

September 9, 2022

Dear Haldane Community:

This week I was notified that the Putnam County Sheriff's Department is deploying Body Worn Cameras (BWCs), including by School Resource Officers (SROs), effective immediately. This change is the result of the Policy Reform Act of 2020, which called for programs involving BWCs by law enforcement personnel.

I have been in contact with Sheriff McConville who clarified that the BWCs are not activated until a member of law enforcement initiates the camera to begin recording, or in certain emergency situations when they are automatically activated. I have requested additional information to be provided by the Department for reference by families and staff. If I receive this information I will be sure to share it with you.

A statement from Sheriff McConville is attached.

Sincerely,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Estimada comunidad de Haldane:

Esta semana me notificaron que el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Putnam está implementando Cámaras Usadas en el Cuerpo (BWC), incluso por Oficiales de Recursos Escolares (SRO), con efecto inmediato. Este cambio es el resultado de la Ley de Reforma de Políticas de 2020, que solicitó programas que involucren BWC por parte del personal encargado de hacer cumplir la ley.

Estuve en contacto con el alguacil McConville, quien aclaró que las BWC no se activan hasta que un miembro de la policía inicia la cámara para comenzar a grabar, o en ciertas situaciones de emergencia cuando se activan automáticamente. He solicitado que el departamento proporcione información adicional para referencia de las familias y el personal. Si recibo esta información, me aseguraré de compartirla con usted.

Se adjunta una declaración del alguacil McConville.

Sinceramente,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
superintendente de escuelas



**PUTNAM COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
AND
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
THREE COUNTY CENTER
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
845-225-4300**



KEVIN J. MCCONVILLE
SHERIFF

THOMAS H. LINDERT
UNDERSHERIFF

September 8, 2022

Dr. Laurie Bandlow, Superintendent
Brewster Central School District
Dr. Mary-Margaret Zehr, Superintendent
Carmel Central School District
Dr. Philip Benante, Superintendent
Haldane Central School District
Dr. Carl Albano, Superintendent
Garrison Central School District
Dr. Christina Tona, Superintendent
Mahopac Central School District
Dr. Jeremy Luft, Superintendent
Putnam Valley Central School District

Sent Via E-mail

Dear Superintendents,

In September 2022, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office implemented the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWC's) in daily operations, joining hundreds of other law enforcement agencies across the country who already employ this modern policing tool.

The purpose of utilizing the BWC's by the Sheriff's Office is to document law enforcement activity and provide an objective record of incidents and interactions involving Members of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, documenting those rare and occasional incidents when a School Resource Officer must step forward to perform an immediate necessary law enforcement activity or is acting to protect school staff and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. McConville".

Kevin J. McConville
Putnam County Sheriff

cc: Jennifer Bumgarner, County Attorney
Anna Diaz, Senior Deputy County Attorney