ORTING MUNICIPAL COURT
PIERCE COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONOVIRUS	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20-02

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, this Administrative Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Western Washington, which has been home to the first reported domestic case of the disease and some of the first significnt community impacts from school and business closures. As of the date of this Order, there have been over 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in King County and many more in the State of Washington. Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-

like symptoms, for others it can pose a serious risk, and ten people in Washington have died.

In February of this year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued "Interim Guidance" recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from the state and local health officials. On March 5, 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County issued a recommendation that individuals at a higher risk (e.g. those over 60 years of age, those with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant) stay at home and away from large groups of people. Employers were also advised to maximize telecommuting and to "feasibly avoid bringing large groups of people together."

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the area and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the above public health recommendations from local public health authorities,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that effective Monday, March 16, 2020:

1) All civil infraction, and criminal matters scheduled before this court, including jury trials are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court;
2) With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, ***the time period of the continuances implemented by the Administrative Order will be excluded under CrRLJ 3.3 Time for Trial Rule***, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the

continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3;

3) Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel;

4) This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil infraction, or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

The Orting Municipal Court remains open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for filings. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

The Court will vacate or amend this Administrative Order no later than March 31, 2020.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.

JOHN F. CURRY
PRESIDING JUDGE