

Putnam County
2011 State of the County Address

“Navigating through the Great Recession”

Paul J. Eldridge
County Executive

Honorable Legislators and Elected officials, Madame Clerk, County Employees, and, most importantly, the residents of Putnam County whom we are all privileged to serve - Good Evening - and thank you for joining us here in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the 2011 State of the County Address.

Since the beginning of Charter Government over thirty years ago, this address has been held in the Historic County Courthouse. I requested that the Legislature allow us to present this annual message at the Bureau of Emergency Services for several reasons. First, it is a state of the art facility that allows us to take advantage of its technological features. Secondly, it's more comfortable and allows for a larger audience, and third, and most importantly, it brings our attention, I believe, to the men and women who serve and protect us in times of emergencies. Before we go further, please join me in a moment of silence to honor slain City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer and former Carmel resident John Falcone and all of our law enforcement, military and emergency service personnel who put their lives on the line each day to ensure our safety.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding job that was done by the New York State Police, our Putnam County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Carmel and Kent Police Departments, the MTA Police Department, and all other police agencies who coordinated the memorial services for Officer Falcone and his family on Thursday, February 24th. I would also like to thank the American Red Cross, the County Health Department, the Putnam County Mental Health Department, the County Office for Aging, particularly, its complement of bus drivers, The PART system, the Highway Department, the Bureau of Emergency Services, the Carmel Fire Department, the Mahopac Fire Department, the NYS Fraternal Office of Police – Driscoll Lodge, the Knights of Columbus, the Putnam County REACT team, the Putnam County Fire and Police Response Team, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, and all of the County employees and others who volunteered that day to ensure a smooth flow of mourners to and from the services. It was a moving and just tribute to the fallen officer and his family.

Our message tonight will focus on our positive, team – oriented approach which embraces technology to tackle both current and future economic challenges, and address the non-economic issues that we are dealing with today. We will also detail our plan for continuing Putnam County Government on a course that will deliver efficient, affordable, high quality services that our residents expect to receive from their County Government.

I stated in my inaugural address that this would not be a year to tread water and that it was my intent to “hit the ground running”. I believe that we have done so. Our County and my office has been blessed by the return of Deputy County Executive John Tully as of February 1st, which has allowed us to move forward rapidly on many issues of critical concern to us and the residents of Putnam County. We will address many of those concerns tonight. From day 1, we have been utilizing the full influence of the Office of County Executive in a consensus building manner, in order to implement positive change for our residents. There is an old saying that “Crisis breeds opportunity.” We agree, and have been working on issues with stakeholders. We have been working, almost daily, with members of our County Legislature, and we have also worked closely with our State Senator Greg Ball, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, and Assemblyman Dr. Steve Katz on a myriad of challenging issues that we face. We appreciate all of their efforts to make Putnam County a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I ask Commissioner of Finance William Carlin to now give a synopsis of the unaudited financial results of 2010 as required by our County Charter. Bill will also address the current 2011 budget and the steps that we have taken to ensure that we meet our budget expectations, especially in light of anticipated State Aid reductions and cost shifts, and ideas that we will be working on, in coordination with the County Legislature, as we move into the 2012 budget process.

2010 FINANCIAL RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Cash Flow/Revenues

Before we discuss specifics regarding the 2010 financial results from the operations of Putnam County Government, the overall theme regarding fiscal year 2010 is that it was a year of stabilization and economic recovery from the effects of the “great recession” which created economic turmoil in 2009. Recall that in 2009, revenues across the board dropped precipitously. Sales tax revenues, the County’s largest revenue source, plunged, coming in \$ 6.1 million under the adopted budget. In 2010, many economically sensitive revenue sources improved from 2009, as is detailed in Appendix A of this report. Sales tax revenues totaled \$ 47.6 million, exceeding our budget estimate by \$ 128,000. Operating revenues totaled \$ 130.95 Million, and the County improved its general fund cash balance from \$ 10 million on December 31, 2009 to \$ 24.7 million on December 31, 2010. Although our cash position improved to an amount greater than the ten year average of \$ 16.5 million, we must take into account that the County issued a one year tax anticipation note in the amount of \$ 17 million to guarantee unpaid school tax payments which must be repaid in October of 2011. Guaranteeing the tax collections of Schools, Towns, Villages and special districts places a tremendous cash flow burden on County Government. Over the ten year period of 2001-2010, the County averaged \$ 24.2 million in guaranteed tax payments to schools alone! Property tax delinquencies remain a concern for County Government, as evidenced by the fact that as of December 31, 2010 there were 241 active delinquent tax payment plans open with the Department of Finance amounting to \$ 3.6 million. Even though Putnam County is not flush with cash, our improved cash flow position has enabled us to propose the creation of a \$ 1.5 million Retirement Reserve Fund which will allow the County to borrow less under the New York State and Local Retirement System Employer Contribution Stabilization Program which the County anticipates entering

in 2011. The County, in our adopted 2011 Budget, projected borrowing the \$ 3.1 million pursuant to this program at an estimated interest rate of 5%. Reducing the amount we borrow will result in lowering the 2012 County Budget retirement appropriation by approximately \$ 157,500 , and will save taxpayers an estimated \$ 150,000 in interest costs over a ten year period. We will focus further on pensions later in this address.

Expenditures

Operating expenditures totaled \$ 126.7 million in 2010, a decrease of \$ 1.8 million from 2009, as many of the cost containment measures such as the Putnam County Early Retirement Incentive Program designed by our Personnel Department, which was adopted by the County Legislature, as well as the position eliminations implemented in the 2010 budget, took hold.

Appendix A provides a comprehensive breakdown of expenses across County functions.

UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE

A key indicator of the fiscal health of the County is the undesignated general fund balance. In 2010 this rose from \$ 16 million in 2009 to \$ 19.3 million, as general fund revenues exceeded general fund expenditures by \$ 5.3 million.

