



**PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE**

Message from County Executive Kevin M. Byrne

Re: Resolution # 151

Approval/Supporting Declarations of Executive Order 3 of 2023

I hereby approve the aforementioned resolution (Resolution # 151, 2023) passed by the Putnam County Legislature on July 5th and submitted to the office of Putnam County Executive on July 7th in accordance with § 3.04-A of the Putnam County Charter.

Words matter and this resolution serves as a powerful statement, as revealed by public comments made at Legislative meetings. However, it is important to note that this is a resolution, not a local law, and serves as a statement that reaffirms Putnam County's existing position. It does not change any operations.

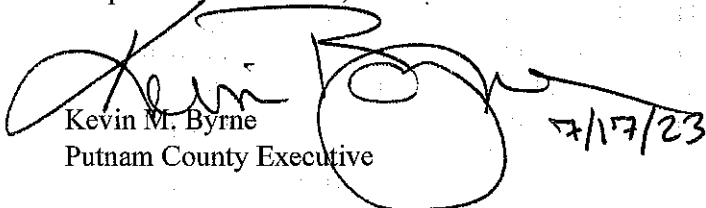
It is well documented that self-designated "sanctuary" municipalities traditionally restrict local law enforcement from working and/or sharing information with federal law enforcement officials, including Immigration Customs Enforcement, even after an undocumented or illegal immigrant is arrested for an additional crime(s). This resolution definitively states that Putnam County is not a "sanctuary county" and serves as both a strong and meaningful statement that reaffirms the County's commitment to work with federal law enforcement officials. It does not permit Putnam County law enforcement to enforce the law against any individual without probable cause.

Recently, the "sanctuary" designation has taken on a new added function, serving as a magnet for individuals in need, regardless of their immigration status. This has caused "sanctuary" municipalities to become overburdened and to declare states of emergency largely due to their lack of housing capacity as well as the need for additional services and financial support.

This "rule of law" county resolution recommits the County's support for the U.S. Constitution, New York State Constitution, Putnam County Charter and other laws. As stated directly from the resolution, this includes, but is not limited to, "the 4th, 5th and 14th Amendments as they pertain to an individual's right to privacy and due process, and thereby continues to support fair, equal, and just application of the law free of discrimination." We are a nation of immigrants and we are a nation of laws. Putnam County proudly recognizes that we can and should be both.

I have conferred with both the Putnam County Law Department and Putnam County Sheriff's Office and have confirmed, again, that this resolution does not change any operations or procedures within the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, or any other entity associated with Putnam County's operations. Despite what some critics of this resolution have suggested, this resolution does not grant the authority to suspend or undermine established laws.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive

7/17/23

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #151

Introduced by Legislator: Toni Addonizio on behalf of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee at a Regular Meeting held on July 5, 2023.

page 1

APPROVAL / SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 3 OF 2023

WHEREAS, The federal government under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act as codified in the United States Code (U.S.C.) is responsible for the establishment and enforcement of the laws of the United States of America pertaining to legal immigration; and

WHEREAS, the authority for enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the U.S.C. is vested with the federal government, and it is the responsibility of all levels of government to fully support the federal government in the exercise of its obligations under the law pertaining to immigration; and

WHEREAS, the level of immigration enforcement by the federal government has been inadequate in preventing millions of persons from illegally entering the United States without complying with the laws of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County continues to work with the County Sheriff's Department and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to properly identify arrested felons and gang-associated members who are suspected violators of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County continues to support our nation's governing document, the United States Constitution, in its current form including, but not limited to, both the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments as they pertain to an individual's right to privacy and due process, and thereby continues to support fair, equal, and just application of the law free of discrimination; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature, on behalf of the County of Putnam and in support of the previous enactment by the Putnam County Executive, hereby pledges support of federal immigration enforcement efforts within the scope of local authority in accordance with the county charter, state, and US Constitutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature, on behalf of the County of Putnam and in support of the previous enactment by the Putnam County Executive, hereby declares that Putnam County is not a sanctuary county and is in fact a county committed to upholding the rule of law, including our nation's immigration laws, as a Rule of Law County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature, on behalf of the County of Putnam and in support of the previous enactment by the Putnam County Executive, hereby declares that Putnam County will remain dedicated with its personnel, policies, and resources to support adherence of the rule of law as applied to immigration enforcement for the greater good of all citizens and residents of Putnam County.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. LEGISLATOR NACERINO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

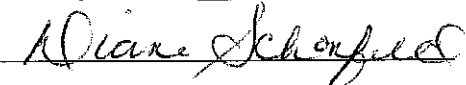
State of New York
ss:
County of Putnam

APPROVED

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
7/17/23
DATE

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on July 5, 2023.

Dated: July 7, 2023

Signed: 

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County