (3) That a copy of this Order be served upon all parties on the service list within days from the date hereof.

EUGENE D. SERPENTELLI, A.J.S.C.

EXHIBIT D

ERIC NEISSER, ESQ.
JOHN PAYNE, ESQ.
Constitutional Litigation Clinic
Rutgers Law School
15 Washington St., Newark, N.J. 07102
201/648-5687

BRUCE S. GELBER, ESQ.

JANET LA BELLA, ESQ.

National Committee Against

Discrimination in Housing

733 - 15th St. NW, Suite 1026

Washington, D.C. 20005

202/783-8150

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION-MIDDLESEX COUNTY

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER

NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

1

Docket No. C 4122-73

vs.] Civil Action

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.] STIPULATION

Plaintiffs and the Borough of South Plainfield, by their attorneys, hereby stipulate as follows:

1. The fair share methodologies set forth in the <u>Fair Share Report</u> of Carla L. Lerman, the Court-appointed expert in this action, dated April 2, 1984, and in the <u>Expert Report on Mount Laurel II Issues</u> prepared by Alan Mallach, plaintiffs' retained expert, dated December 1983, are both generally reasonable approaches to the fair share issues remanded to this Court by the Supreme Court.

- 2. The total present and prospective fair share allocation for South Plainfield through 1990 resulting from the Lerman methodology is 1725 units affordable by low and moderate income households and the fair share for South Plainfield resulting from the Mallach methodology is 1523 units. There is, however, insufficient vacant developable land suitable for development of low and moderate income housing to meet the full fair share resulting from either methodology. As of February 1984, there were only 641 vacant acres remaining in the Borough, of which a significant proportion were in floodplains, in an environmentally sensitive swampland, or in the midst of substantial existing industrial or commercial development. In addition, much of the remaining developable land is in small lots of less than 3 acres. In light of the remaining land, the fair share obligation of South Plainfield should be reduced to 900 units, to be allocated as 280 units of present need by 1990 and 620 units of prospective need by 1990.
- 3. The zoning ordinance of South Plainfield does not now have, and has not at any time since July 9, 1976, had, a zone for multi-family housing.
- 4. The only proposal for rezoning to permit more than two-family construction, which is set forth in the South Plainfield Planning Board's 1978 Review of the Master Plan, was rescinded by the Planning Board in its January 1980 Addendum No. 1 to the 1978 Review.
- 5. The zoning ordinance of South Plainfield does not provide, and has not at any time since July 9, 1976, provided, any mandatory set-aside, density bonus, waiver of zoning requirements, or affirmative municipal assistance for construction of housing affordable by persons of low or moderate income.

- 6. No multi-family housing other than two-family units has been constructed in South Plainfield since 1976.
- 7. The only proposal for multi-family housing in South Plainfield since 1976, a proposed six-story, 100-unit senior citizen housing project, was rejected by the Board of Adjustment on May 4, 1982. That decision of the Board of Adjustment was remanded to the Board of Adjustment for amplification and supplementation of the record in light of the decision in South Burlington County NAACP v. Township of Mount Laurel, 92 N.J. 158 (1983)

 (Mount Laurel II), in an order of this Court filed December 23, 1983 in Elderlodge, Inc. v. South Plainfield Board of Adjustment, No. L-56349-81 (Law Div., Middlesex County).
- 8. The only proposal for attached single family development in South Plainfield, a proposal by Bayberry Construction to construct 70 townhouses on 6.9 acres, was denied a variance by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment on January 3, 1984, in part because "the price range indicated is not within the 'low-income' as is required by recent Court decision."
- 9. It is likely that none of the single family and two-family homes approved or constructed in the Borough since 1976 is affordable by persons of low or moderate income, as defined by Paragraph 23 herein.
- 10. The Borough has not since 1976 provided for construction of any subsidized low or moderate income housing under any government subsidy program.
- 11. The Borough has obtained Middlesex County Community Development funds for rehabilitation of 33 housing units since 1976.
- 12. The 84.8 acre site on New Brunswick Avenue, known as the Harris Steel site and designated as Block 459 Lot 1, Block 460 Lot 1, Block 461

Lots 1-3, Block 462 Lot 2, Block 465 Lot 1, Block 466 Lot 1, Block 467

Lots 1, 3, 4, 5 and 21, is appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.'

- 13. The 27 acre site on New Durham Road, known as the Coppola farm and designated as Block 528 Lot 43, is appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.
- 14. The municipally owned site of approximately 25 acres at the northern tip of Kennedy Road, known as the Pomponio Avenue site and designated as Block 448 Lots 2.01 and 4.01 and Block 427 Lot 1.01, is appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 15 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units. Said 15 units include a density bonus of 3 units per acre by the Borough of South Plainfield to encourage construction of Mount Laurel housing and as such shall be considered a municipal contribution to the Pomponio Avenue site. The site shall include a 200-foot deep commercial development buffer on the westernmost portion of the site facing Clinton Avenue.
- 15. The 18+ acre site near Universal Avenue, known as the Universal Avenue site and designated as Block 255, Lots 14, 33 and 34, is appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.
- 16. The municipally owned site of approximately 8 acres and the adjoining privately owned parcels totalling approximately 4½ acres on either side of Frederick Avenue to the north of Sylvania Place, known as the

Frederick Avenue site and designated as Block 308 Lot 34, Block 310 Lots 1.01, 4.01, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17 and 18, and Block 311 Lots 16-36, are appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.

- known as the Morris Avenue site and designated as Block 111, Lots 1-4, Block 112, Lots 1, 2.01, Block 113, Lots 1.01, 2, 4, 5.01 and Block 115, Lots 1, 2, 2.01 and 3, is appropriate for development as a senior citizens housing project with a total of 100-150 units of which at least 50 percent will be affordable by low income households with the balance affordable by moderate income households, if the Borough would contribute the land and provide necessary financial support, including seed money and tax abatement.
- 18. The 7½ acre site south of Tompkins Avenue designated as Block 12, Lots 9, 16 and 17, and currently owned by the Archdiocese of Metuchen and planned to be used for church purposes, is appropriate for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units. In any event, if the Archdiocese of Metuchen should decide to utilize said property for use as a cemetery, then it shall apply for said use within a two-year period of the date of the entry of an Order of Compliance for the Borough of South Plainfield in this matter.
- 19. The 1.46 acre site on Hamilton Boulevard, known as the Elderlodge site and designated as Block 259, Lots 5, 6.01, 6.02, 7, and 12, is appropriate for development of a 100-unit multi-family development, with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units,

subject to reasonable conditions to be imposed by the Board of Adjustment.

- 20. The Borough permits use of modular or manufactured housing meeting state building code requirements and zoning requirements for residential development.
- 21. The likelihood that additional sites will become available in the future for development, as a result of demolition, accidental destruction or otherwise, dictates that an ongoing method be available to insure that sites that are suitable for multi-family development be developed with an appropriate percentage of lower income housing. The adoption of a conditional use provision to enable owners of such sites in excess of 3 acres in size, where appropriate, to develop multi-family housing with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income housing, subject to appropriate conditions which can be set forth in detail in the Borough zoning ordinance, is an appropriate means to achieve this objective.
- 22. The Borough will apply for all federal, state, and county funds that become available between the present and 1990 for rehabilitation of existing deficient housing units and for all funding that becomes available for subsidization of the construction or rent of new housing units.
- 23. Low income households are those earning less than 50 percent of the median household income in the 11-county region designated in the Lerman Report of April 2, 1984. Moderate income households are those earning between 50 and 80 percent of the median household income in that 11-county region.
- 24. To be affordable by low income households, units for sale may require the expenditure of no more than 28 percent of the household income for principal, interest, taxes, insurance, and condominium fees, and units for rent may require the expenditure of no more than 30 percent of

the household income for rent and utilities.

- 25. All units affordable by low and moderate income households must be affirmatively marketed by the developer throughout the 11-county region and all marketing practices must comply with federal and state laws against discrimination.
- 26. All units for sale affordable by low and moderate income households must contain deed restrictions limiting resale for a 30-year period to households of similar qualifications and these restrictions must be enforced by an appropriate agency independent of the developer.
- 27. All multi-family developments provided for herein shall contain a bedroom mix reflecting the distribution of housing needs in the ll-county region by household size.
- If, for any reason, the Court fails or refuses to enter Judgment directing appropriate rezoning and assuring an Order of Compliance to the Borough with accompanying six-year repose upon appropriate ordinance amendments, within 30 days of the signing of this Stipulation, either party is free to withdraw from this Stipulation and to proceed to trial on the issues herein, at which trial this Stipulation will not be admissible in evidence.

