



PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE

May 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

As you are likely aware, the greater Hudson Valley region is becoming the center of the emerging migrant crisis in our state due to New York City Mayor Adams' relocating of migrants and/or asylum seekers currently residing in New York City into Orange and Rockland County. Over the last year more than 64,000 migrants entered New York City, a city which declared itself a sanctuary city years ago and which chose to welcome these individuals, from border states who have borne the brunt of this burden for many years. With the expiration of Title 42 this past May 11th, absent swift and meaningful federal action to secure our border and fix our nation's asylum seeking process, it's expected that a new influx of migrants will cross our borders and be relocated within our state.

We are asking that if you or your business is contacted by New York City officials or representatives on their behalf, that you contact Shawn Rogan, Director of Environmental Health Services at the Putnam County Department of Health at 845 808 1390 ext. 43159 or email shawn.rogan@putnamcountyny.gov.


Acknowledging the strain on his city's resources has become more than his municipality can bear, Mayor Adams' office has directly contacted numerous temporary residency facilities (hotels in particular) within Orange and Rockland County to transfer migrants presently residing in New York City to the Hudson Valley. New York City has stated that it intends to pay for their shelter and basic needs for a period of up to four months, and it is unclear who is supposed to pick up the cost after that. The news of this action has caused outrage, fear, and confusion throughout the region, with numerous municipalities issuing Emergency Declarations, Executive Orders, and filing lawsuits to stymie New York City's actions that would effectively establish homeless shelters outside of their jurisdiction without any formal agreement with the county or local municipality. Putnam County does not possess the resources to care for these individuals and there is seemingly no information being provided of the vetting process of these individuals or established safeguards from the Federal Government or New York City. As it presently stands, the temporary residences we do have in Putnam County are an important source of support for our department of social services, as well as numerous other needs that our residents currently rely on. Putnam County does not have the capacity to take on the burden New York City agreed to take on of its own volition over a year ago.

As I have already stated in a letter sent to Mayor Adams, the Putnam County Sheriff's office is committed to working and communicating with federal law enforcement officials, including Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), to ensure the safety of these individuals and our communities. We are a caring and welcoming county, but it is worth reiterating we support the rule of law, and that Putnam County is definitively not a "sanctuary county". Furthermore, in the absence of a shared services agreement with New York City, Putnam County has made it clear that we will not endorse or agree to any plans for the City to move forward with these actions in Putnam County.

Again, please if you or your business is contacted by New York City officials or any kind of representatives on NYC's behalf, I would ask that you contact Shawn Rogan, Director of Environmental Health Services at the Putnam County Department of Health at 845 808 1390 ext. 43159 or email shawn.rogan@putnamcountyny.gov.

Our hotel and motel providers are valued members of our community, and many provide important services in conjunction with the Putnam County Department of Social Services to assist members of the community in need. We appreciate your continued partnership and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive