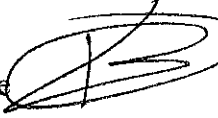




PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE

To: Diane Schonfeld
Clerk, Putnam County Legislature

CC: The Putnam County Legislature

From: Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive 

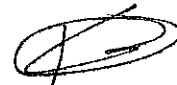
Date: November 8, 2024

Re: Adoption of the Annual Operating Budget

Pursuant to §7.04(B)(7) of the Putnam County Charter, I have reviewed the changes, alterations and revisions made by the Legislature to this Administration's 2024 Tentative Budget, and respectfully submit the following completed resolutions and corresponding messages that detail approval and executive vetoes in response.

Resolution #233

**Approval – Revenue Adjustments for NYC DEP Grant and Public Health Infrastructure Grant
(Health Department)**



The requested modifications were justified by the Department and the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #234

**Approval – Pegasus Program moving From Promotional Materials to Miscellaneous
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #235

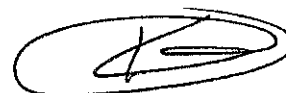
**Approval - OASAS Abatement Funds Correct Revenue
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified by the Department and the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #236

**Approval - Mental Health Administration Vehicle Leasing/Rental (Include 2nd Car Requested)
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution # 237

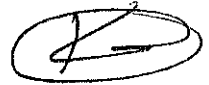
**Approval – Computer Equipment (Move to DGS and Designate for Office for Disabilities)
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #238

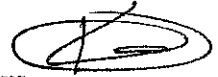
**Approval – Computer Equipment Restoration
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee by the Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau where it was also clarified that this expense is indeed 100 percent reimbursable by the State via the Medicaid program.

Resolution #239

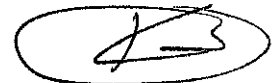
**Approval – Chargeback Contracts for Two Special Patrol Officers
(Sheriff Department)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #240

**Approval – Juvenile Delinquent & PINS moved from Miscellaneous to Contracts
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #241

**Approval – Putnam Workforce Partnership WIA Adult CFDA and WIA Dislocated
Worker Correct Revenue
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modifications were justified by the Department and Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #242

**County Clerk COLA Increase
(Putnam County Clerk Office)**



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of all our elected officials. That said, my position remains that pay raises for elected officials should be considered after contracts with all collective bargaining units are settled. I also recognize that the Budget process is inherently a product of compromise, and I will not let the perfect be the enemy of good. Therefore, I have elected not to exercise a veto for Resolutions #242, # 243, #244, and #245. The County Executive did not request and will not accept an adjustment in salary.

Resolution #243

**Sheriff COLA Increase
(Putnam County Sheriff's Office)**



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of all our elected officials. That said, my position remains that pay raises for elected officials should be considered after contracts with all collective bargaining units are settled. I also recognize that the Budget process is inherently a product of compromise, and I will not let the perfect be the enemy of good. Therefore, I have elected not to exercise a veto for Resolutions #242, #243, #244, and #245. The County Executive did not request and will not accept an adjustment in salary.

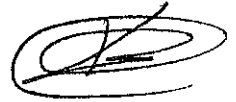
Resolution #244

**Coroner COLA Increase
(Putnam County Coroner's Office)**



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of all our elected officials. That said, my position remains that pay raises for elected officials should be considered after contracts with all collective bargaining units are settled. I also recognize that the Budget process is inherently a product of compromise, and I will not let the perfect be the enemy of good. Therefore, I have elected not to exercise a veto for Resolutions #242, #243, #244, and #245. The County Executive did not request and will not accept an adjustment in salary.

**Resolution #245
(Putnam County Legislature)**



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of all our elected officials. That said, my position remains that pay raises for elected officials should be considered after contracts with all collective bargaining units are settled. I also recognize that the Budget process is inherently a product of compromise, and I will not let the perfect be the enemy of good. Therefore, I have elected not to exercise a veto for Resolutions #242, #243, #244, and #245. The County Executive did not request and will not accept an adjustment in salary.

Resolution #246

**Approval – Legislative Staff COLA Increase
(Putnam County Legislature)**



The modifications to the Legislature's Tentative Budget were justified in Committee. This Administration completely supports these adjustments that do more to recognize the hard-working staff of the Putnam County Legislature.

Resolution #247

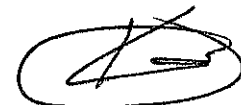
**Approval – Auditing Staff COLA Increase
(Putnam County Legislature)**



The modifications to the Legislature's Tentative Budget were justified in Committee. This Administration completely supports these adjustments that do more to recognize the hard-working staff of the Putnam County Auditing Department.

Resolution #248

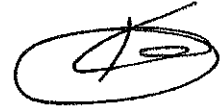
**Approval – Veterans Service Agency Temporary Staff Funding
(Putnam County Veterans Service Agency)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #249

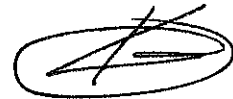
**Approval – Veterans Home Utilities and Security
(Putnam County Veterans Service Agency)**



The modifications were justified by the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #250

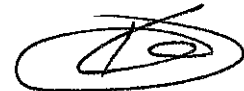
**Approval – Crisis Intervention Teams Grant
(Sheriff's Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff's Office and the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #251

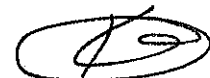
**Approval – Threat Assessment Management Grant – Correct Revenue
(Sheriff's Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff's Office and the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #252

**Approval – Temporary Line Restoration Civil Division
(Sheriff's Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff's Office in Committee.

Resolution #253

**Approval – Sheriff Patrol Services Grants From New York State
(Sheriff's Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff's Office and the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #254

**Approval – Temporary Hourly Rate Increase for SPO’s
(Sheriff’s Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff’s Office in Committee. This change accounts for a previously approved modification to the SPO’s hourly rate, as well as a modest increase of \$6,000 for training which was not accounted for in the original requested budget. This has since been clarified by the Sheriff’s Office and is therefore approved.

Resolution #255

**Approval – Chief Assistant DA Stipend
(District Attorney Office)**



The requested modification was justified by the District Attorney’s Office and the Legislature in Committee.

Resolution #256

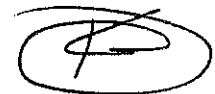
**Approval – Nursing Reclassification and Upgrades for all Nurses
(Move to Sub-contingency)
(Department of Health)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee. This adjustment sets aside funding for potential use in the future after the completion of a professional evaluation of various positions coordinated by the Personnel Department. By funding this adjustment in sub-contingency, it affords both the Legislature and the Executive the opportunity to revisit this issue in the future.

Resolution #257

**Approval – OASAS Abatement Funding For Youth Director
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

However, the County should not allow this change to create a new standard where OASAS Abatement Funds (derived from Opioid Settlements) are used to fill budget gaps. While it is permissible to use this funding for salaries, it should be used to enhance services. Putnam County must remain disciplined and demonstrate restraint in expanding the use of these funds as we budget in future years.

Resolution #258

**Approval – OASAS Abatement Funding for Director of Child Advocacy Center
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**



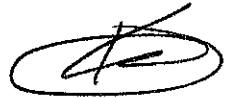
The requested modification was justified in Committee.

However, the County should not allow this change to create a new standard where OASAS Abatement Funds (derived from Opioid Settlements) are used to fill budget gaps. While it is permissible to use this funding for salaries, it should be used to enhance services. It is noteworthy that this particular change does also help further recognize a title change going from Coordinator to Director.

Regarding the use of Opioid Settlement dollars, Putnam County must remain disciplined and demonstrate restraint in expanding the use of these funds as we budget in future years.