Plaintiffs Urban/League, et al.	Defendant Borough of South Plainfield
By Eric Neisser	By Patrick Diegnan
Date 5/16/87	Date 124 10 1484

EXHIBIT E

ERIC NEISSER, ESQ. JOHN M. PAYNE, ESQ. Constitutional Litigation Clinic Rutgers Law School 15 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102 201/648-5687

E. D. SERPENTELLI, J.S.C

BRUCE S. GELBER, ESQ. JANET LA BELLA, ESQ. National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing 733 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1026 Washington, D.C. 20005 202/783-8150

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION-MIDDLESEX COUNTY

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

Docket No. C 4122-73

Civil Action

JUDGMENT AS TO SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Plaintiffs having moved for summary judgment based upon the Stipulation between plaintiffs and the Borough of South Plainfield, and the Court having reviewed the Stipulation and referred it to the Court-appointed expert to report whether the terms of the Stipulation, including the fair share allocation, the designation of sites for multi-family development, and the procedures for insuring appropriate marketing and affordability controls are reasonable, and having heard counsel for both parties,

It Is, therefore, this 22 day of May, 1984, ORDERED and ADJUDGED:

- 1. The Borough of South Plainfield's fair share of the regional low and moderate income housing need through 1990 is 900 housing units, allocated as 280 units of present need and 620 units of prospective need.
- 2. The Borough of South Plainfield's existing zoning ordinance is not in compliance with the constitutional obligation set forth in Southern Burlington County NAACP'v. Township of Mount Laurel, 92 N.J. 158 (1983) (Mount Laurel II), and the Borough is not entitled to any credit towards its fair share for any housing built since 1980.
- 3. Forthwith, but not later than 120 days after the entry of this Judgment, the Borough of South Plainfield shall amend its zoning ordinance to incorporate the following provisions:
- A. The Borough shall rezone the 84.8 acre Harris Steel site on New Brunswick Avenue, designated as Block 459 Lot 1, Block 460 Lot 1, Block 461 Lots 1-3, Block 462 Lot 2, Block 465 Lot 1, Block 466 Lot 1, Block 467 Lots 1, 3, 4, 5 and 21, exclusively for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.
- B. The Borough shall rezone the 27 acre site on New Durham Road, known as the Coppola farm and designated as Block 528 Lot 43, exclusively for multi-family development at a density of 12 units

per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.

- C. The Borough shall rezone the municipally owned site of approximately 25 acres at the northern tip of Kennedy Road, known as the Pomponio Avenue site and designated as Block 448 Lots 2.01 and 4.01 and Block 427 Lot 1.01, exclusively for multi-family development at a density of 15 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units, except that the rezoning may provide for a commercial development buffer no more than 200 feet deep on the westernmost portion of the site facing Clinton Avenue.
- D. The Borough shall rezone the Universal Avenue site, designated as Block 255 Lots 14, 33 and 34, exclusively for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.
- E. The Borough shall rezone the municipally owned site of approximately 8 acres and the adjoining privately owned parcels totalling approximately 4½ acres on either side of Frederick Avenue to the north of Sylvania Place, known as the Frederick Avenue site and designated as Block 308 Lot 34, Block 310 Lots 1.01, 4.01, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17 and 18, and Block 311 Lots 16-36, exclusively for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory set aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units.

- F. The Borough shall rezone the municipally owned site of 6.15 acres on Morris Avenue, known as the Morris Avenue site and designated as Block 111 Lots 1-4, Block 112 Lots 1, 2.01, Block 113 Lots 1.01, 2, 4, 5.01 and Block 115 Lots 1, 2, 2.01 and 3, exclusively for development as a senior citizens housing project with a total of 100-150 units of which at least 50 percent will be affordable by low income households with the balance affordable by moderate income households. See ¶ 4 infra.
- G. The Borough shall rezone the 7½ acre site south of Tompkins Avenue designated as Block 12 Lots 9, 16 and 17, and currently owned by the Archdiocese of Metuchen for multi-family development at a density of 12 units per acre with a mandatory setaside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units. To the extent that the existing land use ordinance may permit use of the site for cemetery purposes, such ordinance provision may continue in effect for a period of two years from the date of the entry of the Order of Compliance for South Plainfield in this action but shall thereafter expire automatically.
- H. The Borough shall rezone the 1.46 acre site on Hamilton Boulevard, known as the Elderlodge site and designated as Block 259 Lots 5, 6.01, 6.02, 7, and 12, which is the property at issue in Elderlodge, Inc. v. South Plainfield Board of Adjustment, No. L-56349-81 (Law Div., Middlesex County), exclusively for a 100-unit multifamily development, with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income units, subject to reasonable

conditions to be imposed by the Board of Adjustment.

- I. The Borough shall expressly provide in its zoning ordinance that modular or manufactured housing meeting state building code requirements and other appropriate zoning ordinance requirements shall be permitted in residential zones throughout the Borough.
- J. The Borough shall permit, as a conditional use on any site of 3 acres or more in any residential zone, where appropriate, multi-family development at a higher density than otherwise permitted by the applicable zoning with a mandatory set-aside of 10 percent low income and 10 percent moderate income housing, subject to such additional appropriate conditions as the Borough may wish to incorporate in the zoning ordinance. Through 1990 the Borough shall not permit on a site 3 acres or larger any use substantially similar to that permitted under this section unless it is subject to the same mandatory set-aside.
- K. The Borough shall adopt appropriate provisions to require that the low and moderate income housing units to be constructed pursuant to any mandatory set-aside provision shall be phased in proportionately during the construction of the entire project so that certificates of occupancy for more than 25 percent of the market units shall not be granted until 25 percent of the low and moderate income units are completed, certificates of occupancy for more than 50 percent of the market units shall not be granted until 50 percent of the low and moderate income units are completed, and certificates of

occupancy for more than 85 percent of the market units shall not be granted until 85 percent of the low and moderate income units are completed.

- L. The Borough shall adopt appropriate provisions to require that all multi-family developments provided for herein shall contain a bedroom mix reflecting the distribution of housing needs by household size in the 11-county region set forth in the Report of the Court-appointed expert in this action dated April 2, 1964, and to limit the granting of construction permits, pursuant to the formula set forth in subparagraph 3(K) above, to insure that each segment of a project contains an appropriate bedroom mix, unless the size of the project makes this infeasible.
- 4. In order to facilitate development of the Morris Avenue site, after rezoning as set forth in ¶ 3(F) supra, the Borough of South Plainfield shall contribute the land at that site and shall provide the necessary financial support for the project, including necessary seed money and tax abatements.
- 5. Forthwith, but not later than 120 days after the entry of this Judgment, the Borough of South Plainfield shall adopt an Affordable Housing Ordinance which shall provide that units designated as low or moderate income units shall be sold or rented only to families who qualify as low or moderate income families. The ordinance shall further provide that such units shall be rerented or re-sold only to qualifying families and that such units are affordable to low or moderate income families. To be affordable,

the monthly expenses of a sales unit for principal, interest, taxes, insurance, and condominium fees shall not exceed 28% of family income while the monthly rental charge, including utilities, shall not exceed 30% of family income. Low income shall be defined as less than 50% of median regional income with adjustments for family size, and moderate income shall be defined as between 50% and 80% of median regional income, with adjustments for family size. For the purposes of this section, the region for determining median income shall be the 11-county region set forth in the Court-appointed expert's Report dated April 2, 1984, in this case. The average price of moderate income units in any development provided for herein shall not exceed the level affordable by households earning 90 percent of the ceiling income for moderate income households, and the average price of low income units in any development provided for herein shall not exceed the level affordable by households earning 90 percent of the ceiling income for low income households. Restrictions on resale will expire 30 years from the date of the initial sale of the premises. The ordinance shall provide a mechanism to assure that only qualifying families own or rent such units and to administer otherwise these provisions. For this purpose, the Borough may establish a municipal agency or may contract with a suitable nonprofit organization or other public agency for the purpose of administering the requirements set forth herein.

6. Forthwith, but no later than 120 days after the entry of this Judgment, the Borough of South Plainfield shall adopt a

resolution committing the Borough to apply for all federal, state and county funds that become available between the present and 1990 for rehabilitation of existing deficient housing units and for all such funding that becomes available between the present and 1990 for subsidization of the construction or rent of new housing units, and to encourage and assist private developers to so apply.

