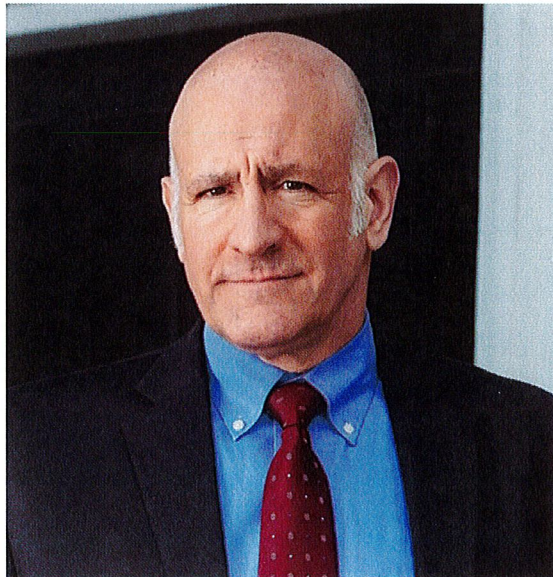


***OFFICE OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY***

**2024 Annual Report**



***ROBERT V. TENDY***  
**District Attorney**

## **PUTNAM COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

The Putnam County District Attorney is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the County of Putnam. The Putnam County District Attorney's Office has as its primary responsibility the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed in Putnam County. Working together with all law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction, we are also obligated to protect the citizens of Putnam through diligent, ethical, and conscientious efforts to prevent crime.

### **Mission Statement**

The Putnam County District Attorney and Assistant District Attorneys must be first and foremost ethical. From that follows an obligation to be indefatigable in seeking justice in every case investigated and prosecuted. We must protect the citizens, seek justice for crime victims, and be fair and impartial in assessing a case. We also have an obligation to work closely with the defense bar to ensure that our county criminal justice system works for all citizens.

*The citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility.*

- Robert H. Jackson

## ***MEET THE 2024 STAFF***

|                    |   |                                    |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Robert V. Tendy    | - | District Attorney                  |
| Christina Rizzo    | - | Chief of Staff                     |
| Chana Krauss       | - | Chief Assistant District Attorney  |
| Breanne Smith      | - | First Assistant District Attorney  |
| Nicole Camillone   | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| Joseph Charbonneau | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| Mackenzie Ferguson | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| Melissa Lynch      | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| MaryJane MacCrae   | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| Jason Marquard     | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
| Luciana Savone     | - | Assistant District Attorney        |
|                    |   |                                    |
| Ralph Cilento      | - | Criminal Investigator              |
| Jaemie Caban       | - | Special Victims Investigator       |
|                    |   |                                    |
| Kristen Jones      | - | Victim/Witness Assistant           |
|                    |   |                                    |
| Maria Amendoeira   | - | Senior Legal Assistant             |
| Jessica McMath     | - | Principal Office Assistant (Legal) |
| Michele Galigan    | - | Senior Office Assistant (Legal)    |
| Carmela Surace     | - | Senior Office Assistant (Legal)    |
| Caroline Thomson   | - | Senior Office Assistant (Legal)    |
|                    |   |                                    |
| Tracy Locascio     | - | Asset Forfeiture Administrator     |
| Jessica Cundari    | - | Crime Analyst                      |

## OVERVIEW

The District Attorney is a constitutional officer and the chief law enforcement officer of Putnam County. The Office is responsible for the prosecution of matters in Putnam County Court where the more serious (felony) cases are processed, as well as in the Local Criminal Courts where traditionally misdemeanor level prosecution of Penal Law and Vehicle and Traffic Law cases are processed.

The Office of the District Attorney also renders legal assistance to Village and Town Police Departments, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, The Child Advocacy Center, and the Women's Resource Center. The office also works closely with numerous state, federal and other appropriate outside law enforcement related agencies.

Putnam County continues to be among the safest places in the nation to live. This has been the case for many decades of our county's history. This is the direct result of many agencies working together for the safety of county residents. In conjunction with the Putnam County Sheriff's office, the various local law enforcement agencies, the New York State Police, and other state and federal agencies, The Putnam County District Attorney's office works in a collaborative spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance. Working together, we will continue to be an integral part of what makes our county a safe and great place to live and raise a family.