Resolution #259

**Approval – OASAS Abatement Funding for Fiscal Manager
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**

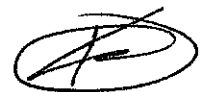


The requested modification was justified in Committee.

However, the County should not allow this change to create a new standard where OASAS Abatement Funds (derived from Opioid Settlements) are used to fill budget gaps. While it is permissible to use this funding for salaries, it should be used to enhance services. Putnam County must remain disciplined and demonstrate restraint in expanding the use of these funds as we budget in future years.

Resolution #260

**Approval - OASAS Abatement Funding for Youth Director, Director of Child Advocacy
Center, Fiscal Manager
(Department of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau)**

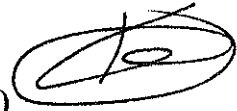


The requested modification was justified in Committee.

However, the County should not allow this change to create a new standard where OASAS Abatement Funds (derived from Opioid Settlements) are used to fill budget gaps. While it is permissible to use this funding for salaries, it should be used to enhance services. Putnam County must remain disciplined and demonstrate restraint in expanding the use of these funds as we budget in future years.

Resolution #261

**Public Information Officer Stipend (Move to Sub-contingency)
(Bureau of Emergency Services)**



The Administration continues to believe the funding for this stipend remains justified and merited as originally presented in the 2025 Tentative Budget. This stipend is designed to recognize County personnel who perform the Public Information Officer (PIO) function outside of their primary department to assist the Bureau of Emergency Services, especially during Emergency Operation Center (EOC) trainings and activation. This stipend is only for personnel who perform this important function, and after they demonstrate they have obtained the necessary PIO training from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES). For context, the previous PIO who held this role as a volunteer was well-intentioned, but did not possess the same training and was conflicted out of the role due to other employment.

The Administration recognizes that the Legislature's requested modification does not eliminate this funding but moves it to sub-contingency. By funding this adjustment in sub-contingency, it affords both the Legislature and the Executive the opportunity to revisit this issue in the future. I look forward to discussion on this topic in the coming year.

Resolution #262

**Approval – Confidential Secretary Salary
(Bureau of Emergency Services)**



Confidential Secretaries play a critical role in the day-to-day operations and function of the departments they serve in. To reiterate Personnel Officer Eldridge's memo sent to the Legislature dated October 17, 2024, the Administration sought to evaluate and establish a salary structure for Confidential Secretaries throughout the County based on several key factors. This evaluation ultimately established a base line salary for Confidential Secretaries at \$60,000 and recognized personnel based on length of service, experience, and workload.

While the proposed adjustment is inconsistent with results from the analysis performed, I am approving the modifications based on justifications presented in committee. Further discussions with the Bureau of Emergency Services clarified that this particular Confidential Secretary has taken on additional responsibilities over the years that had previously been performed by a Fiscal Manager in the Department.

Resolution #263

**Approval – Deputy Sheriff Criminal Investigator Restore Position
(Sheriff's Department)**



The requested modification was justified by the Sheriff's Office during the Legislature's Personnel Committee Meeting on October 15, 2024.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has a robust team of skilled personnel, including its existing criminal investigators who work remarkably well to protect and serve the people of Putnam County.

In the Personnel Committee, and in subsequent conversations, the Sheriff's Office provided additional information to justify the growing need for this position due to increased workload and call volume, including calls through the County's new Threat Assessment Management (TAM) team. While the existing budget provides for continued service through existing personnel, as well as overtime where necessary, Putnam County does not want nor need to sacrifice quality response and service by over-relying on the County's existing staff structure.

Last year, the 2024 County Budget added two, new, full-time positions to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, including a new Sergeant in the civil division, as well as a new Sergeant in the correctional facility.

It is important to recognize that this new Criminal Investigator position creates another full-time position, and with it comes a significant, new cost to the County's budget which will be compounded in future years. It's noteworthy that this new cost has no proposed offset and will inevitably come from an increased reliance on County taxation.