As stated earlier, we are requesting that the Legislature establish a \$1.5 million dollar Retirement Reserve Fund to mitigate our borrowing needs. If this reserve fund is approved, the remaining undesignated fund balance will equal 13% of the adopted operating budget, which is within the 10% - 20% range that has been recommended by our independent auditors. It is vital to ensuring our ability to operate and preserve the County's excellent bond rating, which enables the County to borrow money at lower interest rates. This will save County taxpayers significant money not only this year, but in future years as well by reducing our interest expense.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT

In 2011, the County has continued a proactive approach to managing our budget. Last month, in response to possible changing revenue streams caused by the economy, in general, and the State budget, in particular, we issued a balanced budget directive notifying departments that they should recommend spending cuts to deal with revenue shortfalls. We further advised that spending based upon uncertain revenue sources such as jail board-in fees, will not be authorized until those revenues are realized. We continue to scrutinize purchases, vacancies, and will pursue other cost cutting ideas that we will address shortly. We know that the 2012 County Budget will present tremendous challenges. Federal stimulus funding (FMAP) amounting to \$ 620,000 in 2011 will be gone. The possibility exists that the County could be facing a 2% property tax cap without the necessary mandate relief to lower expenses. Therefore, our 2012 Budget proposal will further tighten our belts utilizing certain budget tools. First, we will be employing a vacancy control factor to capture savings that inevitably are generated throughout the year. Second, we will be reducing budgeted expenditures and revenues for mandated programs that have generated surpluses in 2010 unless we are certain that this cannot be

done. We will also be increasing our general contingency fund by a portion of these savings to protect against budget shortfalls.

Finally, we will set a goal of a zero percent property tax levy increase for the 2012 budget. I would like to be able to guarantee that now, but I can't without the County receiving necessary mandate relief.

COST CUTTING INITIATIVES

As Commissioner Carlin has reported, our numbers for the year 2010 are encouraging. However, we are by no means out of the woods. Optimistically, even if mandated programs are reigned in, a likely real property tax cap requires a continuous application of cost cutting measures. Since taking office, our team has been working on numerous fronts to reduce the cost of county government. Let's look at a few.

1) FLEET AND FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In 2010, the County conducted a comprehensive county-wide vehicle survey and began auctioning surplus vehicles through the online auction service, Auctions International. The County successfully auctioned 47 surplus vehicles for a total of \$40,000. For 2011, Putnam County has established a goal to reduce its vehicle fleet by 20% by the end of the year. (The County currently has 345 cars, trucks and highway/construction vehicles in its fleet.) I have tasked Purchasing Director Alex Mazzotta with conducting a complete review of county vehicle requirements. He has started with a one month pilot project during February at the Donald B. Smith Campus. Through this assessment, the County determined that its vehicle fleet needs, properly managed, at the DBS campus can minimally be reduced by 10 to 20%. Those vehicles determined to be "surplus" will either be auctioned for sale or swapped out with other county vehicles that are in worse condition. Based upon the results of this pilot project, we will extend our review throughout our government. Our goal is to complete the reduction while managing the utilization of our remaining fleet in the most efficient way with completion of the program during this year.

In addition to reducing the size of the County fleet, the County is also looking to implement a fleet and fuel management system to better utilize, service and maintain the County fleet. This system should improve vehicle utilization, repairs and maintenance services and increase staff efficiency and productivity. Complete, real time, easily accessible data for both maintenance and repair, as well as fuel usage, will enhance staff and management ability to maximize availability, usage, and cost effectiveness of resources.

If implemented successfully, the fleet and fuel management program can save the County considerable money through its auction sale proceeds, insurance costs reductions, and maintenance costs reductions. Furthermore, the program will enable the County to better assess when and if new vehicles need to be purchased in the future.

The Legislature, if you will remember, set aside \$65,000 in 2010 in a sub-contingency account for fleet management, which has been encumbered for use in 2011. This system will include complete, real time, easily accessible data for both maintenance and repair as well as fuel usage, which will enhance

staff and management ability to maximize availability, usage, and cost effectiveness of resources. I am requesting that the Legislature release these funds in the next month so that we may implement this modern fleet management system for the county to utilize from this point forward. The expenditure of these funds is a one shot expense to implement our program now and for the future.

2) FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLES

We are also evaluating the feasibility of purchasing or leasing fuel efficient hybrids and / or electric vehicles in the future when current vehicles need replacing. We are researching all funding assistance available to help offset the initial costs.

3) ASSIGNED COUNSEL PLAN

We established in February of this year, a working group including the County Attorney's Office, Finance Department, and Auditing to review the Putnam County Assigned Counsel Plan whose mission is to provide free attorneys to indigent defendants in the criminal and family courts in the County. We then asked District Attorney Adam Levy to join our group. District Attorney Levy has done a remarkable job by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Attorney's office and he has created groundbreaking initiatives in the area of criminal justice.

In Putnam, people arrested by the police and charged with a crime or those engaged in litigation in the family court, who were below the federal poverty level (\$ 22,350 based on a family of four), are entitled, as a matter of law, to an attorney, **free of charge**, to handle their matter.

In 2005, the cost to Putnam County taxpayers for these "free" lawyers was \$167,000. In 2010, the cost skyrocketed 145%, to \$410,000.

During the next several months, our County team along with the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, The Putnam County Bar Association and all local and County Court judges will work together in an effort to ensure that only those defendants who are truly qualified for free counsel have access to those resources.

DA Levy and I both believe that justice requires that all people have access to legal representation in our courts. You are entitled to nothing less just because you are indigent. However, for those defendants who do not qualify for free counsel, the taxpayers of Putnam will no longer cover the cost for you.

4) RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

We also believe that this is the year to re-examine our retiree health insurance contribution plan. Over the next 20 years an independent actuary has determined that these costs are expected to rise from \$ 3.6 million in 2011 to \$ 4.8 million by 2015! As you might be aware, the NYSHIP plan mandates that we reimburse our retirees for their Medicare Part B costs withheld by Social Security. The County therefore not only pays their health insurance premium, but sends them a check twice a year to boot! Our current plan has established a contribution floor of 5%, and for a typical couple over age 65 the County pays \$ 11,248 per year for insurance coverage, imputes a charge of \$ 562 for this coverage, credits them approximately \$ 2,400 to reimburse Medicare Part B premiums and sends them two checks a year amounting to \$ 1,848 for the difference.

