THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Toni E. Addonizio *Chairwoman*
Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*

Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino	Dist. 4
Carl L. Albano	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan	Dist. 9

AGENDA
HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Thursday August 13, 2020
(Immediately Following the Personnel Meeting beginning at 6PM)

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2020**
4. **Discussion/COVID-19 Response/Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham**
5. **Other Business**
6. **Adjournment**

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday **6:00PM** **June 16, 2020**

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:01 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio and Chairwoman Sayegh were present. Legislator Albano was absent.

Item #3 - Discussion/County's Role in Reopening Restaurants/Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat/Director of Environmental Services Shawn Rogan

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she believes it will be beneficial for the public to understand Environmental Health's role within the County and in the reopening of businesses and restaurants. She stated Environmental Health inspects restaurants, camps, children's camps, parks, public events, swimming pools, and much more. She introduced Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat and Director of Environmental Services Shawn Rogan.

Dr. Nesheiwat thanked the members of the Legislature and the public for their overwhelming support during this time. He reminded everyone that the guidance the Health Department receives comes directly from the Governor's Office and the State Department of Health. He stated Putnam County is trending in the right direction in the fight against COVID-19. He stated Director Rogan will give an overview of the County's role in reopening restaurants. He stated Director Rogan has been cultivating very strong, positive relationships with all restaurant owners. He stated the County usually has an annual food operations seminar, which is very well attended, but it could not be held this year.

Director Rogan stated the restaurant community is important to him. He stated he believes in building partnership and trust in order to have two-way communication. He stated Environmental Health's mission is to educate and collaborate to achieve the best results. He stated they want everyone to be safe and this pandemic has been unprecedented in its impact. He stated it is a team effort with the Law Department, Emergency Services, County Executive, Code Enforcement, the Legislature, and more. He stated even before the State issued limitations on dining, County Executive MaryEllen Odell issued an Executive Order which limited buffet-style service. He stated the Health Department fielded hundreds of questions over the first few weeks of the pandemic shutdown. He stated they made sure the restaurants had guidance on PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and other supplies. He stated when the State started allowing outdoor dining, they immediately reached out to the restaurants and to local code enforcement to move forward. He stated municipalities have eased their restrictions to help accommodate outdoor dining. He stated now it looks like the County will enter the third phase of reopening soon and that will allow restaurants to have 50% capacity indoors. He stated there have already been many questions from restaurants on how to safely and properly move forward. He stated unfortunately they have received complaints about restaurants and other businesses not following

the proper guidance and procedures. He stated when those complaints come in, the Health Department investigates and provides education and guidance to the establishments.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Director Rogan for the information he provided. She stated the importance of understanding the guidelines and keeping everyone safe.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated we are fortunate to have a good working relationship with the restaurants in Putnam County. He stated all the restaurants are following the guidelines as far as wearing masks and social distancing.

Director Rogan stated inspectors are doing daily inspections of restaurants. He stated there are education based corrections. He added that he hopes enforcement is not ever necessary.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated how restaurants are following guidelines because they do not want complaints.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she spoke with Putnam County Economic Development Corporation President Kathleen Abels regarding non-essential gatherings. She stated the believes there has been some confusion over catered events in people's homes.

Director Rogan stated the Health Department does not monitor private events at people's homes, however they do monitor the caterers' food safety measures. He added that the State increased the allowable size of gatherings to 25.

Chairwoman Sayegh requested clarification on guidance for opening pools.

Director Rogan stated Governor Cuomo announced that each county can make the decision on whether to allow pools to open. He stated he met with Dr. Nesheiwat and County Executive Odell and they decided Putnam County could have pools reopened. He stated the guidance for pools requires social distancing, not capacity, so it is unique to each situation. He stated the Health Department monitors pools in condominium complexes and ones run by homeowner's associations, as well as private institutions.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if each pool needs to have its reopening plan approved by the Health Department.

Director Rogan stated all businesses need to reopen with the State's template. He stated all reopening plans need to be made available for review by any authority, such as the Health Department. He stated Putnam County, independent of the State, instituted disinfecting guidelines for reopening.