Resolution #264



**Amending Salaries to Keep Pay Differential Similar to Resolutions #177 & #178 of 2014
(Sheriff's Department)**

This modification was not included in the Sherriff's Office requested budget to the Administration. It was first brought to the Administration's attention the evening of the Legislature's Personnel Committee Meeting. The changes made based on Resolutions #177 and #178 of 2014 were subsequently shared with and reviewed by the Personnel and Law Departments. The Law Department has confirmed that the underlying resolutions are still in effect and the Administration acknowledges that they should be recognized.

It should be noted that while the Undersheriff's salary adjustment was not provided for in Resolutions #177 and 178 of 2014, the Administration agrees that this position should be compensated at an appropriate scale related to the other Sheriff's Office positions to honor the spirit of these resolutions.

However, upon further review and discussion, the Finance Department has confirmed that the amounts listed are incorrect and were likely due to a calculation error. Correcting this would result in a savings of \$6,682.

For this reason, I will not sign this Resolution at this time, and request the Legislature take appropriate action to correct it.

Please see the attached memorandum from the Commissioner of Finance detailing the error and proposed corrections.

MICHAEL J. LEWIS
COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE



KEVIN M. BYRNE
PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

To: Kevin M. Byrne
County Executive

From: Michael J. Lewis 
Commissioner of Finance

Date: **November 8, 2024**

Re: **Resolution #264 – 2024**

Resolution #264 -2024 was passed on October 29, 2024 by the Budget & Finance Committee as part of the 2025 Budget Proceedings. The purpose of this action was to keep Resolutions #177 and #178 of 2014 intact and in compliance with advances made by the PCSO PBA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Upon further review and revisiting both Resolutions #177 and #178 of 2014, it was noted that there was a slight monetary difference between the salary chart that was presented by the Sheriff during committee versus what Finance and Law has recalculated and interpreted.

The Sheriff's chart was calculated, presented, and approved as such:

Year	1st Sgt	Lt.	Captain	Undersheriff	Sheriff
		7% over 1st Sgt	8% over Lieutenant	5% over Captain/then 3% increments	Only increase deterred by Leg Action
		(note this position does not exist)			
2025	\$ 133,921.00	\$ 143,295.00	\$ 154,758.00	\$ 162,497.00	\$170,376.00

Finance (Payroll) calculations are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>1st Sgt</u>	<u>Lt.</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Undersheriff</u>	<u>Sheriff</u>
		7.5% less than Captain	15% Over 1st SGT	5% over Captain/then 3% increments	Only increase deterred by Leg Action
		(note this position does not exist)			
2025	\$ 133,921.00	\$ 142,458.00	\$ 154,009.00	\$ 161,709.00	\$170,376.00

Resolution #177 states "that the base salary of individuals whose title is "Captain" shall be increased in each of the years covered by the aforementioned MOA such that they remain at least fifteen percent (15%) higher than the base salary of the highest paid individual holding the position of 1st Sergeant at all times."

Example: \$133,921 (2025 base 1st sgt) X 15% over 1st Sgt = \$154,009

Resolution #178 states "that the base salary of Lieutenant be 7.5% lower than the based salary of the Captains"

Example: \$154,009 (2025 base Captain) X (92.5%) = \$142,458

With that said, there's an incremental budgetary savings that has been calculated:

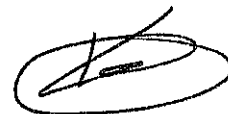
- 5 Captains were overstated by \$749 or \$3,745.00
- 2 Lieutenants were overstated by \$837 or \$1,674.00
- 1 Undersheriff was overstated by \$788.00
- FICA was overstated by \$475.00

