ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF KEYPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 25 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF KEYPORT TO CREATE SECTION 25-1-15.23 ENTITLED "AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FEES"

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has adopted an Amended Fair Housing Act at P.L. 2024, c. 2 (A4) which provides new Fourth Round affordable housing fair share requirements for each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the State has adopted new Fourth Round substantive affordable housing regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:99; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) have adopted new Uniform Housing and Affordability Controls (UHAC) at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain compliance with said state regulations regarding affordable housing, this Ordinance creates a newly enacted Section 25-1-15.23, entitled, "Affordable Housing Development Fees" contains regulations regarding affordable housing development fees; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 25 Section 25-1-15.23, entitled "Affordable Housing Development Fees," of the Code of the Borough of Keyport is hereby created to read as follows:

§25-1-15.23, entitled "Affordable Housing Development Fees"

A. Purpose

1. This section establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees that are consistent with the amended Fair Housing Act (P.L.2024, c.2), N.J.A.C. 5:99, and the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7). Fees collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be used for the sole purpose of providing very low-, low- and moderate-income housing in accordance with a Court-approved Spending Plan.

B. Basic Requirements

1. This Ordinance establishes the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund
2. The municipality shall not spend development fees until the court has approved a plan for spending such fees.

C. Residential Development Fees

1. Imposed fees

   a. Residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee of 1.5% of the equalized assessed value for residential development, provided no increased density is permitted. Development fees shall also be imposed and collected when an additional dwelling unit is added to an existing residential structure; in such cases, the fee shall be calculated based on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the property due to the additional dwelling unit.

   b. When an increase in residential density is permitted pursuant to a "d" variance granted under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d(5), developers shall be required to pay a "bonus" development fee of 6.0% of the equalized assessed value for each additional unit that may be realized, except that this provision shall not be applicable to a development that will include affordable housing. If the zoning on a site has changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application, the base density for the purposes of calculating the bonus development fee shall be the highest density permitted by right during the two-year period preceding the filing of the variance application.

      Example: If an approval allows four units to be constructed on a site that was zoned for two units, the fees could equal 1.5% of the equalized assessed value on the first two units; and the specified higher percentage of 6% of the equalized assessed value for the

two additional units, provided zoning on the site has not changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application.

2. Eligible exactions, ineligible exactions and exemptions for residential development

   a. Affordable housing developments, developments where the developer is providing for the construction of affordable units elsewhere in the municipality, and developments where the developer has made an eligible payment in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units, if permitted by ordinance, or by agreement with the municipality and if approved by a municipality prior to the statutory elimination of payments in-lieu on March 20, 2024 per P.L.2024, c.2, shall be exempt from development fees.

   b. Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of this ordinance and any preceding ordinance permitting the collection of development fees shall be exempt from the payment of development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the original approval. Where a site plan approval does not apply, the issuance of a zoning and/or building permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for the purpose of determining the right to an exemption. In all cases, the applicable fee percentage shall be determined based upon the development fee ordinance in effect on the date that the construction permit is issued.

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

   d. No development fee shall be collected for the demolition and replacement of a residential building resulting from a fire or natural disaster.

D. Non-Residential Development Fees

1. Imposition of fees

   a. Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, shall pay a fee equal to 2.5% of the equalized assessed value of the land and improvements, for all new non-residential construction on an unimproved lot or lots.

   b. Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, shall also pay a fee equal to 2.5% of the increase in equalized assessed value resulting from any additions to existing structures to be used for non-residential purposes.

   c. Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure is demolished and replaced. The development fee of 2.5% shall be calculated on the difference between the equalized assessed value of the pre-existing land and improvements and the equalized assessed value of the newly improved structure; i.e., land and improvements; and such calculation shall be made at the time a final certificate of occupancy is issued. If the calculation required under this section results in a negative number, the non-residential development fee shall be zero.

2. Eligible exactions, ineligible exactions and exemptions for non-residential development

   a. The non-residential portion of a mixed-use inclusionary or market-rate development shall be subject to a 2.5% development fee, unless otherwise exempted below.

   b. The 2.5% fee shall not apply to an increase in equalized assessed value resulting from alterations, change in use within existing footprint, reconstruction, renovations and repairs.

3. Non-residential developments shall be exempt from the payment of non-residential development fees in accordance with the exemptions required pursuant to the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), as specified in Form N-RDF "State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/Exemption." Any exemption claimed by a developer shall be substantiated by that developer.