When the County commissioned a Blue Ribbon Panel to examine this issue in 2005, we felt that the contribution floor was not set at a sufficient level then. Considering what has happened in the world since, we are further convinced that change is needed to raise the minimum contribution to no less than 25%. We believe that this increase should be phased in over a period of years. We intend to work with the Legislature to address this issue. Clearly, these costs are not going down, and we must act accordingly.

COST PREVENTION

As the Legislature knows, we recently have had several settlements related to traffic accidents on County Roads.

I have asked our Sheriff, Don Smith, and my Deputy County Executive, John Tully, to co-chair a sub-committee of the traffic safety board to review all accident statistics along with traffic studies that may have been done for the purpose of prioritizing highway road repairs and fixes.

Upon completion, I will ask that the results be shared with our capital projects committee so that necessary and urgent projects may begin as soon as possible. We must be vigilant and proactive on the repair and maintenance of our roads, highways, and bridges to maintain, as best as possible, the safety of the driving public.

We will commence negotiations with our three current bargaining units later this year. We will seek a wage freeze in these negotiations for at least the year 2012. It should be pointed out that a wage freeze under current collective bargaining in New York State is a misnomer. Due to the State's adoption of the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor law in 1982, employees eligible for increments must be paid them regardless of whether we have an agreement or not. This is equally true, even if we mutually agree to a zero percent across-the-board for 2012.

COOPERATIVE MUNICIPAL SERVICES

In my inaugural address, I spoke of the desire to consolidate and/or find cooperative, shared service opportunities with other levels of local government within Putnam County. In my two months and John Tully's one, we have been diligently seeking such opportunities. We have had numerous discussions with our fellow government leaders on opportunities that may exist. Although we are not in a position to announce any breakthroughs, I can say that I am encouraged by these discussions and hope to make progress on several potential opportunities this year. Stay Tuned!

STATE BUDGET IMPACT

Unfortunately, the State Budget proposed by Governor Cuomo does not provide the necessary mandate relief for County Governments. We question how Putnam County can be reasonably expected by New York State to implement a 2% property tax cap (equivalent to about \$ 750,000 per year) when State mandated costs such as retirement and Medicaid discussed earlier, cost us millions per year. We appreciate that the Governor is attempting to close a budget gap in excess of \$ 10 billion. We

understand that the greatest impact of his budget addresses the two largest budget items, Medicaid and School aid. What Counties and schools need is mandate relief, and the flexibility to use what resources exist to provide maximum benefit. While the Governor has appointed a Mandate Redesign Team to make recommendations, NYSAC has already identified over 200 mandate reform ideas, which if implemented, will save taxpayer dollars. While too numerous to mention here, the working draft of this report can be found on the NYSAC website WWW.NYSAC.ORG.

Public Health Article 6 Funding

This proposal eliminates State reimbursement for the Early Intervention administrator and Services coordinators. Incredibly, the direct care costs of these programs are reimbursed, yet the costs to run these programs are deemed “optional”. This results in the loss of \$ 213,000 on an annual basis which must be borne by County Taxpayers. This State budget also eliminates Article 6 funding for CHHA (Certified Home Health Agency) services. Fortunately, the County sold our CHHA license last year, avoiding a \$ 400,000 hit to County coffers. Our Health Department reports that since the State budget was released, they have received numerous inquiries from Counties regarding the process we undertook to divest ourselves from the CHHA.

Cuts in the Youth Bureau

The State has cut funding provided to the Youth Bureaus by 50% effective 7/1/2011. The 50% reduced State Aid is given to the County as a block grant for 2011/2012 year. The cut to Putnam is \$75,500 dollars. As a result, school based prevention programs, youth forum, youth court, the arbor house runaway shelter, the Pegasus program for children of alcoholics, and other important programs will need to be reevaluated and perhaps eliminated. Some programs, such as the arbor house runaway shelter, often save much more money than they cost due to their ability to serve youth in the shelter who might otherwise be placed in more costly non-secure detention which of course, as we just mentioned, is now capped.

FEDERAL AND STATE MANDATED SERVICES

These mandated programs, on average throughout New York State, consume more than 90% of County Real Property Taxes (\$ 4 billion of the \$ 4.4 billion currently raised). These mandated programs have consistently increased by an average of 10 to 15% each year. Now impose a 2% real property tax cap, as proposed by our new Governor. There is an apparent belief by many that the imposition of a property tax cap will automatically rein in government spending. Unfortunately, this is not true. A property tax cap, without corresponding mandate relief and cost reduction, will result in: A) only state mandated programs being funded at the expense of all locally funded programs, such as Sheriff’s Road Patrol, many senior and youth programs, aid to outside agencies, and others; or B) it will result in enormous real property tax increases to retain these services; or C) it will be a combination of both, that is, it will decimate local services resulting in the dangerous reduction of essential services provided by local government along with less but still devastating real property tax increases.

Time and time again, our residents have told us that they want these local services described earlier. They want them provided, however, in the most productive, cost effective manner possible.

We will focus our remarks around the “9 for 90” campaign conducted by the New York State Association of Counties. “9 For 90” recognizes that 9 of the most costly State mandates consume 90% of the County property tax levy statewide. This campaign is communicating the challenges all counties face in addressing a property tax crisis that stems from decisions made in the State Capitol, not in the County Office Building or in the Historic County Courthouse.

Putnam County “9 for 90” – 2010

<u>Program</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>property tax levy</u>
Medicaid	\$ 9,099,415	\$	\$ 9,099,415
PA/Safety Net	\$ 1,520,755	\$ 1,031,418	\$ 489,337
Child Welfare	\$ 2,549,057	\$ 1,702,157	\$ 846,900
Preschool Special Ed	\$ 7,308,074	\$ 3,164,765	\$ 4,143,309
Early Intervention	\$ 2,058,470	\$ 938,766	\$ 1,119,704
Indigent Defense	\$ 996,559	\$ 168,344	\$ 828,215
Probation	\$ 1,716,614	\$ 266,865	\$ 1,449,749
Youth Detention	\$ 29,253	\$ 13,176	\$ 16,077
Pensions	\$ 5,148,943	\$	\$ 5,148,943
Total	\$30,427,140	\$ 7,285,491	\$23,141,649

In Putnam County in 2010, these nine state mandated programs consumed 61% of the County real property tax revenue of \$ 36.5 million!