Total budgetary savings = \$6,682.00

Year	1st Sgt	Lt.	Captain	Undersheriff	Sheriff
		7% over 1st Sgt	8% over Lieutenant	5% over Captain/then 3% increments	Only increase deterred by Leg Action
		(note this position does not exist)			
2025	\$ 133,921.00	\$ 143,295.00	\$ 154,758.00	\$ 162,497.00	\$170,376.00
2026	\$ 137,939.00	\$ 147,595.00	\$ 159,402.00	\$ 167,372.00	
2027	\$ 141,732.00	\$ 151,653.00	\$ 163,785.00	\$ 172,393.00	
Year	1st Sgt	Lt.	Captain	Undersheriff	Sheriff
		7.5% less than Captain	15% Over 1st SGT	5% over Captain/then 3% increments	Only increase deterred by Leg Action
		(note this position does not exist)			
2025	\$ 133,921.00	\$ 142,458.00	\$ 154,009.00	\$ 161,709.00	\$170,376.00
2026	\$ 137,939.00	\$ 146,733.00	\$ 158,630.00	\$ 166,560.00	
2027	\$ 141,732.00	\$ 150,768.00	\$ 162,992.00	\$ 171,557.00	
		7.5% less than Captain	15% Over 1st SGT	5% over Captain/then 3% increments	
2025		\$ (837.00)	\$ (749.00)	\$ (788.00)	
2026		\$ (862.00)	\$ (772.00)	\$ (812.00)	
2027		\$ (885.00)	\$ (793.00)	\$ (836.00)	

Resolution #265

**Approval – Confidential Secretary Salary
(County Executive)**



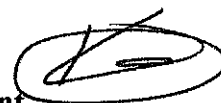
The requested modification was justified in Committee. The County Executive's Confidential Secretary is a tremendous asset not only to this office, but to the County as a whole.

As stated in my approval message in Resolution #262, the initial salary increase in the Tentative Budget was, in part, based on an evaluation conducted by the Personnel Department detailed in a memo sent to the Legislature by Personnel Officer Eldridge dated October 17, 2024. It is the Administration's goal to ensure that the process for considering salary increases for Confidential Secretary positions becomes more standardized to ensure greater consistency.

The Confidential Secretary for the County Executive is a vitally important position, and I thank the Legislature for making this additional adjustment.

Resolution #266

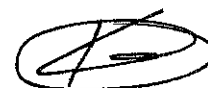
**Veto– Senior Deputy County Attorney Removal of Salary Adjustment
(Law Department)**



Please see attached Veto Message to Resolution #266.

Resolution #267

**Approval – Correct Appropriations
(Multiple Departments)**



The requested modifications were justified by the Commissioner of Finance in Committee.

Resolution #268

**Approval – Vehicle Leasing/Rental
(Department of Health)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

Resolution #269

**Approval – Confidential Secretary Salary
(County Clerk)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee. The County Clerk's Confidential Secretary is a tremendous asset to the County.

As stated in my approval message in Resolution #262, the initial salary increase in the Tentative Budget was, in part, based on an evaluation conducted by the Personnel Department detailed in a memo sent to the Legislature by Personnel Officer Eldridge dated October 17, 2024. It is the Administration's goal to ensure that the process for considering salary increases for Confidential Secretary positions becomes more standardized to ensure greater consistency.

The Confidential Secretary for the County Clerk is a very important position, and I thank the Legislature for making this additional adjustment.

Resolution #270

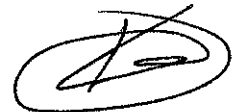
**Approval – Administrative Assistant
(Putnam County Legislature)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee. The Administration supports the recognition of this Legislative staff position and continues to appreciate the personnel's hard work and contributions to the people of Putnam County.

Resolution #271

**Approval - Public Information Officer Stipend (Sub-contingency)
(Department of Health)**



This Public Information Officer (PIO) stipend referenced in Resolution # 261 was designed to compensate County personnel who perform the Public Information Officer (PIO) function outside of their primary department to assist the Bureau of Emergency Services, especially during Emergency Operation Center (EOC) trainings and activation.