4. A developer of a non-residential development exempted from the non-residential development fee pursuant to the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act shall be

subject to the fee at such time as the basis for the exemption no longer applies, and shall make the payment of the non-residential development fee, in that event, within three years after that event or after the issuance of the final certificate of occupancy of the non-residential development, whichever is later.

5. If a property that was exempted from the collection of a non-residential development fee thereafter ceases to be exempt from property taxation, the owner of the property shall remit the fees required pursuant to this section within 45 days of the termination of the property tax exemption. Unpaid non-residential development fees under these circumstances may be enforceable by the municipality as a lien against the real property of the owner.
6. The following classes of development shall be exempt from these provisions:
   a. Utility facilities.
   b. Educational, cultural and outdoor recreational facilities.
   c. Quasi-public uses, including clubs, lodges and similar uses.
   d. Public uses.
   e. Hospital uses.

E. Collection Procedures

1. Upon the granting of a preliminary, final or other applicable approval for a development, the applicable approving authority shall direct its staff to notify the construction official responsible for the issuance of a building permit.
2. For non-residential developments only, the developer shall also be provided with a copy of Form N-RDF, "State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/Exemption," to be completed by the developer as per the instructions provided in the Form N-RDF. The construction official shall verify the information submitted by the non-residential developer as per the instructions provided on Form N-RDF. The tax assessor shall verify exemptions and prepare estimated and final assessments as per the instructions provided in Form N-RDF.
3. The construction official responsible for the issuance of a building permit shall notify the tax assessor of the issuance of the first construction permit for a development that is subject to a development fee.
4. Within 90 days of receipt of that notice, the tax assessor shall provide an estimate, based on the plans filed, of the equalized assessed value of the development.
5. The construction official responsible for the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy shall notify the tax assessor of any and all requests for the scheduling of a final inspection on property that is subject to a development fee.
6. Within 10 business days of a request for the scheduling of a final inspection, the tax assessor shall confirm or modify the previously estimated equalized assessed value of the improvements associated with the development; calculate the development fee; and thereafter notify the developer of the amount of the fee.
7. Should the municipality fail to determine or notify the developer of the amount of the development fee within 10 business days of the request for final inspection, the developer may estimate the amount due and pay that estimated amount consistent with the dispute process set forth in Subsection b. of section 37 of P.L.2008, c.46 (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-8.6).
8. Fifty percent (50%) of the development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the construction permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the time of issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at the time of issuance of the construction permit and that determined at the time of issuance of certificate of occupancy.

F. Appeal of development fees

1. A developer may challenge residential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the County Board of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by that board, collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by the municipality. Appeals from a determination of the board may be made to the Tax Court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq., within

90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.

2. A developer may challenge non-residential development fees imposed by filing a challenge with the director of the Division of Taxation. Pending a review and determination by the director, which shall be made within 45 days of receipt of the challenge, collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by the municipality. Appeals from a determination of the director may be made to the Tax Court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq., within 90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.

G. Affordable Housing Trust Fund

1. A separate, interest-bearing Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall be maintained by the chief financial officer of the municipality for the purpose of depositing development fees collected from residential and non-residential developers and proceeds from the sale of units with extinguished controls.
2. The following additional funds shall be deposited in the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shall at all times be identifiable by source and amount:
   a. Payments in lieu of on-site construction of an affordable unit, where previously permitted by ordinance or by agreement with the municipality and if approved by a municipality prior to the statutory elimination of payments in-lieu on March 20, 2024 per P.L.2024, c.2;
   b. Funds contributed by developers to make 10% of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached dwelling unit development accessible;
   c. Rental income from municipally operated units;
   d. Repayments from affordable housing program loans;
   e. Recapture funds;
   f. Proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and
   g. Any other funds collected in connection with the municipal affordable housing program including but not limited to interest earned on fund deposits.
3. The municipality shall provide the Division with written authorization, in the form of a tri-party escrow agreement(s) between the municipality, the Division and the financial institution in which the municipal affordable housing trust fund has been established to permit the Division to direct the disbursement of the funds as provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:99-2.1 et seq.
4. Occurrence of any of the following deficiencies may result in the Division requiring the forfeiture of all or a portion of the funds in the municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund:
   a. Failure to meet deadlines for information required by the Division in its review of a development fee ordinance;
   b. Failure to commit or expend development fees within four years of the date of collection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-5.5;
   c. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Non-Residential Development Fee Act and N.J.A.C. 5:99-3;
   d. Failure to submit accurate monitoring reports pursuant to this subchapter within the time limits imposed by the Act, this chapter, and/or the Division;
   e. Expenditure of funds on activities not approved by the Superior Court or otherwise permitted by law;
   f. Revocation of compliance certification or a judgment of compliance and repose;
   g. Failure of a municipal housing liaison or administrative agent to comply with the requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:99-6, 7, and 8;
   h. Other good cause demonstrating that municipal affordable housing funds are not being used for an approved purpose.
5. All interest accrued in the housing trust fund shall only be used on eligible affordable housing purposes approved by the Court.