We will now elaborate on just a few of these mandated programs.

MEDICAID

Counties believe that now is the time to recognize that Medicaid is a state program, and that the non-federal share of its cost is most appropriately financed solely at the state level, where virtually all the capacity for control and direction resides. In New York State, the County contribution equates to 25% of the total County property tax levy, which in Putnam County exceeds \$ 9 million dollars. Even though the State implemented a 3% cap on the increase in yearly County contributions, the program continues to increase at a greater rate. The total Medicaid bill in Putnam County is \$ 90 million dollars, which serves an estimated 4,000 county residents. Furthermore, total County government contributions alone in New York State exceed the total combined Federal, State and Local Medicaid costs in nearly 40 of the other states.

New York Counties simply lack the capacity to continue to shoulder increases in the Medicaid cost burden. The county property tax base is too narrowly distributed to effectively finance a program the size of Medicaid.

NYSAC recommends creating a rational and sustainable benefit structure and eligibility criteria. New York State must reinvent the benefit design and eligibility for Medicaid. This should include a review of optional benefits, optional populations and income eligibility levels.

PENSIONS

Counties participate in the New York State and Local Public Employees Retirement System, along with other local governments; however, counties have no control over the pension benefits awarded to their own employees. A combination of significant pension benefit enhancements over the last 10 years and poor investment returns the last few years has led to significant increases in employer pension contributions. For most counties these costs have doubled over the last two years and will double and possibly triple over the next several years. In Putnam County, the accompanying ten year retirement expense graph shows the dramatic increase in cost to our taxpayers.

Clearly, these costs, which are exploding chiefly due to the investment loss of 26% in State Fiscal Year ending 3/31/09, are unsustainable. It has sparked the call for reform of the retirement system. NYSAC has endorsed the legislation proposed by their Public Employee Relations Standing Committee examining the issue, of which I am a member, recommending the creation of a Tier 6. The proposed Tier 6 eliminates the defined benefit plan for newly hired employees and replaces it with a defined contribution plan (that allows for flexible employee/employer matching arrangements within set parameters), and which more closely mirrors what is available in the private sector. Also, pension benefits should be based on base salary only; overtime should not be used in the calculation for lifetime retirement benefits as in existing Tier plans. These changes are necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system in a manner affordable to the property tax payers that help fund the system.

ENVIRONMENT

Landfill

At this time, the Closure Plan for the Putnam County Landfill, consisting of a landfill cap, has been submitted to and was approved by the New York State DEC. The design drawings and specifications for the cap have also been submitted to NYSDEC for review and approval, and we expect to receive their approval within the next 30 days. Once final approval is obtained from NYSDEC, we will solicit bids for the closure and cap construction phase of the project, with a mid to late summer construction start date. We are optimistic that the capping of the landfill would be completed by the end of this year, with ongoing monitoring taking place to continually insure the efficacy of the cap. This capping will resolve an enormous environmental issue which has plagued the County for years by insuring that the residents of Putnam County will be protected from potential environmental hazards or pollution stemming from this site.

Septic Repair Program

As you know, the money was exhausted for the Septic Repair Program which the County had been administering under the New York City DEP's plan, and under which 162 failed or failing septic systems located within 500 feet of a sensitive water body or water course in the Watershed area of the

County were repaired or replaced. The County then began formulating a new and innovative Program to serve and benefit all of the residents of the County of Putnam. Specifically, the County has drafted an entirely new Septic Repair Program Plan, under which all residential property owners whose property is located within Putnam County would be eligible for a low interest, long term loan for the purpose of repairing or replacing the septic system located on their property, provided the system is failing or has failed. This new and creative plan is currently being reviewed, and the County is cautiously optimistic that sufficient funding will be in place during this year.

MS4 Stormwater Program in Putnam County

Over the past year, the County, through the Putnam County MS4 Stormwater Coordinating Committee, has continued to focus on addressing compliance and the administration needed to meet the basic MS4 Program for the County. We have actively pursued grants and other funding sources for the MS4 Program and are currently working toward establishing an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Putnam/Westchester Communities within the NYC Watershed. The long term goal is to establish a Regional Stormwater Entity (RSE) to relieve the burden of the EPA mandate which is currently on the local municipalities. It is also important for us to remain galvanized as communities in the NYC Watershed to work toward funding solutions to implement the storm water retrofits so that the NYC DEP and DEC fund the program assuring Putnam taxpayers of no cost for this program.

The tasks which will be focused on in the coming year include:

- The development of an educational program, in accordance with the MS4 program requirements, through the use of the \$51,000 grant which the Coordinating Committee received in 2010;
- The development of a coordinated approach to a Septic Inspection Program between the County and the EOH towns, which is a program scheduled to commence by May 1, 2011.
- The completion of the design and installation of year 2 stormwater retrofits in order to remain in compliance with the MS4 General Permit.
- In an effort to achieve these goals, the County will continue to work with the Committee to seek out and apply for grants and other funding opportunities, and will continue to participate in the newly formed Coalition comprised of Putnam and Westchester County Watershed towns in an effort to identify the most cost effective approach to addressing the requirements and administration of the MS4 Storm water Program.

We applaud Assemblyman Dr. Steve Katz in calling for an immediate moratorium on the MS4 regulations. In the alternative, a moratorium at the 5 year mark of this 10 year program must occur to allow the affected communities' time to evaluate the implemented projects of the first five years and measure the need, cost and success. We also recommend that pilot projects using a myriad of approaches be implemented first, and that evaluations of the effectiveness of the pilot projects be performed.

COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Recently, there have been a number of construction projects that have generated significant controversy. Some of the controversy can be found in the lack of clear steps or phases for these projects. In some cases, the projects were under unrealistic time frames. Therefore, from this point

forward, I am proposing, with the assistance of several members of the Legislature, that we follow a systematic, clearly defined process for such projects.

For significant projects, I recommend the engagement of a County representative to monitor the project throughout all of its phases. Such County representative could in some cases, be a current county employee. Other times it would be a consultant from outside our government.

