

**PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE**

January 23, 2025

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City of New York
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

Thank you for your candor and forthrightness in recent media accounts detailing New York City's expected response to President Trump's Day One executive activities, including securing our southern border. Several of your comments this week on "The Tucker Carlson Show" were equally encouraging as it relates to reducing the flow of illegal immigration into our state and holding criminal illegal migrants accountable.

As you know, Putnam County sits barely 55 miles north of Times Square: the city's challenges can quickly become our challenges, too. Although we have had our policy-related differences in the past, I believe a change in presidential administrations could offer a breakthrough and opportunity to improve collaboration. To be sure, I have no intention of turning Putnam County into an equivalent of our nation's most populous city, nor would I expect Manhattan to adopt Carmel's governance model. Instead, the proposal below is offered in good faith and with the intention to alleviate some associated pathologies of uninterrupted illegal immigration, including crime, disorder, and strained social services.

As you know, in May 2023 I declared a state of emergency in Putnam County, formalizing our community's relationship with federal immigration-enforcement agencies, among other things. This was, in part, a response to your own Emergency Executive Order 224 of October 2022 related to the influx of migrants into the city and an attempt to shield our local residents from individuals relocated into their community without a plan or approval. I rescinded the declaration approximately 60 days later after enacting a new local law that addressed our concerns.

As Mayor of New York City, I believe you have the power to exercise your executive authority under Section 4 of the 2022 order's "suspension of laws and rules" and can declare another Emergency Executive Order to suspend, in whole or in part, New York City's restrictive laws associated with its sanctuary designation. Therefore, I ask you do so in order to better protect our populations.

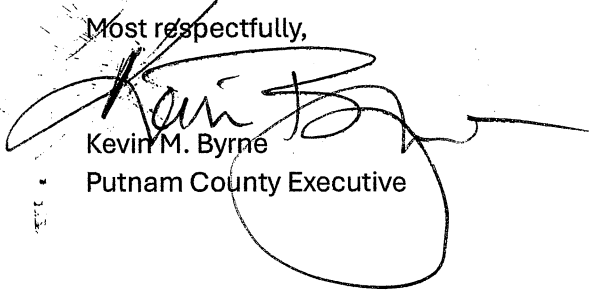
Rolling back the sanctuary laws of 2014-18 which you inherited would accomplish two worthy and interrelated goals. First, by partially lifting the designation prohibiting the NYPD, Correction, and Probation departments from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, New York City could target the non-terrorist violent criminals who currently benefit from sanctuary status. These gang members and other criminals routinely target communities of color and thrive under the broken status quo.

Second, by signaling you are willing to cooperate with federal immigration-enforcement agencies, you considerably reduce the likelihood that these agencies include those illegal immigrants with comparatively minor criminal records in their dragnet. Consider that the Trump Administration's new immigration czar has stated publicly his intention to ignore state and local sanctuary designations in order to enforce federal law. This action would provide an opportunity to highlight the qualitative distinction between immediate threats to the public and someone who may have committed a slight infraction years ago.

As County Executive, I am committed to the public safety of Putnam County. Accordingly, I ask you to follow through with your public pledge to work with the new Administration and reverse New York City's ill-advised sanctuary status. In doing so, know you will have my full and complete support.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Byrne", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive