THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 27, 2020

TO: MaryEllen Odell  
Putnam County Executive

FROM: Nancy Montgomery  
Putnam County Legislator District

RE: REQUEST TO CLOSE THE PUTNAM COUNTY GOLF COURSE

cc: Michael Nesheiwat  
Putnam County Commissioner of Health

County Executive:

The Putnam County Golf Course remains open. Your 3/20/2020 press release states that "sanitation practices are being enhanced to ensure public safety" at the Golf Course. The safety of Putnam residents cannot be ensured right now if the golf course remains open.

Any staff who are on site at the golf course would be considered non-essential under the Governor’s executive order for workforce reduction and should be sent home (202.6--https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026).

It is important that we look to the example of surrounding counties. I am struck by the response of Orange County following the report of their first COVID-19 related death:

Orange County Health Commissioner Dr. Irina Gelman noted that COVID-19 has spread quickly throughout Orange County and she recommended that all residents stay home, including children and teenagers not in school, unless they must get food, medical supplies, or must go to work. Gelman advised residents to consider any public site in Orange County as a potential site of COVID-19 exposure. Any events and gatherings of people still scheduled to take place in the coming weeks must be canceled or face fines imposed by Orange County.
(Hudson Valley Post, 3/25/2020 “Any Public Site in Orange County is a Potential Site for Covid-19”)

https://hudsonvalleypost.com/any-public-site-in-orange-county-is-a-potential-site-for-covid-19/

Yes, our constituents need to get outside, get fresh air and move around - close to home. The Putnam County Golf Course is not a trail, park or sanctuary intended for passive recreation. It is a sporting facility, inviting golfers from areas throughout the region, most likely from areas close by where the death toll has reached 385 and 23,000 people are reported infected. It is our job as leaders to limit the exposure of our residents to this virus. Please, we must not advertise the golf course, we must close it.