All such significant projects must have each of the following phases; pre-planning (what is the need, how is it met), Planning (options to meet the need), Design Development, Preparation of Construction Documents for Building and Project Implementation, Bidding of the Project, Construction, and Post Construction review of project success – in other words, was it on time and within budget and what were the lessons learned. Once these guidelines and processes are in place, it will become the standard for all future construction projects.

The need for County road improvements, proper oversight of County construction projects, the growing of our facilities, MS4 projects, and upgrades necessitate the filling of the Commissioner of Highways and Facilities by a person with an engineering background. As you know, I have advocated for the position to be filled by a Licensed Professional Engineer (LPE). While the allowance for options with the filling of the position is acceptable, I will seek to fill the position with an LPE. The responsibilities of the position, I believe demand it.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In 2010, the County began the implementation of a new Financial Management System which will replace the current computer financial system which we have had in place for over 15 years. The benefit of this system is to have increased functionality and reporting capabilities that will be used across **all** levels of Government. Grant Tracking, Job Costing, Billing/Accounts Receivable, and Employee Self-Service are just a few examples of features that will be utilized to increase efficiency throughout the County. We have assembled a group of core functional leaders to include Deputy County Executive John Tully, Commissioner of Finance William Carlin, Deputy Commissioners of Finance Anita Gilbert and James McConnell, Purchasing Director Alex Mazzotta, County Auditor Michele Alfano-Sharkey, Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon and Senior Coordinator of Exams and Transactions Susan O'Rourke. They, along with all of our managers, supervisors and County employees will ultimately be responsible for the successful conversion and implementation of this important project.

We thank the Legislature for being our partner in this effort and for supporting us in the initiative and for dedicating County Auditor, Michele Alfano-Sharkey to be a part of our core functional team.

COUNTY CLERK

Division of Motor Vehicles

In 2010 the revenues increased from \$1.7 million to \$2.0 million, an increase of \$300,000, due to the following factors: a percentage of the user fee that is collected regardless of where the car(s) is registered; and the increased fees for the MTA, of which the County receives a percentage. In addition,

in 2011 the County will be offering the purchase of an E-Z Pass from which the County retains 15 percent of the revenues.

Governor Cuomo's administration is placing a dramatic emphasis on placing all Motor Vehicle activities on the internet statewide, which would significantly limit or eliminate the current revenues to Putnam County. The County Clerk's office is currently debating with Albany to limit any decrease and retain ownership of these activities, or gain a share of the internet processing revenues if that implementation occurs. At present, 52 counties in the State operate their own offices, which means that all 52 would suffer significant loss if this proposal is implemented.

Registrar's Office

The County Clerk is looking to implement several new initiatives in the coming year. The first is to consolidate all the office sites into the County Office Building at 40 Gleneida Avenue for greater communication and efficiency. Second, the office is preparing to e-file court records so that they are more readily accessible.

The office has developed a "Return the Favor" program for Putnam County veterans. Some of the benefits include registering at least 750 veterans' discharge forms (DD214), and enrolling over 200 merchants who are each offering special discounts or offerings for veterans to access. This program is very active and much appreciated.

The office will soon be unveiling an 'automatic endorsement page' for the filing of land records. This automation will significantly streamline the registration process for land owners. The Clerk's office is also working on purging and updating all pistol permit records, and will be issuing new plastic cards which will list all permits on one card and replace the old paper-card system. The conversion will start with those permit holders who are registering new activity on their permits and ultimately convert all existing permit holders' cards.

The originals of all subdivision maps are on linen and have previously been handled every time a copy needed to be made. Now, 100 percent of them have been electronically scanned and at least 90 percent of them are currently on line for viewing, from which full prints can be made. The originals can be stored and preserved and will no longer need to be handled.

Records Management Center

The Center is currently at 95 percent of full capacity. The County Clerk is working with the County Executive's Office to develop a plan to increase the existing space within the coming year.

Future Projects

There are two major projects facing the County Clerk's Office. First is the bicentennial of the founding of Putnam County which occurs in 2012. Coordination with the County Historian's office will be very involved. The second project is planning the possibility of a satellite office on the western side of Putnam County for easier access by all residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith reports that Putnam County continues to have the lowest crime rate in the Hudson Valley region and remains one of the safest counties in New York State. The overall Index Crime Rate for Putnam County has decreased by 27.8% from 2002 through 2009. This is a great accomplishment which the Sheriff attributes to the hard work of all law enforcement working together as a team within Putnam County. It is significant to note that Putnam County has achieved this success even though it is surrounded by Operation Impact counties (Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Dutchess) which are amongst the seventeen (17) highest-crime counties that comprise 79% of the crime in New York State outside of New York City.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office continues to provide major support to the schools in Putnam County through highly trained and effective School Resource Officers in many of our school districts. The Sheriff and the leadership of Putnam County strongly believe that this program is especially important in this period of the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression and at a time when international and domestic terrorism incidents have been on the rise across the country. We hope that the participating school districts will continue to fund their share of the cost of this program to continue its successful operation.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Carmel Police Department and the Town of Kent Police Department, has continued to provide outstanding support to the entire County through a multi-agency Emergency Response Team consisting of twenty-five (25) members. During 2010, Putnam County was very successful in obtaining \$109,500 in federal grant funding and \$54,000 for State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Programs (SLETPP) training and an additional \$54,500 for equipment. All of this equipment and training were obtained through federal grants as well as funds from the New York State Office of Homeland Security. This highly trained team has played a major role in responding to incidents involving execution of high-risk warrants and actions involving barricaded persons and emotionally disturbed individuals posing a threat to the immediate community as well as law enforcement. This highly-professional Emergency Response Team has achieved a high level of success in providing a flexible response to all special police situations and has exceeded the expectations of the Sheriff, Carmel Police Chief Michael Johnson and Kent Police Chief Donald L. Smith.

With Putnam County being so close to New York City and cities that are located in Operation Impact counties, narcotics enforcement has continued to be a major mission of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office through its Narcotics Enforcement Unit. During 2010, members of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit opened a total of 723 new cases and seized six vehicles and numerous quantities of crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana. In addition, prescription drugs, which were being sold illegally to undercover narcotic investigators, were seized and therefore did not fall into the hands of Putnam County residents, especially the youth of Putnam County.