However, The Office of the District Attorney is not solely a "prosecution" office. The District Attorney and his staff are acutely aware of the problems facing all communities, particularly Putnam County. With that in mind, we are involved with the community in working to prevent domestic violence; we work to obtain treatment and establish treatment procedures for those addicted to heroin, prescription pain medication, other drugs, and alcohol. Our office recognizes that incarceration is not always the answer to these problems. We also interact with many community organizations and agencies. (See Community Outreach page for more information.)

The District Attorney's Office is a member of the Putnam County Community, and our role is to protect our community via sound law enforcement and to give assistance to those in need.

## HOW MANY CASES DID WE HANDLE?



In 2024, the office received & handled a total of 1,392 new cases and we closed 1,080.

Of those:

- 138 were prosecuted as narcotics possession or sale cases, 41 of which were felonies
- 182 were prosecuted as domestic violence cases, 35 of which were felonies
- 492 were DWI (felony or misdemeanor), 20 were for DWI under the age of 21
- 16 were felony burglary cases
- 127 Assault cases (29 felony assault)
- All other cases involved charges of larceny, property damage, fraud, white collar crime, and various other charges under the New York State Penal Law, Vehicle & Traffic Law, Etc.
- In addition, we handled 10 new felony violation of probation cases, 13 misdemeanor violation of probation cases, and 19 felony fugitive cases.
- There were several appellate issues that we responded to in 2024, all were successfully defended by the office.
- There are dozens of active investigations which may or may not lead to an arrest. Many of these investigations take several months or longer to culminate in an action.

In keeping with our goal of helping those in need of treatment for addictions, many cases were referred to the Putnam County Treatment Court or rehabilitation facilities.

Whenever it is appropriate, our office always looks to resolve a case through alternatives to incarceration. Yes, some criminals need to be put in prison—and some need to go there for a very long time. But many others can be rehabilitated without the need for a prison sentence. We do everything we can to identify those individuals, and then we work with their attorneys, families, and the law enforcement community at large to give these defendants the help they need.

## WHAT IS A “CASE”?

A “case” is when an arrest is actually made. However, in addition, the office also collaborates with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies involving those agency’s investigations of criminal activity from child and sex abuse investigations, narcotics and weapons trafficking, abuse of immigrants, internet fraud and theft, tax fraud, and other crimes. We also work on numerous appellate matters, FOIL requests, parole violations and parole release hearings.

## INITIATIVES

Since taking office in 2016, District Attorney Robert V. Tendy has, with the help of his entire staff, instituted important reforms and initiatives.

**Ethical Guidelines** – The office created its first ethical guidelines protocols for Assistant District Attorneys.

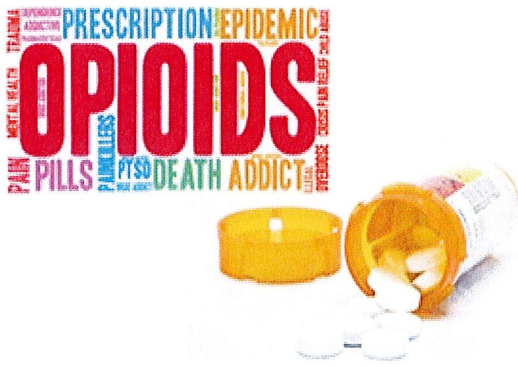
**Conviction Integrity Review** – The office created its first Conviction Integrity Review process to ensure that no person is held for a crime he or she did not commit.

**Narcotics Bureau** – The office now has two ADAs specifically dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of narcotics cases.

**Major Financial Crimes Unit** - The Major Financial Crimes Unit has two ADAs investigating and prosecuting cases which involve crimes of significant amounts of monetary theft, tax evasion, corporate/business theft, fraud, insurance fraud, social services fraud, and other serious financial crimes. Many of these crimes We have had a number of these prosecutions, and they have all been successful—the most recent being the prosecution of a criminal who stole over \$200,000 dollars from the corporation where he worked.

**The Special Victims Unit** - has two Assistant District Attorneys and one investigator dedicated to the prosecution of cases involving children, seniors, and sex abuse victims. Our ADAs and investigators have extensive training in these types of cases which often involve very sensitive information and particularly vulnerable citizens. Having personnel dedicated to these types of crimes will be a great help to these most vulnerable people in our county.

District Attorney Tendy also reminds the public that law enforcement's best tool is often civilian tips. "We have received phone calls, letters—often anonymous—which have led to successful large-scale investigations and very serious allegations of abuse. Some have been quite significant, and I urge members of the public to contact my office if you are aware of anything that may be criminal activity."



## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S NARCOTICS UNIT**

2019 saw the creation of the first narcotics unit in the history of the Putnam County District Attorney's office. Continuing into 2024, two full-time Assistant District Attorneys handle our narcotics cases and investigations. They have extensive experience in the field and work with many law enforcement agencies operating in our county. As a result, along with their collaboration with numerous law enforcement agencies, there have been many successful investigations, arrests, and prosecutions.

Our Narcotics Unit continued to interface with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to move forward with our excellent work in reducing narcotics possession, sale, and trafficking. Our dedicated narcotics unit greatly enhances our ability to focus on the most serious drug problems in our county and to be more involved in long-term investigations.

We are proud of the excellent results the narcotics bureau has achieved, and we know it will continue to be an effective narcotics trafficking interdiction tool.

Finally, the narcotics unit is not just about prosecutions. Interaction with and support for alternatives to incarceration and Drug Treatment Court are a major component in the fight against drug abuse and opioid addiction. Everyday our narcotics unit works toward rehabilitation goals for many defendants.



**ETHICS: A prosecutor's ethics and professional conduct are paramount to his or her position. A prosecutor's first duty is to justice and the truth.** - from the *Office of the Putnam County District Attorney Ethics Policy*

Ethical conduct is paramount in law enforcement. The Putnam County District Attorney's Office is committed to the highest ethical conduct.

Within a year of taking office, District Attorney Tandy announced that for the first time in the history of the Putnam County District Attorney's Office, a written Ethics Policy was created. It is a policy which all Assistants must be aware of and use to guide them in all investigations and prosecutions.

Our office continues to conduct every investigation and prosecution with the highest ethical considerations in mind. Every Assistant District Attorney must immediately bring to the attention of District Attorney Tandy any possible conflict of interest, potential ethical issue, and any evidence that may tend to exculpate a person charged with a crime.

Trust in our law enforcement agencies is essential for trust in government. If our citizens do not have unqualified trust in law enforcement, then they will not have trust in any aspect of government. The Putnam County District Attorney's office will be the leader in ethical behavior.





## CONVICTION INTEGRITY REVIEW



It is an unfortunate fact that throughout our country people have been convicted of crimes they did not commit. District Attorneys' offices in our nation are recognizing this and are taking steps to make sure this does not happen going forward—and to make sure past unjust convictions are dismissed. It is the job of a District Attorney to seek justice.

The Putnam County District Attorney is committed to ensuring that no one will ever be wrongfully convicted; and anyone that might have been wrongfully convicted will have a chance at having the case reviewed by an independent panel of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other law enforcement agents.

Anyone with information regarding a possible wrongful conviction should contact the District Attorney's Office.

### WHAT ELSE DO WE ROUTINELY DO?

The District Attorney, Chief Assistant, and First Assistant are always on call. Along with the assistant district attorneys, we must be always available every day to field phone calls concerning search and seizure issues, crime evidence gathering, writing/co-writing, and approving search warrants for buildings, automobiles, computer equipment, cell phones, cell phone tower data, etc. We advise numerous law enforcement agencies on many legal matters involving an investigation or an arrest.

Assistant District Attorneys are on 24x7 call on a rotating monthly basis. During this time ADAs are required to be available for any matter that arises at any time. It is routine for an ADA to work nights, weekends, and holidays when on call.

When a case is scheduled for hearings and/or trial, it involves non-stop preparation for jury selection, evidence presentation, witness travel and housing, opening statements, direct and cross examination, closing statements and jury charge conferences. During these times, an ADA or the DA will routinely work late into the night, seven days a week, often for a month or more.

Assistant District Attorneys speak at every DWI Victim Impact Panel. It is a very important part of what we do.