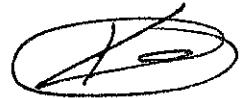
The stipend (Reso #261) was designed only for personnel who perform this important function after they demonstrate they have obtained the necessary PIO training from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES). For context, the previous PIO who held this role as a volunteer was well intentioned, but did not possess the same training and was conflicted out of the role due to other employment.

Fortunately, by funding this modification in sub-contingency, it affords both the Legislature and the Executive the opportunity to revisit this issue in the future so the County can better decide whether a stipend or overtime are more appropriate to adequately compensate this particular position. I look forward to discussion on this topic in the coming year.

It should be noted that upon discussion with the Personnel Department, approval of this stipend does not necessarily authorize its payment. As the individual serving as the PIO here is currently in a CSEA position in the Health Department, consent by the union may be required.

Resolution #272

**Approval- Confidential Secretary Salary
(Department of Public Works)**




Confidential Secretaries play a critical role in the day-to-day operations and function of the departments they serve in.

To reiterate Personnel Officer Eldridge's memo sent to the Legislature dated October 17, 2024, the Administration sought to evaluate and establish a salary structure for Confidential Secretaries throughout the County based on several key factors. This evaluation ultimately established a base line salary for Confidential Secretaries at \$60,000 and recognized personnel based on length of service, experience, and workload.

While the proposed adjustment is inconsistent with results from the analysis performed, I accept the modifications presented by the Legislature.

Resolution #273

**Approval - Restoration of Funding to Libraries
(Outside Agencies)**



The requested modification was justified in Committee.

The Administration made great efforts during the budget process to make the Outside Agency process more open and accessible to qualifying organizations, leading to a record number of submissions from organizations seeking financial support from the County.

I appreciate the efforts made by all Outside Agencies who took the time to present and meet with the Administration as well as attend subsequent legislative meetings.

Resolution #274

**Approval – Putnam County Arts Council County Contribution
(Outside Agencies)**

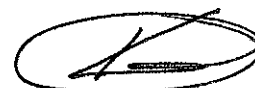


The requested modification was explained in Committee. The concerns related to the community re-grant program may be due to a misunderstanding of the agency's granting process as it already provides for legislative review for implementation. However, the Administration believes this misunderstanding can be easily clarified through a review of the existing contract and increased legislative engagement.

By moving this funding into sub-contingency, it affords the Legislature a better opportunity to communicate with the Outside Agency and have this matter further clarified.

Resolution #275

**Public Information Officer Increase (Sub-contingency)
(Sheriff's Department)**



The Public Information Officer (PIO) compensation referenced in Resolutions #261 and #271 are designed to recognize and compensate County personnel who perform a PIO function outside their primary department to assist the Bureau of Emergency Services, especially during Emergency Operation Center (EOC) trainings and activation. The original stipend is not designed to boost compensation for employees who complete their regular duties within their primary department.

The original proposal in the tentative budget provided for a stipend for a PIO in management who is assisting the Bureau of Emergency Services. This is why the funding for the original stipend was featured within a Bureau of Emergency Services budget line.

As shared in Approval Messages for Resolutions #261 and #271, the stipend presented in the tentative budget is only for personnel who perform this important function after demonstrating they have obtained the necessary PIO training from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES).

The Administration recognizes that the Legislature's requested modification does not immediately provide this funding to personnel in the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, but rather places it in sub-contingency in order to foster further discussion in the future which would require both Legislative and Executive action. Therefore, while I do not find this modification to be appropriate, it does not merit a veto at this particular time.

Resolution #276



Approval – Offset Changes to the Tentative Budget

As stated in previous approval messages, as well as during the presentation of the tentative budget on October 3rd, I recognize that the Budget process is inherently a product of compromise.

It is my hope that in the future, increased engagement from future leadership in the Legislature can assist in fostering more compromise and assist in avoiding unnecessary vetoes and spending. Fortunately, some of the new spending approved is in Sub-Contingency permitting the Legislature and Executive to engage more next year. If these dollars are not spent, they will ultimately go back into the General Fund.

I am proud of the budget our Administration presented to the Legislature. I appreciate the work done by our departments and staff to craft a budget that focuses on the delivery of quality services to the residents of Putnam County, while still having the lowest property tax rate in eighteen years.

Furthermore, I appreciate the great efforts and long nights taken by the Legislature and its staff in their review of the Budget. It's a long and arduous process for all involved, and I will not let perfect be the enemy of good.

With that said, as we continue to plan and budget for future years, Putnam County must be mindful to not over-project sales tax revenue while the sales tax exemption for clothing and footwear exists for the entirety of 2025 compared to only ten months in 2024. Ultimately, we will be able to re-evaluate and assess this exemption as we plan for the 2026 County Budget.

Moving forward, it is also critical to emphasize that the County must work to ensure that it prioritizes spending, and that new spending is accounted for with the appropriate offsets to prevent the need for raising more revenue through unnecessary levels of taxation.

Resolution #277



Approval – Approval of the 2025 Budget Resolutions

Resolution #278

Approval – Resolution Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025



The Administration has completed the requirements pursuant to section 7.04(B)(7) of the Putnam County Charter, and awaits any legislative reconsiderations, pursuant to section 7.04(B)(8) of the Charter.

A large, stylized signature, likely of the same person as the mark in the top right, located in the center of the page.



PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Diane Schonfeld, Clerk
Putnam County Legislature

CC: The Putnam County Legislature

FROM: Kevin M. Byrne
County Executive

DATE: November 8, 2024

RE: **Veto of Resolution # 266 of 2024, Removal of Salary Adjustment for Senior Deputy County Attorney (Law Department)**

Please be advised that I am vetoing Resolution #266 of 2024. The Administration maintains that the request in the Tentative Budget was well-justified and merited.

The adjustment reflected in the tentative budget supports an existing part-time position which had created a significant savings this past year by replacing what was once a full-time Senior Deputy County Attorney position. The adjustment was also based on a comparative review of other attorney positions within the County, including but not limited to, part-time Assistant District Attorney positions which are compensated significantly more (even after the proposed increase in the tentative budget).

Salary adjustments should be determined based on the position, duties, experience, and performance, but not on any one particular individual.

In this instance, a reasonable inference can be drawn from the Legislature's actions that it has focused on one specific individual by singling out only one salary adjustment in the entire Putnam County Budget. Therefore, I must respond to highlight this particular attorney's performance for Putnam County. The part-time Senior Deputy County Attorney affected by this Resolution brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Law Department. It is well-documented that her skills, dedication and commitment to detail have already greatly benefited the County in several, significant legal matters.

These legal matters include previously serving as outside counsel, when this attorney represented Putnam County and successfully defended against New York City's lawsuit regarding the relocation of homeless migrants in 2023 – a matter which was dismissed in its entirety. This attorney also resolved the contract dispute matter involving the potential sale of 34 Gleneida Avenue (*Putnam County v. Voutsinas*).

Most recently and more notably, is this Senior Deputy County Attorney's critical role in working with the County Attorney, Risk and NYMIR, the County's municipal insurer, with negotiations that secured a recent settlement in the *Krivak* matter, which passed the Legislature earlier this week. This particular settlement had the effect of saving the County tens of millions of dollars, especially given previous concerns surrounding the County's insurance coverage. This Senior Deputy County Attorney's work on this matter alone justifies the adjustment presented in the tentative budget.

The modification presented by the Legislature in this Resolution cuts compensation from this one employee. The modification was not justified and highlights what seems to be an unfair bias against an individual in the Law Department. Accordingly, I request that the Legislature strongly reconsider its decision on this matter.

For all the reasons stated above, I hereby **VETO** Resolution #266.