

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

### Pursuant to §55-102 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law

The Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law (“new Code”) was enacted as Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County by Local Law No. 208 of 2008 on April 1, 2008 as amended by Local Law No. 18 of 2008 on June 2, 2008. The new Code replaced the former Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure, former Chapters 55 and 56 of the Code of Putnam County. The new Code took effect on July 7, 2008 when it was signed by the County Executive. Under §55-102 of the Code, the Board is required to submit an annual report of its operations to the Legislature.

The new Code continued the existing members of the prior Board of Ethics in office, but provides for a three-year term of office with a maximum limitation of two terms (there is a transition provision for sitting members). Previously, Board of Ethics members served at the pleasure of the County Executive. Appointment and reappointment of Board members is subject to confirmation by the Legislature. Each year the term of one or two members expires requiring the County Executive to appoint one or two replacement(s) or reappoint the sitting member(s). At December 31, 2008, the term of Kathleen Delemere expired and the County Executive has reappointed her (she continues to serve pending the Legislature’s confirmation).

During 2008, the Board met seven times (including one meeting by telephone). All meetings were open to the public.

Under both the old and new laws, one of the Board’s primary responsibilities is to review the 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 review is done in executive session of the Board. The following is the record of Financial Disclosure Forms reviewed and accepted or returned for clarification or completion during 2008:

February	Accepted	56 forms	Returned	13
March	Accepted	18 forms	Returned	2
June	Accepted	53 forms	Returned	9
September	Accepted	9 forms	Returned	2
October	Accepted	5 forms	Returned	3
November	Accepted	14 forms	Returned	2

The following is a summary of the Board's other activities in 2008:

- Continued working with the Legislature, particularly the Committee on Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations prior to the enactment of Local Law of #13, 2008, as amended by Local Law #18, 2008
- Reviewed and issued advisory opinions regarding six inquiries about potential conflicts of interest.
- Began review and revision of the Board's Rules to be consistent with the revised Code and to clarify hearing procedures.
- Adopted procedures to enforce the timely submission of annual Financial Disclosure Statements.

The Board of Ethics is currently in the process of adopting rules for handling matters arising under the new Code.

Dated: February 20, 2009

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert Bickford, Chair

Patricia Santamarena, Vice Chair

Paul Eldridge, Secretary

Kathleen Delamere, Member

Alphonse Lotrecchiano, Member