



Community Engagement Police Advisory Board

PO Box 245

Patterson, New York 12563

Info@CEPABPUTNAMNY.ORG

I. Description of Agency

In accordance with Resolution #104, introduced by Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Putnam County on behalf of the Protective Services Committee, CEPAB was established as a public advisory board in a Regular Meeting held on June 1, 2021. Its purpose: To share concerns of the public, ensure transparency through the free flow of information and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy. As this advisory board, CEPAB cooperates with the Legislative Committees of Putnam County Legislature. It is a community based, 501(c)3 organization located in Patterson, NY that addresses any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color and offers recommendations to the Sheriff regarding police policies and procedures.

II. Services Provided

A. To advise the County Executive, the Putnam County Legislator's Protective Services Committee, and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office as appropriate on issues relating to law enforcement policies and procedures, transparency, community engagement, fairness, legitimacy; racial bias, disproportionate policing, concerns of the public, and any other law enforcement matters as it relates to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203.

B. To continue the effort to effectuate the recommendations contained within the Putnam County Police Policy Comprehensive Review Report; and

C. To review and monitor Putnam County law enforcement policies, procedures,

practices, and programs for their impact on communities of color.

D. To work with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office to develop and recommend effective policies, legislation and/or services to eliminate discrimination and improve the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color

E. To act as a liaison between the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and the communities of color within Putnam County to promote the concerns of such communities.

F. To review and analyze Putnam County Sheriff's Office demographic data on stops, frisks, arrests regarding all criminal offenses, including, but not limited to traffic stops, and violations.

G. To assist the Putnam County Sheriff's Office in recruiting candidates of color to that Office, both regarding appointments as law enforcement officers and civilian positions.

H. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the County Executive and/or the Putnam County Legislature.

III. Mission Statement & Vision

- To promote equity and safety to all Putnam County residents
- To identify growth opportunities within the community between residents and police
- To act as a liaison between the police, local government, and Putnam County residents
- To advocate for police policy changes by working with local town boards and the County Legislature to ensure key issues are addressed



We envision a Putnam County where ALL residents feel included, protected, and fairly treated by law enforcement policies. As this is an on-going and evolving process, we believe this vision is best enacted through open dialogue and cooperation. Reflecting on some of the most recent national press, CEPAB recognizes that we are living in a very critical but courageous moment in history. We see an opportunity in Putnam to build a network of options for law enforcement

policy changes by using an open dialogue to uncover our community's needs and ultimately help co-create new strategies that can become policy change.

VI. Population Served

The Community Engagement and Police Advisory Board (CEPAB) of Putnam County serves the residents of Putnam County, New York, which has a population of roughly 100,000 people. The county is known for its diverse demographics, including a mix of urban and rural communities. It has a significant population of families, seniors, and young professionals. The CEPAB is dedicated to fostering communication and collaboration between the community, law enforcement, and a broad range of groups, including the autistic and neurodiverse communities, individuals with special needs, and mental health advocates. This inclusive approach aims to enhance public safety, trust, and well-being for all community members.

VII. CEPAB's 2025 Events and Accomplishments

- Interfaced with Brewster PD re their mishandled apprehension of three young men.
- Met with the Sheriff's Department et al re a threat at Carmel Middle School.
- Attended and provided information at Protective Services meetings.
- Attended and provided information at Brewster Board of Education meetings.
- Met with newly-elected Sheriff Hess to plan review of recommended action items.
- Gave a presentation on CEPAB's mission at Patterson Rotary meeting.
- Sponsored Peekskill Riots web presentation on 2/16 and 2/23.
- Attended as a group Putnam Lake's Memorial Day ceremony.
- Sponsored Jane Elliott webinar – Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes 6/18.
- Sponsored (along with Mental Health, Sheriff's Dept, et al) The 1st Autism Awareness Walk 4/26.
- Initiated discourse with architects re Sensory Playground.

VIII. Staffing

We don't currently have staff. We are a volunteer based organization.

IX. Source of Revenue

Fundraising

Putnam County Government Grant

Sponsorship from Local Unions and Merchants

Donations from members of CEPAB

X. Goals for 2026

Collaborate with the Sheriff and his Department on community based events.

Conduct Quarterly Community Roundtables

Continue the fundraising quest toward building the **Sensory Playground**

Annual Autism Walk

Bring back our Annual Culture Festival

Juneteenth Event

Annual Community Recognition Gala

Additional References



CEPAB COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Youth Engagement

Many young people experience incidents of harassment through racism, gender bias as well as income bias, within their community. With little recourse to address their concerns, CEPAB is creating several channels for the youth in the area to be heard and given direct resources of assistance for their issues. Not only are we listening, but we are guiding those youth by developing workshops on alternatives to actions based on anger, frustration and mistrust of local law enforcement.



Law Enforcement Understanding

CEPAB realizes that the law enforcement in Putnam has a primary goal of maintaining order, reducing crime, and protecting the life and property of its residents. The Putnam County Sheriff's Department is vital to the safety of our community, and their wellbeing and safety should be valued the same as residents. Our organization intends to offer law enforcement the same channels for an open dialogue that we do to the community. Because police officers are our fellow residents and neighbors, they have the same safety concerns as residents. To understand their needs as it relates to the community, it is important that we offer an opportunity to learn and understand the expectations and detailed duties of their position.