- 7. Forthwith, but not later than 120 days after entry of this Judgment, the Borough of South Plainfield shall amend its zoning ordinances so that all developers of low and moderate income units are required to affirmatively market those units to persons of low and moderate income, irrespective of race, color, sex, or national origin. Such affirmative marketing shall include advertisement in newspapers with general circulation in the urban core areas located in the ll-county present need region identified in the Courtappointed expert's Report dated April 2, 1984. The Borough shall also require the developer to advertise the low and moderate income units with local fair housing centers, housing advocacy organizations, Urban Leagues, and governmental social service and welfare departments located within the 11-county region. The Borough shall also require that all marketing practices comply with applicable federal and state laws against discrimination.
- 8. The Borough of South Plainfield shall report in writing to the Court and to plaintiff Urban League or its designee, within 120 days of the entry of this Consent Order or when all ordinance amendments and resolutions have been duly enacted by the Borough

Council, whichever first occurs, certifying that all ordinance amendments and resolutions have been enacted or providing an explanation as to why they have not been enacted. Upon certification that all required amendments and resolutions have been enacted, the Court will enter an Order of Compliance which will be valid and binding for six years from the date of receipt of said certification. If all ordinance amendments and resolutions required herein have not been enacted, the Court shall set this case for trial.

- 9. The Borough of South Plainfield shall report quarterly in writing to plaintiff Urban League or its designee, commencing with September 30, 1984, providing the following information:
- (a) itemization of all proposed developments covered by this Judgment for which applications have been filed with the Borough's Planning Board, and for which preliminary or final approval has been given by the Planning Board; including the location of the proposed site, number of low and moderate income units, name of developer, and dates that Planning Board actions were taken or are anticipated to be taken;
- (b) a copy of the affirmative marketing plans provided for each development together with copies of advertisements and a list of newspapers and community or governmental organizations or agencies which received the advertisements; and
- (c) applications for government funds for low and moderate income housing and the result thereof.
 - 10. Failure on the part of the Borough to comply with this

Judgment subsequent to entry of the Order of Compliance, by rezoning in contravention hereof or by failing to enforce the other provisions hereof, may constitute contempt of Court enforceable, upon motion of the plaintiffs or of the Court <u>sua sponte</u>, by appropriate remedies as provided by law.

- 11. The Court-appointed expert shall report to the Court no later than June 1, 1984. This Judgment shall become final and the time for taking the actions set forth in this Judgment shall begin to run five days after the Court-appointed expert shall report to the Court.
- 12. The time periods set forth in this Judgment may be extended by mutual written consent of parties or upon written application to the Court.

EXPENSE D. SERPENTELLI, J.S.C.

EXHIBIT F

ERIC NEISSER, ESQ.
JOHN M. PAYNE, ESQ.
Constitutional Litigation Clinic
Rutgers Law School
15 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
On Behalf of the ACLU of NJ

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY MIDDLESEX/OCEAN COUNTY NO. C 4122-73

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

(South Plainfield)

vs.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARTERET, et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

The Borough of South Plainfield having moved to transfer this case to the Council on Affordable Housing pursuant to Section 16 of the Fair Housing Act, Laws of 1985, c.222, and having filed in support thereof a Certification of Frank Santoro, Esq. and a Memorandum of Law in Support, and the <u>Urban League</u> plaintiffs having filed Affidavits of Eric Neisser, Esq. and Alan Mallach, a Certification of Lawrence J. Massaro, and a Memorandum of Law in Opposition, and the Court having heard oral argument in open court on October 2, 1985 from Frank Santoro, Esq. for the Borough of South Plainfield and Eric Neisser, Esq. for the <u>Urban League</u> plaintiffs, and the Court having rendered an oral decision on October 2, 1985, with findings of fact and conclusions of law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THIS _____ DAY OF OCTOBER 1985:

- 1. South Plainfield's motion to transfer is denied.
- 2. Stay of this Order pending any possible appeal is denied.
- 3. Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the Order of August 9, 1985, the stay of the effectiveness of Ordinances 1009 and 1010 adopted on August 7, 1985 is herewith vacated and the Ordinances are to have full legal force and effect.
- 4. The restraints imposed in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Amended Order of July 19, 1985 and continued by Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Order of August 9, 1985 shall remain in full force and effect pending further ofder of this Court.

EUGENE D. SERPENTELLI, A.J.S.C.