The Sheriff, who is also the Chairman of the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board, reports that 2010 was statistically the safest year for traffic fatalities within Putnam County. Even though one traffic death is one too many, there were only four fatalities on Putnam County's roads and highways – down from 10 in 2009 and significantly lower than the 20 fatalities the County experienced back in 1994.

We are proud of the achievements of not only the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, but all law enforcement including the Cold Spring, Kent, Carmel, Brewster, and New York State Police agencies.

PUBLIC / PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Golf Course Property

Even though RDC Golf began at Putnam National Golf Club almost immediately prior to the economic downturn, they have succeeded in significantly improving the bottom line of the club's operations during the last three years. The operating profit has gone from a significant deficit to a significant profit in that time, improving the operating income by over \$ 400,000. During that same period, the conditions of the golf course have improved as determined by an independent consultant retained to evaluate the course each year. Despite the lingering economic concerns, it appears that in 2011 the operating income of the property will exceed the bond payment so that Putnam National will produce a positive cash flow for the County. An objective analysis of these results would compare favorably to many other golf courses in the region.

Tilly Foster Farm / Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park / Spain Cornerstone Park

Although we face tough economic times and the County's ability to do many things has been sharply curtailed, we still maintain our public/private partnership with the Whipple Foundation for the Preservation of Putnam County, to provide services that the County cannot afford.

Over \$200,000 of privately donated funds was spent at the Tilly Foster Farm during 2010, repairing and painting buildings and adding to County owned infrastructure at no expense to the County. All of this was accomplished while executing one of the Farm's primary missions which is to keep the Farm open and free to the people of Putnam County forever. Thousands of families have enjoyed the farm and it's critically endangered farm animals, for free, since its opening.

A project between Putnam County's Joint Veterans Council and the Whipple Foundation is the reconstruction of the historic 1832 Red Mills Baptist Church. Peter Allegretta is in the lead as the construction manager on this project. The Whipple-Feeley Putnam County Veterans Memorial Chapel (named for two deceased Putnam County veterans) is nearing completion of the exterior. The 70-foot steeple will be finished and in place by Memorial Day. According to the foundation, over \$ 300,000 of private funds have been donated to construct what will become a veterans' meeting hall and over \$ 300,000 in labor, under Peter Allegretta's direction, will have been donated as well. Ed Cooke of the Carpenters' Union is leading the reconstruction of the steeple. The public will be invited to a topping-out ceremony in the Spring.

Finally, the Spain Cornerstone Park, which is owned by the Whipple Foundation, and leased to Putnam County, continues to be used on an almost daily basis for community meetings. Coming up on the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack of 9/11, the Putnam County Memorial for those who perished on that tragic day, sits in the Park making it sacred ground. The Park is not without costs, however. The County is required to pay ten cents a year in rent for use of the Park and the conference center. I realize that the County was ten years in arrears on its rent. I paid the \$1.00 rent for the last decade to the Foundation, which will use the \$1 to support the Tilly Foster Farm Museum.

HUMAN SERVICES

In 2009 Deputy County Executive John Tully instituted a Human Services Cabinet meeting bringing together the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Mental Health, Social Services and Youth, the Director of the Office for Aging and the Director of Mental Health Services and Youth.

The focus of these quarterly meetings was to examine the most pressing issues that affect the human service needs of all of our residents. These issues range from the chemical dependency prevention programs administered by our Youth Bureau to the adult day care services operated by our Office for Aging.

Historically, the center of treatment for persons with serious mental illness (and in the past for not so serious mental illness such as depression or alcoholism and other drug abuse) was the state hospital system. But in the past 50 years the state hospital census has shrunk from 93,000 New Yorkers to under 4,000 today.

Some suggest the increase in the county jail census across New York State in the past 40 years is in direct correlation to the decrease in the census of the state psychiatric hospitals.

But, in fact, New York and all other states have slowly evolved the system of care from the very expensive state hospital system to a system of care in the community that emphasizes recovery.

While one can have a disease of mental illness for a lifetime, this does not mean that they will be symptomatic for a lifetime. When one has the disease of alcoholism, one is always an alcoholic; but when in recovery, they function perfectly well as lawyers, government officials, judges, doctors, wall-street stock brokers, and mental health professionals.

The system of care in place now that promotes such recovery ranges from treatment of the acute phase of serious mental illness in community hospitals such as Putnam Hospital Center for two weeks rather than a lifetime in a state hospital, then discharge to an extensive outpatient program such as partial hospitalization or Personalized Recovery Option Services (PROS), and from there to outpatient clinics. As a connecting thread, we have supportive housing and case management to support the recovery of a person with mental illness. And finally, a range of medications, some very new and very expensive called "atypical anti-psychotics" help people in their recovery.

The outcome is a person who works, who engages in relationships, who gets married if they so choose who, in short, live the lives that their parents planned for them and hoped they would achieve, just as our parents hoped for us and we hope for our children.

And while this system of care is much cheaper than a hospital based system, it is still a significant part of the Medicaid dollar because commercial health insurance will not pay for these services.

Mental Health Initiative

Putnam programs have been in the forefront of best practices in Mental Health treatment. It is evidenced in the ability of Putnam Family and Community Services to be able to establish one of the first Personalized Recovery Options Services (PROS) programs in New York State. PROS moves people with mental illness towards recovery, jobs, and wellness. It does not just treat mental illness, it promotes recovery. We congratulate Edye Schwartz on taking a position with the New York State Association of

Psychiatric of Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) where she will be helping communities across the State establish PROS and adapt to clinic cost restructuring. We welcome Diane Russo as her successor in the position of Executive Director of Putnam Family and Community Services. We know that Diane is also a leader in the recovery model of Mental Health treatment. It is the same model of wellness and innovation that has led you, the Legislature, to fund our 24 hour crisis hotline and the Rose House peer run crisis residence, a model for housing in the future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

Last week we heard that there was a slight dip in the unemployment rate. Yet, the unemployment rate in Putnam remains at high levels. While some consider the Department of Social Services as a place to qualify for programs for the poor, the fact is that the mission of the Department of Social Services is to help our residents achieve self-sufficiency. Two initiatives help to do that. They exist to help citizens already self-sufficient increase their vocational skills so that those already in the workforce can get even better jobs.

