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## **Gov. Christie Rescinds Executive Order 12, Recognizes His Abuse of Power**

**March 19, 2010 - Trenton, New Jersey-** Gov. Christie has, at the last minute, rescinded Executive Order 12 in an attempt to avoid a court determination that his actions to shut down the Council on Affordable Housing violated the New Jersey Constitution's separation of powers doctrine.

Late Friday afternoon, Gov. Christie issued Executive Order 20, which rescinds Executive Order 12 in its entirety, including the provisions shutting down the Council on Affordable Housing. The Governor did so at the last possible moment before the argument scheduled for Monday morning on Fair Share Housing Center's (FSHC) appeal of the regulations.

"Governor Christie has realized that his actions were illegal and unconstitutional," Kevin Walsh, Associate Director of Fair Share Housing Center said. "He has rescinded his order in an attempt to avoid defending his actions before the courts."

Oral argument, which had been scheduled for Monday morning in Newark, has been adjourned by the Court. The Attorney General has been permitted to file a motion explaining the content of the new Executive Order and the rescission of Executive Order 12, after which the Court will make a determination as to the process moving forward.

At the same time, Executive Order 20 claimed that a task force chaired by former Sen. Marcia Karrow has completed its work and submitted a report to the Governor. However, that report has not been made available to the public despite requests by FSHC.

FSHC filed its appeal of the executive order the same day it was issued and requested that the court decide the matter as soon as possible. The appeal contends that Gov. Christie exceeded his authority in issuing the executive order because he exercised powers that have been delegated to the Legislature. The executive order also unlawfully interferes with the implementation of the *Mount Laurel* doctrine by allowing New Jersey's wealthiest communities to avoid meeting their fair share obligations.

The Appellate Division has already issued one ruling in the appeal. On February 19, 2010, the court enjoined the enforcement of the executive order pending a final decision in the matter.

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