



Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce

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2019 Chamber Board
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July 24, 2019

County Executive MaryEllen Odell
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512

Re: Amendment to Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County
Ethics Code of/and Financial Disclosure

Dear Ms. Odell,

The Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce would like to thank you for taking the time to host the public hearing on the amendment to Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County. The Chamber, as a representative of the local business community, is very concerned about the reason for these changes to the existing code. As business owners we have an understanding of why some information needs to be held in private and those items already can be marked confidential, but allowing anyone who works for or with the county to randomly mark something "confidential" seems to be an extreme. There are already existing guidelines for things that need to be marked confidential. If the County is having difficult with employees leaking information then that is a personnel issue and should be handled as such.

As business owners and taxpayers, we do not see this amendment as having viability and would therefore cost the taxpayers an undue hardship defending an amendment that should not be made in the first place.

We would like you consider not signing this amendment. If this issue is so important, then it should go back to the committee at the Legislature and more guidelines need to be established to determine what actually needs to be marked confidential and to make sure boundaries are not over stepped.

Thank you very much for your willingness to listen and for your leadership of Putnam County.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Boyd, President
Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce