

Michael J. Blee, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

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April 2, 2026

Steven P. Goodell, Esq., President
New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys
Parker McCay, P.A.
3840 Quakerbridge Road
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
Email: sgoodell@parkermccay.com

RE: Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program

Dear President Goodell:

Thank you for your March 25, 2026 letter on behalf of the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys (NJILGA) expressing concerns about fairness and/or compliance hearings in connection with litigation filed pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, as amended by P.L. 2024, c. 2.

In accordance with Administrative Directive #14-24, all of the declaratory judgement actions filed pursuant to the legislation, including those contested cases mediated by the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (Program), have been transferred to vicinage Mt. Laurel Judges for handling. The Mt. Laurel Judges intend to finalize uncontested or settled matters without the need for a fairness and/or compliance hearing. The “fairness and/or compliance hearing” language that was contained in the Program recommendation templates was intended to leave open the possibility that Mt. Laurel judges, in appropriate cases, could order these hearings in their discretion and based on the circumstances of the case.

I am aware that this template language may have inadvertently carried through to some orders approving Housing Element and Fair Share Plans in uncontested or settled cases. I recommend that whenever the phrase “fairness and/or compliance hearing” appears in an order, counsel should contact the Mt. Laurel Judge, following the procedures established by the judge’s chambers, to obtain clarification.

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Thank you for reaching out to me with these concerns from the NJILGA.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Blee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Blee, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director

cc: Jason Corter, Director, Trial Court Services
Andrea Johnson, Acting Director, Professional and Governmental Services
Taironda E. Phoenix, Assistant Director, Civil Practice
Ann Marie Fleury, Special Assistant
Melissa A. Czartoryski, Chief, Civil Practice