Andover Responsible Development

andoverresponsibledevelopment@gmail.com

September 3, 2026

Mayor Thomas D. Walsh Jr.
Krista Gilchrist, Deputy Mayor
Ellsworth E .Bensley, Jr.
Suzanne Howell
Roderick M. Mosner
Patricia Bussow, RMC, CMR, Township Administrator
Andover Township Administrative Building
134 Newton Sparta Road
Newton, NJ 07860

Dear Township Committee Members,

The many members of Andover Responsible Development are appreciative of your responsiveness to the wishes of your constituents that was demonstrated by your unanimous passage of Ordinance #2026-13, which effectively bans a High-Capacity Data Center anywhere in the Township. Because of this we can boast of being the first (of many) municipalities in Sussex County that have passed similar data center bans.

We respectfully ask that you again take action to protect the environment and well-being of the people of Andover Township by adopting **an ordinance to ban the construction or renovation of any existing building for the purpose of detention, correction, and/or any other carceral purpose within any of the zones of Andover Township.** Sparta Township has led the way by unanimously passing such a ban in February of this year. (See appended document). But bragging rights for the first municipality to ban BOTH of these abominations are within your grasp if you respond expeditiously.

There are many reasons that prisons and detention centers are detrimental to our community. Some involve overuse of infrastructure, utilities or resources such as water, waste disposal, traffic control and more. But the most compelling of reasons is morality. We do not want to have any of our neighborhoods become the next *Delaney Hall*. Nor do we want to encounter a protracted and costly fight such as the one that Roxbury is experiencing.

We therefore respectfully request that this correspondence be published on the Agenda for the September17, 2026 meeting of the Township Committee, along with a proposal and first reading for an ordinance such as that passed by Sparta (see appended document).

Respectfully Submitted,

Andover Responsible Development Executive Committee
Clare Golden
Nicole Guerrieri
Cynthia Chase
Becky Carlson
Katie Salgado
Barbara Medvidick

26-02

A ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, SUSSEX COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ENTITLED COMPREHENSIVE LAND MANAGEMENT CODE, TO PROHIBIT DETENTION, CORRECTION OR OTHER CARCERAL FACILITIES WITHIN ALL ZONES THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta is a predominately residential community located in the southeastern part of the County of Sussex and subject to the New Jersey Highlands Act, with limited water, sewer and other public resources and municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta is committed to adhering to the laws of the State of New Jersey and the Township's ordinances, inclusive of those governing the use of lands; and

WHEREAS, it is a primary objective of the Township Council of the Township of Sparta to ensure and promote the public safety, health, and welfare of its residents, business community and visitors to the Township; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Township of Sparta is not an appropriate municipality for the placement of a detention, correction or other carceral facilities as these facilities are not in keeping with Township's community standards or rural and residential character and create an undue and unnecessary burden on the Township's water supply and wastewater capacity systems; and

WHEREAS, the Township finds that with the exception of Municipal Detention Facilities, as defined and prescribed by N.J.A.C. 10A:34-1.1 et. seq., the prohibition of detention, correction or other carceral facilities throughout the Township will promote the public safety, health and general welfare of the Township and its residents; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Comprehensive Land Management Code (the "Township Code") of the Township of Sparta be amended as follows:

SECTION ONE

Section 18-4.5(h) of the Township Code, entitled "General Restrictions," is amended to add the following:

4. Excepting a Municipal Detention Facility, as defined and prescribed by N.J.A.C. 10A:34-1.1 et. seq., the operation of all detention, correction, or other carceral facilities is an expressly prohibited use within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Township of Sparta.

SECTION TWO

Severability. If any term or provision of this Ordinance is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, in whole or in part, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION THREE

Repealer.Totheextent that any provision of the Code of the Township of Sparta is found to conflict with this Ordinance, in whole or in part, this Ordinance shall control.

SECTION FOUR

In order to avoid accidental repeal of existing provisions, the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to change any chapter numbers, article numbers and/or section numbers in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between those numbers and the existing Code.

SECTION FIVE

This Ordinance shall take effect 20 days after final passage and publication as prescribed by law.

NOTICE

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above ordinance was introduced and passed upon first reading at a regular meeting of the Sparta Township Council held at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street, Sparta, New Jersey on **February 24, 2026** and will be considered for final passage and adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Sparta to be held at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street, Sparta, New Jersey, on **March 10, 2026** at **7:00 p.m**., at which time and place all persons interested therein or affected thereby will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA.

ROXANNE LANDY, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the above entitled ordinance was introduced and passed at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, held at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street, Sparta, NJ on **February 24, 2026** The same came up for final passage and adoption at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, held on **March 10, 2026** at **7:00 p.m**., at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street, Sparta, NJ and after all persons present were given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, it was finally passed and adopted and will be in full force in the Township according to law.

ROXANNE LANDY, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK