ORDINANCE O010-2026

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
GLOUCESTER COUNTY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT WITH THE BOROUGH OF PITMAN; REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE XII, MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A., 2B-12-l(b) authorizes the formation of Joint Municipal Court provided that an Agreement is entered into by the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman provided that the Agreement is filed with the State of New Jersey Administrative Director of the Courts and the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Gloucester County; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to establish a Joint Municipal Court with the Borough of Pitman; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington further desires to enter into an Agreement to form a Joint Municipal Court with the Borough of Pitman and participate in the Joint Municipal Court with this municipality; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Joint Municipal Court participants (hereinafter referred to as "Participating Municipalities") wish and desire to establish a Joint Municipal Court upon the terms and conditions established by the forthcoming Joint Municipal Court Agreement which shall be incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington deems it in the best interest of the Township to accordingly abolish the Municipal Court of the Township of Washington and establish a Joint Municipal Court for the Participating Municipalities named herein, to be known as the "Washington Township Joint Municipal Court."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey that, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Article XII titled "Municipal Court" of the Township Code is hereby repealed, in its entirety, and replaced as set forth herein below:

Article XII: Joint Municipal Court

§ 2-48. Abolishment.

A. Abolishment. The Municipal Court of the Township of Washington shall be abolished as of October 1, 2026 at 12:00 a.m., and after due notice is given as set forth in § 2-48(a). All summonses and other appropriate matters issuing or arising from the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman shall be processed in the Washington Township Joint Municipal Court on and after October 1, 2026, including those matters arising prior to October 1, 2026 which remain pending.

B. Notice. Notice of repeal and abolishment of the Municipal Court of the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman's separation from the Mantua Joint Municipal Court, and the establishment of the Washinton Township Joint Municipal Court, shall be provided, in writing, to the Administrative Offices of the Courts and the Assignment Judge of Vicinage 15, and posted in the municipal buildings of the participating municipalities in a location where public notices are normally posted.

§ 2-49. Establishment.

A. Agreement.

The responsibility for the operation of the Washinton Township Joint Municipal Court shall be set forth in a Shared Services Agreement, the "Agreement for the Operation of a Joint Municipal Court" approved by resolutions of the Township of Washinton and the Borough of Pitman.

B. Establishment.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1 et seq., the Washinton Township Joint Municipal Court is hereby established, and shall commence operating, effective October 1, 2026 at 12:00 a.m.

C. Seal.

The Washington Township Joint Municipal Court shall have an official seal which shall bear the impression of the name of the Court.

D. Jurisdiction.

The territorial jurisdiction of the Washington Township Joint Municipal Court shall be coextensive with the territory of the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

E. Location.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a single Joint Municipal Court to be located at 1 Mc Clure Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080.

§ 2-50. Municipal Judge, Appointments and Jurisdiction.

A. Joint Court Municipal Judge.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 2B:12-4, as amended, the Judge of the Washington Township Joint Municipal Court shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall have the qualifications required by law and shall serve for a term of three (3) years from the date of his/her appointment and until his/her successor has been appointed and has qualified. The compensation of the judge shall be an annual salary as is now or hereinafter may be provided by

ordinance and in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman.

B. Joint Municipal Court Administrator.

There shall be a Joint Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator who shall be appointed as provided by this article and in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman.

C. Support staff.

The Washington Township Joint Municipal Court support staff shall be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman.

D. Joint Municipal Court Prosecutor.

The Joint Municipal Court Prosecutor shall be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman. The Joint Municipal Court Prosecutor shall have the jurisdiction, powers and duties prescribed by N.J.S.A. 28:25-1 et seq.

E. Joint Municipal Court Public Defender.

1. Appointment. The Joint Municipal Court Public Defender shall be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman. The Joint Municipal Court Public Defender shall have the jurisdiction, powers and duties prescribed by N.J.S.A. 2B:24.1 et seq.
2. Representation. Any person applying to the Washington Township Joint Municipal Court for representation by a municipal public defender shall, in accordance with the provisions

of N.J.S.A. 2B:24-17, pay an application fee, but only in an amount determined by the Joint Municipal Court Judge, necessary to pay the costs of municipal public defender services. The Joint Municipal Court Judge may waive said application fee in whole or in part if the court determines, in its discretion, that the application fee represents an unreasonable burden on the person seeking representation. Said determination shall be made in accordance with the applicable provisions under law.

3. Alternate method of collection. If the payment of the fee is deferred by the Joint Municipal Court Judge or the fee is otherwise unpaid, then the participating municipalities may endeavor to collect the fee in the manner provided in N.J.S.A. 40:6A-1 and N.J.S.A. 2A:158A-l 9. Collection of such fees by a third party shall be authorized by both Washington Township and Pitman.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be effective upon the last to occur of the following:

- Its adoption and publication in accordance with law; and
- Approval of the Joint Municipal Court by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Vicinage 15; and
- An ordinance duly authorized and passed by the governing body of the Township of Washington authorizing the establishment of the Joint Municipal Court; and
- Approved by resolution by Township of Washington and the Borough of Pitman of an agreement for the operation of a Joint Municipal Court.

SECTION 3. Except as set forth in Sections 1 above, the balance of the Code of the Township of Washington shall not be affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 5. If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

INTRODUCTION: March 11, 2026

Members	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
Yerkes			X				
Harris		X	X				
Pasqualone	X		X				
Brown			X				
Del Borrello			X				

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

By: Donald C. Brown, Jr.
Donald Brown Jr., Council Vice President

I, Christine Ciallella, do hereby attest the above Ordinance **O010-2026** was introduced at the Township of Washington Meeting on March 11, 2026- A public hearing will occur on March 25, 2026 at 6:00PM.

ATTEST:

Christine Ciallella, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk

ADOPTION: March 25, 2026

Members	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
Yerkes	X		X				
Harris		X	X				
Pasqualone			X				
Brown			X				
Del Borrello			X				

I, Christine Ciallella, do hereby attest the above Ordinance **O010-2026** was adopted at the Township of Washington Meeting on 3-25-26 by Township Council after a public hearing which was scheduled for 3-25-26 Said Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:

Christine Ciallella

Christine Ciallella, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk

On this 25 day of March 2026, I hereby approve the above Ordinance **O010-2026**.

Anthony DellaPia, MAYOR