

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS AND
DEMAND THE REPEAL OF H.B. 3653/THE SAFE-T ACT IN ITS ENTIRETY**

WHEREAS, for generations, the brave men and women of the law enforcement community have answered the call to serve and protect our communities. Our law enforcement officers embody the courage and honor that represent the best of the State, County, and Local Jurisdictions throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in moments of danger and desperation, the first people we turn to are law enforcement officers. These often unsung heroes risk their lives so that we can live in peace and security; and

WHEREAS, enduring long shifts in dangerous and unpredictable circumstances, our law enforcement officers demonstrate remarkable self-control and operate under extreme pressure with uncommon professionalism. They deal with complex, challenging situations, and see the worst elements of humanity in the underbelly of society, situations to which most citizens have the privilege of turning a blind eye; and

WHEREAS, we owe dutiful respect and humble gratitude to the law enforcement officers who work tirelessly with honor, dedication, and integrity to protect us and sacrifice so much to maintain and defend civil order in our community; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021 the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 3653, which sponsors the bill called the SAFE-T Act, and abolished cash bail, hinders law enforcement's ability to apprehend offenders, fails to protect victims, and emboldens criminals by removing consequences; and

WHEREAS, the new law created a task force to study qualified immunity for police officers, created an anonymous complaint process to pressure officers, and made dangerous changes in the use of force by officers, putting both the public and law enforcement at risk; it changed the standards for felony murder to make it more difficult to charge some of our society's most dangerous perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Board feels this new law has made the job of protecting the public more difficult for law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Board believes law enforcement is essential to protecting lives, property, and businesses, and firmly supports law enforcement officers at State, County and Local levels who put their lives at risk every day to serve and protect our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF PUTNAM COUNTY ILLINOIS THAT:

SECTION 1: The Putnam County Board thanks the Law Enforcement Officers who stand everyday as our guardians of peace and order, ready to protect our families and businesses, and our very freedoms.

SECTION 2: The Putnam County Board publicly acknowledges our support and appreciation for the commitment and sacrifice made by every member of the law enforcement community to keep the public safe.

SECTION 3: The Putnam County Board recognizes the importance of continuing to foster positive interactions between State, County, and Local law enforcement officers and members of the community.

SECTION 4: The Putnam County Board acknowledges the rising trends in law enforcement response calls relating to mental health, domestic abuse, and addiction, and recognizes the need to support our community and our law enforcement officers with appropriate resources to help properly respond to these social challenges.

SECTION 5: The Putnam County Board recognizes the importance of continuing to promote diversity in our law enforcement recruitment efforts, and to invest in our police officer training and professional development programs.

SECTION 6: The Putnam County Board acknowledges that law enforcement officers oftentimes take it upon themselves to demonstrate random acts of generosity and kindness throughout our community, and do so without any desire for fanfare or public recognition.

SECTION 7: The Putnam County Board encourages our fellow residents, business, civic groups, and sister agencies to do all in their power and spheres of influence to express their appreciation and support of our State, County, and Local law enforcement officers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF PUTNAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS that we demand the Illinois General Assembly to value and protect crime victims and law enforcement, those that are on the streets protecting the community and public every day;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we demand the Illinois General Assembly repeal HB3653/the SAFE-T Act in its entirety.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF February, 2022.



Charles Lenkaitis,
Chairman of the Putnam County Board

ATTEST:



Tina Dolder
Putnam County Clerk