The District Attorney and his staff are also actively involved in The District Attorneys Association of New York (DAASNY). Through this organization we help to identify legal issues that have state-wide ramifications; we work within various DAASNY committees which deal with legislative and best practices matters. District Attorney Tandy regularly meets with members of the state senate and assembly regarding important legislative matters and initiatives.

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

Our support staff handles all incoming police paperwork and discovery. They upload all the information into our computerized system. This involves videos, audio calls, bodycam and dashcam footage; they prepare numerous orders for judges, correctional facilities and law enforcement agencies. They also prepare every file for court—and they do a lot more! Without them, the office could not function. They continue to make our office run smoothly each day. Thank you, Maria, Jessica, Michele, Carmela, Caroline, and Madison.

## **TRAINING**



It is important for our staff to have the best training possible so that we constantly improve our skills and awareness of law enforcement tools, techniques, and initiatives.

The world of law enforcement is constantly changing and evolving, and our staff recognizes the need to receive the best training possible. Our community deserves an educated, informed, and well-trained District Attorney's staff.

With that in mind, District Attorney Tandy encourages his staff to take advantage of the numerous training opportunities available for Assistant District Attorneys, Investigators, and Victim/Witness Assistants.

-Training (cont'd.)

In 2024, members of the District Attorney's Office staff received training and education in the following areas:

- Animal Abuse/Cruelty Prosecutions
- DWI Prosecutions and new techniques
- Prosecuting Sexual Assault Cases
- Trauma Responsive Investigations and Prosecutions
- Trauma Awareness: Survival Interviewing Techniques
- Trial Advocacy
- Case Development and Ethical Guidelines
- Prosecuting Vehicular Crimes
- Ethics and Professionalism
- Avoiding Conflicts of Interest
- Developing Financial Crime Cases
- Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions
- Child Forensic Interviewing
- Confrontation Clause Issues
- Bail "Reform" and Discovery "Reform"



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Putnam County District Attorney's office recognizes the need for participation in our community. Our office has been traditionally involved with our schools, our community organizations, and our neighborhoods.

In 2024, District Attorney Tendency, the Assistant District Attorneys, and staff participated in our community in various ways:



## **Schools, Communities, Town Government**

District Attorney Tendy and the Assistant District Attorneys and Investigators speak at Middle and High Schools; participate in Youth Court ceremonies and events; we speak at every DWI Victim Impact Panel at Putnam Hospital; we meet with community residents, leaders, and senior citizen groups to discuss law enforcement issues of importance to them.

District Attorney Tendy speaks at numerous senior centers and senior organizations in the county regarding personal safety, online, mail, and phone money scams, and has personally offered to help any senior with any question or concerns about these issues.

Criminal Investigator Ralph Cilento, in addition to his criminal investigations and assisting with case preparation, routinely interacts with Putnam residents on a whole host of issues potentially involving their families, friends, problems they may be encountering, or questions about our justice system. If it involves a potentially criminal matter, Investigator Cilento is available to help in our community. He also gives training seminars to law enforcement regarding search and seizure and proper interrogation parameters/techniques. He is an adjunct professor of Criminal Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Special Victims Investigator Jaemie Caban attended classes at various school districts to discuss her role as special victims' investigator and her career in law enforcement. She is also fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish. This is vital in her role involving Spanish speaking child abuse victim, sex crimes victims, and victims of domestic violence.

## **Spanish Speaking Community/Immigration Issues**



District Attorney Tendy has continued to speak with leaders in the immigrant community and has explained his office policies regarding immigrant crime victims and immigrant criminals. If a person is a victim of a crime, our office does not investigate the immigration status of the victim. Our top priority is to arrest and convict the

criminal. If a person is convicted of a serious crime and is illegally in the United States, that person will be deported.

District Attorney Tandy has continued to speak with leaders in the immigrant community and has explained his office policies regarding immigrant crime victims and immigrant criminals.

For 2025, our office looks to expand its community outreach even more. It is important for all the county's residents to know that law enforcement agencies are there for them.

## **DWI Victim Impact Panel**

.....  
"IT ONLY TOOK A FEW HOURS,  
BUT I WILL REMEMBER  
THE MESSAGES **FOREVER.**"

*Attendee Testimonial*  
.....

Beginning in 2018 and continuing forward all Assistant District Attorneys are scheduled to attend bi-monthly DWI Victim Impact Panel discussions where they meet with people who have been convicted of Driving While Intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.

They discuss legal and financial implications, attorney fees, asset/vehicle forfeiture, look back laws involving permanent license revocation, the use of automobile interlock devices, and other aspects of current and future involvement with the law as a result of a DWI conviction.

This fosters among our prosecutors an even greater awareness of the tragic consequences of drinking and driving.

## ASSET FORFEITURE



The Asset Forfeiture program continues to be a powerful tool in crime fighting. The District Attorney's Office has used asset forfeiture to enhance law enforcement initiatives, provide training, and help keep our residents safe. The money forfeited as a result of criminal convictions is then used to fight crime.

Tracy Locascio is the office Asset Forfeiture Administrator.

In 2024 there were 116 new asset forfeiture cases opened, and 95 cases closed.

- Forfeiture Cases Opened (vehicles and/or currency): 116
- Total Forfeiture Cases Closed: 95
- 74 Cases Closed without seeking forfeiture for reasons such as innocent owner, hardship consideration, Interest of Justice, repossession by lien holder, or no consideration, (i.e.: reduction of charge/plea without Forfeiture/Abated by Death).
- 21 Cases Closed due to Stipulation of either relinquishment of vehicle or currency, settlement value, or by order of the court, alternatively.

### Fees & Distributions:

- Total Forfeited Assets reported pursuant to CPLR Article 13A in 2024: \$46,445.90
- Total Assets distributed to Police Agencies pursuant to CPLR Article 13A: \$19,042.81
- Total Assets distributed to NYS (O.A.S.A.S.) pursuant to CPLR Article 13A: \$14,862.69
- Total Assets distributed to DA's Office pursuant to CPLR Article 13A: \$12,540.40

## **HELPING LAW ENFORCEMENT THROUGH ASSET FORFEITURE**



The District Attorney's Office uses the forfeited proceeds of criminal activity to fund many law enforcement agencies and victim services groups.

Since 2016, the District Attorney's Office has given \$260,418.23 to Law enforcement agencies working in Putnam County. The money goes for computers, training, equipment, police vehicle equipment, facial recognition equipment, and more. This money is a direct savings for the taxpayer.

Since 2016, for the District Attorney's office we used \$147,552.37 from asset forfeiture for computers, trial display equipment, office furniture, conference room upgrades, and more.

The total savings to the taxpayer is \$407,970.60.

Through asset forfeiture, in 2024 our office was able to provide \$10,771 dollars for law enforcement computer equipment, computer software, and interview room equipment. As with every year, this will help with various investigative and safety protocols.

Asset forfeiture expenditures for 2024 for the Putnam County District Attorney's Office:

\$ 154.46 - Furniture

\$1,178.30 - Office supplies

\$ 742.56 - Books

## GRANT FUNDING

In 2024, our office was able to secure grant funding for a total amount of \$569,135 dollars.

This money was received as the result of our office writing grant applications for the New York Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Grant (\$266,192), the New York State Aid to Prosecution (ATP) Grant (\$190,262), Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Grant (\$25,247), Stop DWI Grant (\$9,500) and State “Aid Grants” which go to salary offsets (\$77,934).

As a result of the greatly increased workload due to the discovery reform laws of 2020, our ADAs work many more hours per week—more hours than ever before. The workload has risen almost 30 percent. We use some of that money for personnel retention, on call stipends, merit pay increases, equipment, training, travel expenses and much more.

Although the work responsibilities have greatly increased, we are dedicated to making sure we keep up with our work obligations to the people of Putnam County. Where some District Attorney’s offices in the state have as high as a 28% case dismissal rate based on untimely discovery compliance, our office has had virtually zero case dismissals due to untimely discovery compliance. We pride ourselves on early case assessment and dealing fairly, honestly, and quickly with our defense bar.

We also share up to 33% of our DCJS grant with law enforcement agencies operating in the county.



## CASES OF NOTE



**Robert V. Tendy**  
**Putnam County District Attorney**

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40 Gleneida Avenue  
Carmel, New York 10512

Telephone: (845) 808-1050  
Facsimile: (845) 808-1966

### **2024 PRESS RELEASE HEADLINERS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT: CHRISTINA RIZZO**  
**(845) 808-1055**

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### **Putnam Drug Dealer Convicted**

**CARMEL, NEW YORK – January 17, 2024** – Putnam County District Attorney Robert V. Tendy announced today that a Kent man was found guilty by a Putnam Jury on January 12, 2024, of selling a dangerous combination of heroin and fentanyl on two occasions. The conviction came after a week and a half long jury trial in the Putnam County Court.

William E Mancusi III, 47, was convicted of two Counts each of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, each a Class B felony, in connection with his possession and sale of a substance containing Heroin, Fentanyl and Xylazine.

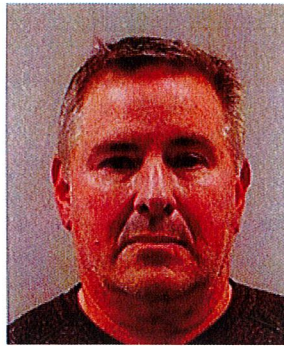
The New York State Police Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (VGNET) were able to conduct a series of undercover operations during which Mancusi provided a confidential informant with a heroin, fentanyl and xylazine cocktail. Mancusi was heard on audio recordings bragging that the combination was some of the “strongest” stuff that he has had “in over a year” and urged the confidential informant to “be careful” in using the drugs. A chemical analysis conducted by NYSP Forensic Scientist Jenna Snow demonstrated that the drugs sold were, in fact, a very potent combination of heroin, fentanyl and xylazine.

District Attorney Robert Tendy stated “this defendant knowingly pushed deadly drugs into our community. The drug cocktail he was selling had an additional deadly layer to it when you consider it had Xylazine, which is unresponsive to Narcan. This was extraordinarily dangerous stuff.”

In 2014, Mancusi was convicted by a Putnam County Jury of the felony Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and has a prior Vehicular Manslaughter conviction stemming from an incident in 2008 during which Mancusi, who was operating a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs, struck and killed a bicyclist in Dutchess County.

“Mr. Mancusi clearly didn’t learn his lessons from his two previous state prison sentences,” District Attorney Robert V. Tendy said. “We are grateful that we have removed a career criminal from our community and are grateful to the jury for their service.”

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Breanne Smith and Assistant District Attorney Joseph Charbonneau. Mancusi was sentenced to nine years in State Prison.



## **Anesthesiologist Pleads Guilty to Sex Abuse**

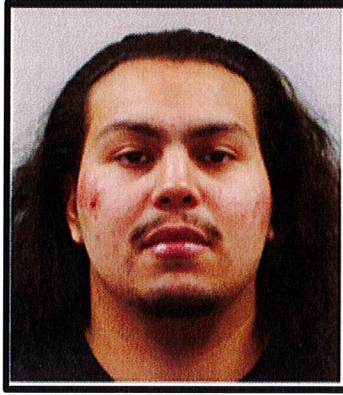
**CARMEL, NEW YORK – August 22, 2024** – Putnam County District Attorney Robert V. Tendy announced today that on August 21, 2024, Paul Giacomelli, a Southeast resident, pled guilty on Wednesday, August 21, to two violent felony offenses, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree and Assault in the Second Degree.

After a painstaking investigation by the Putnam County Sheriff's office working with the victim and the District Attorney's office, Giacomelli was arrested and ultimately confessed. At the time of his arrest, Giacomelli was the chief anesthesiologist at Putnam County Hospital. Evidence showed that Giacomelli used a chemical which rendered his victim unconscious. He then sexually abused her.

He will be sentenced to four years in state prison with post release supervision for up to ten years. He must register as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act.

The victim's cooperation with the investigation and prosecution, and her bravery and willingness to testify resulted in the defendant's guilty plea.

District Attorney Tendy said "I'm very proud of the work of the Sheriff's Department and ADA Lynch; but I'm mostly proud of the victim's courage in going through this process which led to the defendant's arrest and conviction."



## **Sexual Predator Pleads Guilty**

**CARMEL, NEW YORK – August 28, 2024** – Putnam County District Attorney Robert V. Tendy announced today the Conviction of 21-year-old Norwalk Connecticut resident Francisco Gomez for Attempted Rape in the Second Degree and Disseminating Indecent Material to a Minor in the First Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony.

