

APPROVAL DECLARING PUTNAM COUNTY A CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY

WHEREAS, members of the Putnam County Legislature, being elected to represent the people of Putnam County, are duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the New York State Constitution and Laws, including the New York State Civil Rights Law; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature is determined to stand as a Constitutional County to protect the rights provided to its citizens under the U.S. Constitution and its amendments; and

WHEREAS, such protections will extend to rights specifically enumerated in the Constitution and its amendments, including, but not limited to, rights to freedom of expression, speech, association, religion, press and petition, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to protection of person and property from government overreach and the right not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; and

WHEREAS, such protections will also extend to all other rights neither enumerated in the Constitution nor its amendments, but which exist alongside the same as inalienable, basic, fundamental rights that are so deep rooted in our society that they are deserving of protection from governmental infringement and are thus protected by the Ninth Amendment, including, but not limited to, the right to equality, liberty and the pursuit of livelihood and happiness; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature wishes to express its profound commitment to the rights of all citizens of Putnam County and stand as a Constitutional County that recognizes, respects and upholds our Constitutional rights, and states that while Putnam County cannot unilaterally nullify federal or state laws it opposes, it will and does oppose, within the limits of the Constitution of the United States and the Civil Rights Law of the State of New York, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights in order to assure that its citizens will be able to keep and bear arms and use the same in defense of life, liberty and property, whether in a well-regulated militia, or individually; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature stands and will continue to stand in strong opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict, or infringe upon, the above recognized rights; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature recognizes its Constitutional, historical, and rightful role as a voice of the People of Putnam County and a guarantor of their liberties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam declares itself to be a Constitutional County: