IN THE TWISP MUNICIPAL COURT
OKANOGAN COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN WASHINGTON STATE

Administrative Order No. 2020-001

WHEREAS on February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, and Order No. 25700-B-606 granting emergency authority to the Presiding Judges of Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and order, and to take further actions regarding court operations as warranted to address the current public health emergency; and

WHEREAS the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

GIVEN the severity of risk posed to the public as, and the above public health recommendations from public health authorities;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. The Court finds and concludes that all continuances granted or ordered by the Court pursuant to this Order are (1) due to unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the court or the parties; (2) required in the administration of justice; (3) that good cause exists for such continuances.

2. INFRACTION HEARINGS: All contested infraction hearings and mitigation hearings shall be heard as previously scheduled, subject to the following:

a. All contested and mitigated hearings shall be held pursuant to IRLJ 2.6 (c) and IRLJ 3.5.

b. While this Order is in effect, the 120-day "speedy hearing" deadlines set in IRLJ 2.6(a) and IRLJ 2.6(b) are hereby suspended and IRLJ 2.6 (d) (e) and (f) are hereby suspended.

c. Written statements by defendants may be sent to the court by mail or email and should be received by the court by 5 PM two days before the scheduled hearing date. Defendants may request telephonic conference hearings. Requests must be made with a telephone number provided and must be received by the court by 5 PM two days before the scheduled hearing date. Requests shall be granted or denied by the court on a case-by-case basis.

d. The Court is closed to the public.

e. The Court's mailing address is PO Box 278 Twisp, WA 98856. The telephone number is 509-997-6112; the email address is policeclerk@townoftwisp.com

f. Payments to the Court should be made by mail or by deposit in the payment dropbox at City Hall.

g. Robert W. Grim and Charles S. Short, judges of the Okanogan County District Court, are hereby appointed judges pro tem of this court.

h. The presiding judge of this court designates the presiding judge of the Okanogan County District Court as temporary presiding judge of this court if the judge of this court becomes unavailable due to this emergency.

3. DURATION: this Order shall remain in effect unless later rescinded, modified, or extended by the Court.

DATED this 24 day of MARCH, 2020.

David Ebenger, Presiding Judge