Dr. Nesheiwat clarified that these guidelines are in addition to the guidelines that were in place before the pandemic.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned what protocols are in place if an employee of a restaurant or other business tests positive for COVID.

Director Rogan stated there are many protocols in place and they are pretty much the same across the board. He stated after the person is removed from work, contact tracing begins. He stated this is why it is suggested that restaurants keep a log of who comes in. He stated it makes contact tracing much easier.

Legislator Addonizio thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Director Rogan for their comprehensive overview. She questioned if there have been any steps taken for precautions in parking lots for the safety of outdoor dining.

Director Rogan stated that has been discussed with the building inspectors. He stated some restaurants have brought in concrete barriers. He stated some have used the owner and employee cars as a barrier. He stated each situation is unique.

Legislator Gouldman stated he has gone out to eat a few times since outdoor dining reopened and he agrees that the restaurants are following all guidelines. He questioned if the State is sending out texts to notify people of their test results.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated he has not heard of that happening but he will look into it.

Legislator Nacerino thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Director Rogan for their informative presentation. She stated she would like to commend the Health Department for their communication and collaboration.

Legislator Jonke thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Director Rogan for the masks they provided to the Legislators to distribute to the community. He added that he's spoken with many restaurant owners and they give Director Rogan a lot of credit.

Director Rogan stated that means a lot to him.

Legislator Montgomery also thanked the Health Department for the masks they provided. She stated they were very well received. She stated the restaurant community greatly appreciates the assistance and guidance. She stated she has been contacted by restaurant owners wondering if reopening is truly going to work. She stated restaurants are adding infrastructure to allow seating indoors with barriers separating tables. She questioned if there is any guidance regarding these barriers and if social distancing is still necessary if the barriers are in place.

Director Rogan stated if there are acceptable barriers then social distancing of the tables is not required. He encouraged these restaurants to reach out to the Health Department to have their questions answered on a case by case basis.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the Health Department is working very hard to get restaurants up and running with all safety measures.

Director Rogan stated he just reread the guidance for Phase 3 and it states that physical barriers must be at least five (5) feet in height and not block emergency exits.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the barriers can be made of.

Director Rogan stated something that is a solid material.

Legislator Montgomery stated she appreciates the guidance. She stated she would like to be part of the County's triweekly calls regarding COVID.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Director Rogan and Dr. Nesheiwat. She stated more information is available online at forward.ny.gov.

Legislator Castellano thanked the Health Department for their hard work. He stated the restaurants he has spoken with appreciate it.

Legislator Addonizio clarified that the calls Legislator Montgomery mentioned are only once a week.

Chairwoman Sayegh again thanked Director Rogan and Dr. Nesheiwat for helping the Legislature understand the Health Department's role in reopening.

Item #4 - Other Business – None

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:55PM Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Toni E. Addonizio *Chairwoman*
Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*

Nancy Montgomery Dist. 1
William Gouldman Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino Dist. 4
Carl L. Albano Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan Dist. 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2020

TO: MaryEllen Odell
Putnam County Executive

CC: Michael Cunningham
Director, Office for Senior Resources

FROM: Amy Sayegh AS/eg
Chairwoman, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee

RE: Office for Senior Resources Update at Health Meeting

As a follow up to the attached request from my colleague, Legislator Toni Addonizio, I respectfully request Director of the Office for Senior Resources Michael Cunningham attend the August 13, 2020 Health Committee meeting to provide on update on OSR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting will be held via audio webinar and will immediately follow the Personnel Committee meeting, scheduled to begin at 6PM.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Attachment

/eg

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Toni E. Addonizio *Chairwoman*
Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*

Nancy Montgomery Dist. 1
William Gouldman Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino Dist. 4
Carl L. Albano Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan Dist. 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 4, 2020

TO: Amy Sayegh
Chairwoman, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee

FROM: Toni Addonizio TA/eg
Chairwoman of the Legislature

RE: Office for Senior Resources Update at Health Meeting

Recently I was approached by Michael Cunningham, Director of the Office for Senior Resources (OSR), who would like to update the Legislature on OSR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I respectfully request Director Cunningham be invited to the August 13, 2020 Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee meeting to provide said update.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

/eg