H. Use of Funds

1. The expenditure of all funds shall conform to a Spending Plan approved by Superior Court. Funds deposited in the municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund may be used for any activity approved by the Court to address the fair share obligation and may be set up as a grant or revolving loan program. Such activities include, but are not limited to: preservation or purchase of housing for the purpose of maintaining or implementing affordability controls; housing rehabilitation; new construction of affordable housing units and related costs; accessory apartments; a market-to-affordable program; conversion of existing non-residential buildings to create new affordable units; green building strategies designed to be cost-saving and in accordance with accepted national or state standards; purchase of land for affordable housing; improvement of land to be used for affordable housing; extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure to affordable housing sites; financial assistance designed to increase affordability; administration necessary for implementation of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and/or any other activity permitted by Superior Court and specified in the approved Spending Plan.

2. Funds shall not be expended to reimburse the municipality or activities that occurred prior to the authorization of a municipality to collect development fees.

3. At least a portion of all development fees collected and interest earned shall be used to provide affordability assistance to very low-, low- and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the municipal Fair Share Plan. A portion of the development fees which provide affordability assistance shall be used to provide affordability assistance to very low-income households.

   a. Affordability assistance programs may include down payment assistance, security deposit assistance, low-interest loans, rental assistance, assistance with homeowners association or condominium fees and special assessments, infrastructure assistance, and assistance with emergency repairs. The specific programs to be used for affordability assistance shall be identified and described within the Spending Plan.

   b. Affordability assistance for very low income households may include producing very low-income units or buying down the cost of low- or moderate-income units in the municipal Fair Share Plan to make them affordable to households earning 30% or less of median income.

4. No more than 20% of all affordable housing trust funds, exclusive of those collected to fund an RCA prior to July 17, 2008, shall be expended on administration, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits for municipal employees or consultants' fees necessary to develop or implement a new construction program, prepare and implement a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, administer an Affirmative Marketing Program and for compliance with the Superior Court and the Program including the costs to the municipality of resolving a challenge.

I. Monitoring

1. On or before February 15 of each year, the municipality shall provide annual electronic data reporting of trust fund activity for the previous year from January 1st to December 31st through the AHMS Reporting System. This reporting shall include an accounting of all Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund activity, including the sources and amounts of all funds collected and the amounts and purposes for which any funds have been expended. Such reporting shall include an accounting of development fees collected from residential and non-residential developers, previously eligible payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site (if permitted by ordinance or by agreement with the municipality prior to the March 20, 2024 statutory elimination per P.L. 2024, c.4), funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls, barrier-free escrow funds, rental income from municipally-owned affordable housing units, repayments from affordable housing program loans, interest and any other funds collected in connection with municipal housing programs, as well as an accounting of the expenditures of revenues and implementation of the Spending Plan approved by the Court.

J. Ongoing Collection of Fees

1. The ability to impose, collect and expend development fees shall continue so long as the municipality retains authorization from the Court in the form of Compliance Certification or the good faith effort to obtain it.

2. If the municipality fails to renew its ability to impose and collect development fees prior to the expiration of its Judgment of Compliance, it may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Any funds so forfeited shall be deposited into the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C. 52:27D-320).

K. Emergent Affordable Housing Opportunities. Requests to expend affordable housing trust funds on emergent affordable housing opportunities not included in the municipal fair share plan shall be made to the Division and shall be in the form of a governing body resolution. Any request shall be consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:99-4.1.

Repealer

All ordinances or code provisions or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Severability

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or any other part of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication, as required by law.

Introduced: February 17, 2026
Public Hearing: March 3, 2026
Adopted: March 3, 2026

Michele Clark, RMC
Clerk, Borough of Keyport

Mayor Rose Araneo
Borough of Keyport