

Mount Laurel II at 25: The Unfinished Agenda of Fair Share Housing

Friday, February 8, 2008
Princeton University
8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Hosted by the Policy Research Institute for the Region (PRIOR)

Background

Twenty-five years ago the New Jersey Supreme Court issued its Mount Laurel II decision on exclusionary zoning, affordable housing, and sound planning, reaffirming and reinvigorating the Mount Laurel doctrine first articulated in 1975, declaring “We may not build houses, but we do enforce the Constitution.” And indeed houses have been built, about 40,000 new homes for low and moderate income households, while 15,000 homes have been rehabilitated, \$210 million has been spent by suburbs to transfer housing obligations to urban areas and about \$350 million has been collected and spent by a state housing trust fund. The Court’s decision spawned two state agencies, the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and the State Planning Commission, placed affordable housing squarely on the planning and public policy agenda, and helped transform the landscape of New Jersey.

Dramatic economic, environmental, and social changes over the past twenty-five years have made New Jersey and the nation very different places from when the Court decided Mount Laurel II in 1983. Major shifts have taken place, due to immigration, “smart growth” initiatives, waterfront and urban redevelopment, transit-oriented development, and regional land use-environmental agencies. The public policy challenges are very different in 2008.

Conference Program

Experts and key participants in implementing Mount Laurel II will convene to examine briefly the origins of the decision, comment on the current state of the doctrine and its influence in the region and nation, and focus on its unfinished agenda, including issues of race, class, redevelopment, and smart growth. Three panels will address key issues for the future of the Mount Laurel doctrine, as New Jersey, the region, and the nation grapple with persistent housing and related land use challenges.

8:00 am **Breakfast and Registration**

8:45 am **Welcome**

Richard F. Keevey, Director, Policy Research Institute for the Region (PRIOR),
Princeton University

9:00 am **Opening Remarks**

Jon Corzine, Governor, State of New Jersey (Invited)

Joseph V. Doria, Jr., Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

9:30 am The Impact of Mount Laurel II on New Jersey, the Region, and the Nation

Presenter: John M. Payne, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law – Newark

Respondents: Sharon Krefetz, Associate Professor of Government, Clark University

Jessica L. Trounstein, Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Princeton University

11:00 am Redevelopment, Race, and Class: The Mount Laurel Doctrine and Urban-Suburban Revitalization

Presenter: Alan Mallach, FAICP, Senior Fellow, National Housing Institute

Respondents: Christine Boyer, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Architecture and Director, Program in Urban Studies, Princeton University

Peter J. O'Connor, Esq., Fair Share Housing Center, Inc., Mount Laurel, New Jersey (counsel to plaintiffs in Mount Laurel I and II)

12:30 pm Lunch and Keynote Address

Michael Stegman, Director of Policy for the Program on Human and Community Development, McArthur Foundation, Chicago

1:30 pm Smart Growth, Housing Needs, and the Mount Laurel Doctrine

Presenter: David N. Kinsey, FAICP, Visiting Lecturer of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Respondents: Stuart Meck, FAICP, Center for Government Services, and Faculty Fellow, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

Peter S. Reinhart, Senior Vice-President and General Counsel, Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc., Red Bank, New Jersey

3:00 pm Closing Remarks

Richard F. Keevey, Director, PRIOR

To register for this conference, which is free and open to the public, contact PRIOR at: <http://www.princeton.edu/prior/>