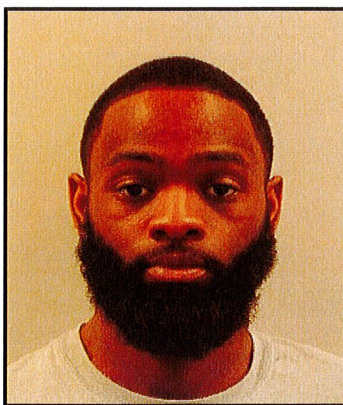
Gomez was enticing a 13-year-old Putnam child on social media to engage in sexual activity with him. After the child’s mother discovered the messages, a collaborative effort involving the Putnam County District Attorney’s Office, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office, Homeland Security, and Rockland County District Attorney Investigators led to the apprehension of Gomez before he ever had the chance to meet and harm his victim.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Gomez believed he was driving to Putnam County to engage in sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old child when instead he was surrounded by and captured by members of Law Enforcement.

He will be sentenced on November 11, 2024, to three years in state prison followed by five years post release supervision and will be a registered sex offender.

Special Victims Chief Prosecutor Chana Krauss prosecuted the case. She reminds parents to be vigilant in monitoring their children’s social media. “There are predators lurking online, grooming young children in an attempt to engage in sexual activity with them or to threaten them into sending sexually explicit videos. It’s better to have your son or daughter mad at you for being overprotective than risking the dangers sexual predators pose to your kids.”

District Attorney Tendy stated his office will continue to ensure that those who attempt to harm our children are swiftly brought to Justice.



## **Fentanyl Dealer to Serve Six Years in State Prison**

**Carmel, NY – September 12, 2024** - Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendency announced today that 30-year-old Brandon Gatling, of Waterbury, Ct., will serve six years in state prison with a post-release supervision period of one and a half years after pleading guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7<sup>th</sup> Degree.

Gatling was arrested on June 14, 2023, after an investigation conducted by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Unit (NEU) into a fatal overdose revealed Gatling's contact information in the victim's cellular telephone. NEU investigators, acting in an undercover capacity, arranged for a purchase of fentanyl from Gatling to take place in Putnam County. Upon Gatling's arrival, members of NEU took him into custody and recovered from his vehicle over 200 glassine envelopes containing a deadly heroin/fentanyl mixture, multiple cellular telephones, a small quantity of cocaine, and several rounds of ammunition.

"The Putnam County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Unit did an outstanding job in this investigation," Tendency said. "As always, they were painstaking in their work, and it resulted in getting off our streets someone who had no compunction bringing and selling deadly drugs into Putnam County. ADA Breanne Smith, who worked with them and prosecuted the case, is also to be commended for her around-the-clock efforts in bringing this prosecution to fruition."

Gatling pled guilty on September 3, 2024, and was subsequently sentenced to six years in state prison.

## **Florida Resident Pleads Guilty to Menacing and Weapons Possession**

**Carmel, NY – September 12, 2024** - Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tandy announced today that Stephen Borrero pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and was subsequently sentenced on June 5, 2024 to 2 years' incarceration and 2 years' post-release supervision.

Defendant was a truck driver attempting a delivery at Ace Endico when he was informed by an Ace Endico employee that he would have to wait till the proper time to start unloading his truck.

The defendant started a verbal dispute with the employee during which time he lifted his shirt to reveal a firearm in his waistband. The defendant then hid the firearm underneath the cab of the truck which was ultimately recovered by law enforcement. The defendant pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and was subsequently sentenced on June 5, 2024 to 2 years' incarceration and 2 years' post-release supervision.

## **Queens Man Sentenced To 5 Years For Robbery Second Degree**

**Carmel, NY – March 26, 2024** - Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tandy announced today that Jose Nieves pled guilty to Robbery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, Grand Larceny in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

The defendant went into a gas station located in the Town of Southeast, displayed a weapon, and stole money from the cash register. He will serve five years in state prison followed by 5 years post release supervision.

## **Bronx Men Convicted For Garrison Burglary**

**Carmel, NY - November 27, 2024** - Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tandy announced today that Michael Cruz and Berto Dominguez (23PH124 and 23PH125) pled guilty to Burglary in the 3rd Degree in County Court on 11/27/2024.

