

Virginia:

In the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, John Marshall Courts Building

ORDER

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order 51 declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Va. Code § 44-146.13 *et seq.* Subsequently, and upon the request of the Governor, the Supreme Court of Virginia issued an Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-330. That Order directed that all non-essential and non-emergency court proceedings in all circuit and district courts be suspended and all deadlines tolled and extended for a twenty-one day period. Va. Code § 17.1-330(D). In addition to specific directives, the Order noted that “[n]othing in this Order shall preclude the chief district and chief circuit judges from implementing additional local policies as needed.” The Order is to remain in effect through April 6, 2020. On March 27, 2020, Chief Justice Lemons extended the Judicial Emergency Declaration to remain in effect through April 26, 2020. On March 30, 2020, the Governor Ordered citizens to stay at home during this public health crisis. Previously, Governor Ralph Northam prohibited non-essential gathering of more than ten people in any one location at any time. This Order remains in effect with the current stay at home Order. Press Release, Office of the Governor, Governor Northam Announces New Measures to Combat COVID-19 and Support Impacted Virginians (March 17, 2020). In light of such a directive, and in the interest of promoting public health and safety, the Court hereby **SUSPENDS** the April Grand Jury and Docket Call scheduled for April 6, 2020 and continues it to May 4, 2020. All deadlines and speedy trial dates associated with cases scheduled to be set at

the April grand jury are tolled by Va. Code Section 19.2-243 (7). All cases scheduled for docket call may be set by contacting the Judicial Administrative Assistants assigned to each Judge.

ENTER: March 30, 2020



Joi Jeter Taylor, Chief Judge