



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert C. Bickford, *Chair*
Alfonso Lotrecchiano, *Vice Chair* Paul Eldridge, *Secretary*
Kathleen F. Delamere Nancy Dill

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pursuant to §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law

Under §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law, Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County, the Board of Ethics is required to submit, prior to March 15 of each year, a report to the County Executive and the Legislature of the Board's activities in the preceding year.

The nomination of a new Board member to the Ethics Board was approved by the County Legislature and the County Executive, effective December 8, 2014. Nancy Dill was appointed for the balance of a three year term to expire on December 31, 2016. In addition, reappointments of Al Lotrecchiano until December 31, 2016, and Kathleen Delamere until December 31, 2014 were approved by the Legislature. The Board re-elected Robert Bickford as Chair and elected Alphonso Lotrecchiano as Vice Chair and Paul Eldridge as Secretary.

During 2014, the Board of Ethics met seven times. All meetings were open to the public (except for executive sessions to review disclosure statements and consider complaints and requests for advisory opinions).

The following were the principal activities of the Board during 2014:

- The Board followed up a 2011 inquiry to the County Attorney regarding the responsibility and appropriate action of the Board if the Board becomes aware of facts that might constitute a conflict of interest. The Board is awaiting clarification of this issue.
- The Board continued to monitor litigation involving the issues underlying a complaint alleging violations of the Code of Ethics; which had, on advice of the County Attorney, been referred to outside counsel for investigation and advice (Legislative approval was obtained to retain such outside counsel). Action of the Board is in abeyance pending the outcome of the litigation.
- The Board received a complaint from a County resident alleging a possible Code of Ethics violation by a part-time employee of the County. The matter was referred to the County Attorney's office which advised that no violation had occurred. The complainant was so notified and the complaint was withdrawn.
- Public Hearings were conducted on February 21 and April 25 to hear justifications from officials for their failure to file their required financial disclosure for 2013. One official appeared and, after discussion and clarification from members of the Board, agreed to comply.

- The Board submitted a recommendation to the Legislature to impose a civil penalty of up to \$100 on certain officials (all of whom were members of County advisory boards) for continued failure to file annual financial disclosure statements as required by the Code of Ethics. At a meeting of the Committee on Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, the Chair agreed to recommend instead that the Legislature remove the non-compliant persons from their respective Boards. That recommendation is set forth later in this report.
- The Board responded to requests for advisory opinions from two County officers or employees with respect to their outside activities.
- The Board received one F.O.I.L. request seeking financial disclosure information for the last ten years from three elected officials and one staff member of the District Attorney's office. The request was referred to the Law Department. The requested information, with redaction of certain portions, was made available on March 21, 2014.
- The Board has begun submitting meeting notices to the local news media and posting them on the County website. The Board is currently working with the IT Department to develop its own website.

Annual Financial Disclosure Statements

Under the Code of Ethics, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to review the annual financial disclosure statements filed by County officers and employees. The review is to assure that the filed forms are complete and responsive on their face to the requirements of the law. The Board's review is done in executive session.

The electronic submission of these statements has been a major improvement for most filers. It is a faster process, eliminates a lot of paper, and provides the filer with an immediate copy of their submission. The Board continues to work to improve the ease and efficacy of online filing of these annual statements.

The following is the record of Financial Disclosure Forms reviewed and accepted during 2014:

February	Accepted 55 forms
March	Accepted 18 forms
April	Accepted 40 forms
May	Accepted 32 forms
July	Accepted 17forms
October	Accepted 34 forms
November	Accepted 6 forms

In addition, 21 officers did not file at all; they are listed on the attachment. In a separate memorandum, the Board intends to recommend that certain of such non-filers, who have been delinquent for more than one year, be removed from their respective boards.

Dated: March 3, 2015

Robert C. Bickford

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert Bickford, Chair

Alphonse Lotrecchiano, Vice Chair

Paul Eldridge, Secretary

Kathleen Delamere

Nancy Dill

Attachment

Putnam County Board of Ethics
Report on Annual Financial Disclosure Statements - 2014

Advisory Board Members Who Have Not Filed:

Diana Gulias	Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities
Robert Joy, Jr.	Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities
Anita Schwartz*****	Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities
Frank Mastroianni*	Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities
Richard Tofte*	Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board
Dennis Illuminate	Traffic Safety Board
Richard Pepe*	Alternate Member, Traffic Safety Board
Marvin Novinsky	Transportation Advisory Council
James Sullivan***	Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board

Policy Board Members Who Have Not Filed:

Ava Bynum	Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board
Stephen Kessman	Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board
Joni Lanza	Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board
Andrew Elio****	Board of Electrical Examiners
Carmine Ricci, Jr.	Board of Electrical Examiners
Michael Gaesser*****	Board of Health
Michael Porcelli*	Home Improvement Board
Matthew Mastrantone	home Improvement Board
Stephen Alonge	Plumbing Board
Thomas Capalbo	Plumbing Board
Alex Mancone	Plumbing Board
Neal L. Sullivan	Putnam County Industrial Development Agency

*number of asterisks indicates number of years not filed