



PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE

June 29, 2023

Amy Belsher
Director of Immigrants' Rights Litigation
New York Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad St., Fl. 19, New York, NY 10004

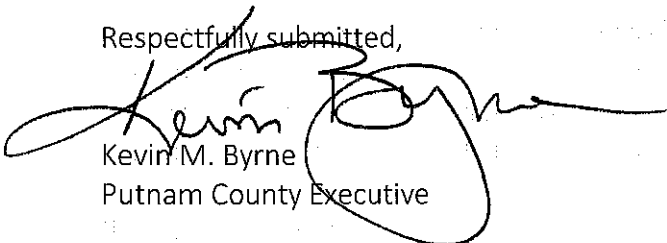
Dear Ms. Belsher,

I reviewed your recent letter dated June 28, 2023, and, respectfully, I wholeheartedly disagree with your assessment of Putnam County's actions and proposed legislation. First, let me begin by assuring you that Putnam County shares your passion for upholding the Constitution of both the United States and the State of New York, which was also directly stated in this office's executive action.

It appears, however, in your zeal to address the alleged improprieties of what appears to be an inordinate number of executive orders by dozens of different municipalities throughout the state, you applied a mistaken analysis to Putnam County's executive orders and proposed legislation. Neither action or proposal bar anyone from coming to or residing in our county. Rather, they simply insist that when outside municipalities wish to offer homeless housing by utilizing temporary rentals in Putnam County, that they do so responsibly by first entering into a proper shared services agreement with Putnam County. This is in the best interests of not only both municipalities, but more importantly, in the interests of the people who come here in search of a better life. Putnam County is a caring, and compassionate county, but its resources, infrastructure and capacity have limits-- it would be irresponsible to pretend it does not.

Putnam County continues to share the belief that federal intervention on this issue is needed and encourage you to read our submission in the parallel NYC v Rockland matter to that end. I also encourage you to re-review our executive orders as well as the proposed legislation, so in the future we can avoid unpleasant correspondence that could be construed as defamatory.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive

Cc: Putnam County Legislature via putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov
Putnam County Attorney Compton Spain