Both Defendants were arrested for the burglary of a business in Garrison. Through use of sophisticated electronic surveillance and GPS tracking systems, Putnam County Sheriff's investigators were able to locate and apprehend Cruz and Dominguez. It was the first arrest for both. They pled guilty to Felony Burglary and will receive five years' probation.

## THREE ARRESTED FOR DSS WELFARE FRAUD

**Carmel, NY - June 27, 2024** - After lengthy investigations by the Department of Social Services, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, and The Putnam County District Attorney, three women were arrested and prosecuted for Department of Social Services Welfare Fraud. Ruby Guillen illegally received \$12,329 dollars in welfare payments; Monica Makelainen illegally received \$13,823 dollars in welfare payments; Kimberly Nieves took \$31,141 dollars. They each falsely filed for DSS assistance. It was the first arrest for each. All of them pled guilty to larceny and have agreed to pay back the money. They will also be on probation for three years, and they have signed an agreement not to seek any public assistance for seven years.

## COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES



It is imperative that law enforcement agencies cooperate fully with one another and respect each other's skills and areas of expertise. For law enforcement to be successful, there must be a spirit of cooperation among all those involved.

District Attorney Tandy and his staff are doing everything they can to let all law enforcement agencies know that they are appreciated, respected, and are an integral part of the work of the District Attorney's office.

For our office to successfully prosecute cases, it is essential that we work together with all those in law enforcement. Putting the safety of Putnam's residents first requires nothing less. In 2023 our office worked closely with every county, state, and federal law enforcement agency working within Putnam. It is a collaboration we are proud of.

## **EXPENDITURES, BUDGETING, SAVINGS**

**Since 2016—when DA Tendy took office, the office has come in under budget every year. In addition, we have given over \$400,000 dollars for law enforcement initiatives—money that would have otherwise come from the county taxpayer.**

Through the office's grant writing, the Putnam County District Attorney's Office has secured over \$750,000 in funding. Through our efforts, and working with county and local law enforcement agencies, this grant money has been obtained for law enforcement initiatives throughout the county.

The office uses its budget for, of course, employee compensation. But so much more than that is involved. Training, equipment, investigative expenses, witness fees and travel expenses, expert witness fees, extradition costs, court reporter fees, technological upgrades, and many more expenditures are annually necessary to keep the office operating as a modern district attorney's office.

Our office understands the need to responsibly use taxpayer funds, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

## **MOVING FORWARD**

The Putnam County District Attorney's Office is always looking to improve. We constantly strive to update our knowledge of ethical considerations, investigative techniques, and trial and appellate advocacy—and we will continue to do so.

All the attorneys, including the District Attorney, handle a caseload and continue to learn new and innovative ideas in law enforcement.

We place a high priority on working cordially and professionally with other law enforcement agencies and consider our office to be part of the total "family of law enforcement." We have the highest regard for our Sheriff's deputies, local police officers, and the New York State Police.

Our office also works very hard to create an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect for members of the defense bar. We recognize that they, too, are part of our law enforcement community, and they perform a vital role in the protection of our rights as citizens and in ensuring that our criminal justice system remains fair, humane, and just.



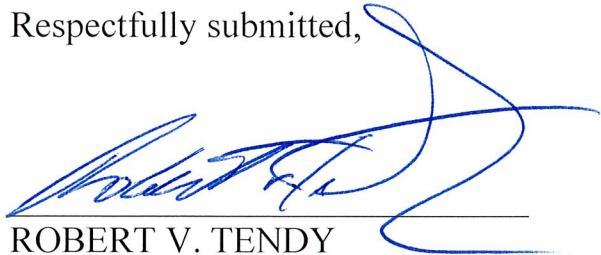
## CONCLUSION

The Office of the Putnam County District Attorney holds itself to the highest legal and ethical standards. From our support staff to our Assistant District Attorneys, to District Attorney Tendy, all are committed to the safety of Putnam County residents.

We expect 2025 to be another very successful year for our office and for all law enforcement in Putnam County.

Dated: Carmel, NY  
February 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT V. TENDY  
Putnam County District Attorney