The first is the Putnam Workforce Partnership. Not only is this a resource of all of the jobs available in the Hudson Valley for those who are unemployed, but it also provides resume building opportunities and support for those eligible for training in those job sectors that are growing.

The second initiative is the Red Carpet Team whose mission is to serve the business community of Putnam County. Over the last three years, several organizations have gathered bimonthly to strategize about how we, as a team, might be able to serve local businesses most efficiently. The mission of the team has been to serve as the primary resource for comprehensive business services in this County.

The team objectives have been:

- 1) Enhance communication with the business community;
- 2) Encourage and coordinate access to available programs, resources and benefits, and;
- 3) Provide professional advice and direction to help solve business issues.

One of the team's recent success stories was the comprehensive service approach that we offered to the DeCicco family as they opened their 7th Family Market, their 1st in this County, in Southeast on November 12, 2010. Their new store brought restaurant-quality meats, local produce and extensive selection of organic and specialty food items to Southeast. The location is in the former Linens & Things building at 50 Independent Way. This is a family-owned chain of specialty grocery stores. This store is their largest location, 37,500 square feet. At the ribbon cutting ceremony, numerous Red Carpet Team members publically wished the DeCicco family well in their latest business venture which ultimately, resulted in 85-90 full and part-time jobs within our County.

Office for Aging

The latest census figures reveal that Putnam County had the 2nd largest percentage increase of persons older than 60 years old of all of the Counties in New York State. Over 18,000 Putnam County residents are over the age of 60. This reflects an increase of 17.5% compared to the 2000 Census. What does this mean for Putnam County? On the one hand, it helps us assess the number of people who may need services in 20 years, but on the other hand, lets take a look at the population turning 60. They are

still working and they are healthier than ever before, owing to changes in lifestyle over the past 30 years. This population will continue to earn money through their retirement savings and continue to spend money in our local businesses.

Of the 20% of the elderly population that does require services, the Office for the Aging provides multiple programs which provide support that keeps seniors independent and healthy. OFA's Health Insurance Savings Program has helped residents save hundreds of thousands of dollars in premiums, co-pays, and prescription costs. Our Adult Day Care Program helps divert 30 people from having to go to a nursing home.

Health Department

The Public Health Nursing Division provides essential services to the residents of Putnam County. The most significant role of the Nursing Division is prevention, investigation, and control of disease. This is accomplished through active and passive surveillance, disease investigation, health education, and response to disease outbreaks. During 2010, 877 disease reports were received and investigated. When a disease investigation results in an outbreak, the Outbreak Team, comprised of nursing and environmental health, convenes to provide early detection and quick intervention to mitigate and control the spread of disease.

During 2010, a mumps outbreak potentially involving the spread of disease to 600 individuals was managed by an aggressive unified response by the Outbreak and Immunization Teams and resulted in only four cases of mumps. Similar responses occurred during the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic and prior pertussis (whooping cough) outbreaks. A recent rise in tuberculosis cases has warranted an increase in targeted testing which has led to an increase in case findings. Contact investigation and early treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis helps control the spread of disease.

Managing the annual influenza season requires partnerships both within the Health Department and with other county and community partners. The Bureau of Emergency Services, Putnam Hospital Center, local physicians, schools, Sheriff's Department and the Medical Reserve Corps are essential partners each year as we are faced with seasonal flu which kills and hospitalizes thousands of people annually. Conducting flu clinics and mass vaccination PODs (point of dispensing) is accomplished only with the support of each of these partners. During 2010, school based clinics were conducted in the Mahopac and Carmel school districts during school hours and 1,247 school children and employees received a flu shot.

The Immunization Division has partnered with Putnam Hospital Center to initiate a Tdap program to prevent the spread of pertussis (whooping cough) and protect newborns who are too young to be immunized. Pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is offered to all mothers who give birth at Putnam Hospital Center and a coupon for a free vaccine is presented to fathers and close contacts of the newborn babies.

Lead

In 2008, the Environmental Health Division shifted its direction in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to include lead hazard assessment in child occupied facilities such as daycares, Pre-K and nursery schools in order to detect and correct environmental lead hazards **before** a child may

become lead poisoned. To date, the Department has conducted a total of 23 “primary prevention assessments/investigations” at child-occupied facilities.

During an assessment, inspectors attempt to find lead sources in paint, water, soil, objects (e.g, toys), products (e.g., home remedy’s) or from occupational or recreational activities. Lead assessments include large scale facilities that contain multiple buildings and locations for a designated site. Assessment efforts may last as short as a week, if no hazards are found, or as long as a few months if lead hazard corrections are needed. This strategy continues as more child occupied facilities are added for assessment by Health Inspectors who have attained E.P.A. Certification as Lead Risk Assessors/Inspectors. This effort will continue in 2011.

CHHA

A decision was made by the Legislature and the County Executive to “transition” ownership of the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) to a private agency for fiscal savings and enhanced program services. The Visiting Nursing Service of Westchester (VNSW) was selected via an RFP process. The transition was complete as of December 22, 2010.

Ten former employees of the CHHA are currently working for the new agency, VNSW. One employee retired, nine employees remain working for Putnam County in various programs and departments. One staff member was laid off.

The Health Department Nursing Division continues to provide home care visits for the Maternal Child Health (MCH) program. Visits are conducted to assess the family’s health and social needs and provide the link between families and the assortment of health, social, and other services that exist in the community to meet their needs. Visits provide emphasis on education in the areas of infant care, nutrition, growth and development, parenting skills/coping abilities, as well as breastfeeding education and support. Skilled nursing visits are provided when medically necessary.

Home visits are also provided as needed for the Lead, TB, Communicable Disease and Immunization programs. PCDOH conducts these visits through the Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) which was established following the closure of the CHHA.

OTHER DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

County Bikeway

Construction of the last segment of the Putnam II, Stage 3 bikeway was completed. This 3.42 mile section from the Carmel Hamlet to Putnam Avenue/Drewville Road in Southeast makes a total of about ten miles completed on the old Putnam Division Railroad line from the Westchester / Putnam County line in Baldwin Place. The estimated cost of the Stage 2, which was completed last year, and the Stage 3 project is \$ 10,480,590. Both stages were constructed under one contract, but funded from different Federal and State agencies. About 83% of the project cost is covered by Federal and State grants obtained by the Planning Department.

The Planning Department continues to advance the Maybrook II project and Putnam Bikeway II Stage 4 project while continuing the department’s success in securing funding sources.

Putnam Humane Society

The future home of the Putnam County Humane Society has come closer to a reality with the recent acquisition of vacant land on the east side of Zimmer Road in the Town of Southeast. I fully intend to cooperate with the Legislature in any and all efforts necessary in achieving the ultimate goal of constructing a new and more satisfactory facility to house the Humane Society.

Emergency Services

When dealing with the overall safety of our public, we must continue to grow; which often requires us to make use of the latest technologies. In 2010, we used grant monies to fund a study for next Generation 911. This study will help us assess our current technology systems and determine if we need to upgrade them to enhance our systems that protect our residents. We look forward to discussing our options with the protective services committee of the Legislature.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Workplace Violence Prevention Program

Putnam County has an unwavering commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and visitors to County facilities. It is Putnam County's policy that every employee is entitled to work in a safe environment that is free from violence and all forms of discrimination. To assure this, Putnam County has put into place a system that strives to identify and controls hazards. In our commitment to increase employee awareness and improve safety in Putnam County, we have undertaken several unique initiatives.

We formed a taskforce which is a blend of management and union employees who work in cooperation with CSEA to develop our workplace violence prevention program and training which has and will address workplace violence issues. I am proud to say that our policy goes above and beyond the requirements of the law and we were the first County in the State of New York to be in full compliance. The taskforce will continue to address workplace violence and will be conducting training on an annual basis to ensure that all employees, clients, and visitors will be guaranteed a safe environment in all County Facilities.

Confined Spaces and Fall Prevention

Confined spaces may be encountered in virtually any occupation. Every year, workers are injured as a result of hazardous conditions. The Safety committee, which is a blend of management and CSEA employees, was tasked to develop the Putnam County Confined Space Program. In the past four months, we have assessed our work areas, recognized hazards, and identified staff that may be at risk, in order to develop a Confined Space and Fall Protection program according to Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines. Recognition is the first step in preventing injuries or fatalities and we have undertaken an aggressive training program in partnership with CSEA. We have trained three staff members to certify confined space instructors. In addition, we have developed mandatory confined space awareness training and conducted a 10 hour OSHA training course for all Highway and Facility and Health department field staff. We will continue to

monitor and develop our confined space program as new initiatives and life saving devices and protocols are developed.

The taskforce and committee serve as an example of the results we can accomplish by working together. We are also looking forward to continue our partnering with CSEA for future training opportunities. It is our intent to put forth a continuous effort to work in partnership with all of our unions to provide the safest work environment possible for employees, residents, and visitors.

Personnel Changes

Many of our management/confidential staff are supervising employees who earn more than they do and in some cases, significantly more than they do. Our management / confidential employees earn significantly less accrued time than their unionized fellow employees. This inequity has existed for at least 10 years. Unfortunately, as a result, the management / confidential employees were approached by the New York State Union of Teachers (NYSUT) for the purpose of unionizing them. It is highly probable that there will be a formal bargaining unit created covering many, but not all, of our management / confidential employees, although it is just in the formation stages before the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Due in part to declining memberships in existing bargaining units, there has been a general movement throughout the country for existing Unions to seek non-represented groups like our management / confidential employees. We will provide a more detailed report on this subject to the Legislature in the near future.

Retirements

After a wonderful twenty (20) year career with Putnam County, Commissioner of Highways and Facilities, Harold Gary retired effective January 1st, this year. We thank Harold for his many years of service and his warm and personal way of interacting with people. He is a dear friend and will be genuinely missed. We thank Emma Kounine, David Keith, Mark Rosa, Jeanette Saccavino, and all of the Highways and Facilities Employees for such an outstanding job this winter in keeping our roads the best in the region for the driving public.

In mid January, we regretfully received the resignation of John Scherer as our County Veteran's Director after almost 29 years of service. We thank John for his commitment to our County Veteran's and are now seeking his replacement.

The Director of Veteran's Affairs assists veterans, veteran's spouses, children and parents of veterans with issues such as: compensation, pension, education, medical, burial entitlements, applications for military decorations, housing, insurance, and other miscellaneous veterans services. We have communicated with our County Veteran's Organizations and hope to have John's successor in place in the not-too-distant future.

Bill Huestis, our director of the Office for Aging for almost 32 years, has informed me of his retirement effective this month. However, Bill has agreed to stay on with us through the end of this year. Bill's accomplishments and impact on the County's services for our seniors cannot be appropriately summed up in this message. Suffice to say for now, thank you Bill for your leadership and guidance of our Office for Aging during your outstanding tenure as its director.

PAUSE FOR VIDEO

CONCLUSION

It is truly my honor to be serving as the County Executive. The support that I have received from the County Legislature, our department heads, our employees and the public has been tremendous. I am truly grateful.

I would like to thank my County Executive Staff: John, Jan, Rose, Elaine and Elen for their tireless efforts. So too, I thank all of the staff of the Personnel Department for doing such a great job in my absence. They have been doing so well, I wonder if they need me back.

I want to also thank each of our presenters tonight. We tried something different that hopefully, made this presentation a little bit more dynamic. Thanks, too, to Jimmy McConnell who input all of the information and data for this address and powerpoint presentation. Thanks for putting up with all of our type "A" personalities.

I would be remiss if I didn't sincerely thank Senator Greg Ball, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, and Assemblyman Dr. Steve Katz for their guidance and assistance to me. Along with our Legislature, we have all been pulling in the same direction to create a local and state government that is more efficient, more economical and more responsive to the people we serve. We are all looking for new and innovative ways to meet the needs of our residents which does not overburden them either, with too much government, or too much expense. I am proud to be a part of a County Government that continually strives to improve on all levels.

I am proud to be part of the Putnam County Team!

Thank You and Goodnight.