# TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

## RESOLUTION NO. 314-25

### REQUESTING THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF THE FOREST ON THE SECOND WATCHUNG MOUNTAIN RIDGE

**WHEREAS**, the 120 acres of intact forest are a significant and vital resource element of the West Essex area; and

**WHEREAS**, the forest provides biodiversity, groundwater recharge, clean air and carbon storage; and

**WHEREAS**, this area provides natural habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, this area serves clean water to towns in Essex County communities and reduces flooding and erosion; and

**WHEREAS**, this area serves as a major cooling zone to offset the urban heat island effect; and

**WHEREAS**, this area provides critical open space in an area with little open space; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Mayor Nancy J. Adams and the Maplewood Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood respectfully, but urgently request that the Township of West Orange mitigate the potential impacts of the proposed housing development and support the preservation of the forest on the Second Watchung Mountain Ridge.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Township is concerned that unmitigated construction in the location of the Second Watchung Mountain Ridge Forest will exacerbate the dangers of damaging stormwater runoff. While the Township supports the production of affordable housing, it urges West Orange to carefully consider and mitigate the impact of this development on the environment and on its neighbors.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a regular meeting of said Committee held October 7, 2025.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, this 7th day of October, 2025.

_____ Township Clerk

_____ Mayor