IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE RENTON, COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THREAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-003 Re-Scheduling of Hearings and Other Changes to Court Operations

WHEREAS, The Chief Justice has issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects the operations of trial courts in Washington State on March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the Governor imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within King, Snohomish, and Pierce County due to the danger of continued spread of the virus and the increasing danger the virus presents to the health care system in the region;

WHEREAS, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Health Officer Dr. Jeff Duchin announced a new Local Health Order that directed public health actions effective Monday, March 16, 2020, that prohibited all gatherings with more than 50 participants.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Except as indicated herein, effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020 until further order of the court, the court will reschedule all out-of-custody court hearings. The court will assess the ability to resume normal operations and/or the need for further continuances by May 1, 2020.

2. The Renton Municipal Court remains closed to the public. Court staff will be available by email, fax and US Mail.

   Mailing Address: 1055 South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057-3232
   Fax: (425) 430-6544
   Email: rmcourt@rentonwa.gov

3. The court will continue to hear all in-custody calendars, rule on any contested or mitigation hearings submitted for resolution by mail, and review hearings set to determine compliance with any order issued to surrender weapons.

4. Emergency motions and/or motions to quash bench warrants will be conducted by telephone only and will be heard prior to Tuesday and Thursday in-custody calendars. Motions can be requested by filing appropriate paperwork at the court's email: rmcourt@rentonwa.gov and must include a working phone number. The court will contact the requesting party by phone. Where a warrant is quashed, the court will mail notice of the next court date.

5. The city prosecutor is to continue to file any new charges during any period that out of custody hearings are being rescheduled. Where a new charge is filed, defendants will be allowed to apply for the public defender by email and/or phone by contacting the Renton Municipal Court at (425) 430-6550 or rmcourt@rentonwa.gov. Where they are appointed, the public defender is encouraged to waive arraignment whenever authorized and appropriate, thus allowing cases to be set directly to pretrial.

6. Probation appointments with Probation Officer Ameo Lynch will be conducted by telephone only, no in person appointments.

7. This Administrative Order suspends the requirement under CrRLJ 4.1(a)(2) that defendants "shall be arraigned not later than 14 days after that appearance which next follows the filing of the complaint or citation and notice, if the defendant is not detained in such jail or subject to such conditions of release."

8. Continuances pursuant to this Administrative Order of criminal cases in pre-trial status shall be "excluded periods" under CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8) [unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances] in computing the time for trial and/or this Administrative Order suspends the right to a speedy trial under CrRLJ 3.3(b).

9. This Administrative Order suspends the requirement under IRLJ 2.6(a)(1) that infraction hearings "be scheduled for not less than 14 days from the date the written notice of hearing is sent by the court, nor more than 120 days from the date of the notice of infraction or the date a default judgment is set aside."

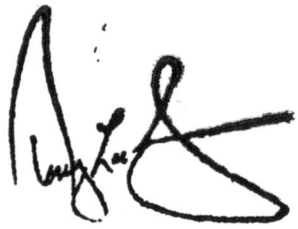
10. No part of this order suspends the defendant's right to a public trial, or the general right of the public to be present at court proceedings under the constitutional provisions that require the open administration of justice.

11. The court will assess the ability to resume normal operations and/or the need for further continuances by May 1, 2020.

12. The court may re-assess the need for other protective measures on an as needed basis.

For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, this administrative order suspends the right to a hearing within any specific time period required by any court rule AND/OR any delay/continuance shall constitute an excluded period for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule.

Dated April 3, 2020



Terry L. Jurado, Presiding Judge