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2020 MAY 21 PM 2:35

IN THE ELYRIA MUNICIPAL COURT
ELYRIA, OHIO CLERK OF
ELYRIA MUNICIPAL COURT

BY: elw

STATE OF OHIO :
 :ss
LORAIN COUNTY :

COURT ORDER

On May 17, 2020, an employee of the Elyria Municipal Court staff tested positive for COVID-19. In consultation with the Department of Health and following all procedures regarding quarantine of persons in contact with the infected person, the Court's entire Security staff was sent home and is now under quarantine for the next 14 days.

With no security available in the Courthouse and out of an abundance of caution, the Courthouse was closed on May 19, 2020. On May 18 and May 19, 2020, the Courthouse underwent heavy cleaning. The Judges also made arrangements with the Elyria and/or the North Ridgeville Police Departments to provide basic security so the building can be open and provide essential services to defendants and victims.

It is the Court's intention to continue to act in the best interests of protecting the employees and public entering the building and to insure the rights of the defendants and the victims.

The Court therefore issues this Administrative Order effective May 20, 2020, wherein the COURT ORDERS as follows:

- (1) Effective May 20, 2020, the Court operating hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- (2) Before gaining entry to the Courthouse proper, everyone entering the Courthouse will be triaged in the foyer area.
- (3) Until further Order, there remains limited access to the Courthouse. Access will be limited to:
 - Attorneys appearing for a scheduled hearing in a felony case, serious misdemeanor case, or where the defendant is currently incarcerated.

- Witnesses subpoenaed for a serious felony case with prior approval for entry into the building for a specific hearing being held that day.
 - Alleged victims seeking a Protection Order. The alleged victim may be accompanied by one support person and will not be admitted into the building until entry is approved by a Victim Advocate from the Elyria City Prosecutor's office. Security shall notify an Advocate as soon as possible that someone is at the Courthouse seeking a Protection Order.
 - Members of the media.
 - One person per defendant appearing for initial appearance or arraignment on the jail video system.
 - Bailbonds persons.
 - NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 will be admitted to the Courthouse.
- (4) The Court requires all persons entering the building to exercise social distancing. To that effect, seating has been reduced by 66% in the Courtrooms and hallways have been appropriately marked for social distancing.
 - (5) Everyone entering the Elyria Municipal Courthouse must wear a mask while in the building.
 - (6) Everyone entering the Elyria Municipal Courthouse must sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.
 - (7) Everyone entering the Courthouse will have their temperatures taken by a no-touch infrared thermometer. Individuals with a temperature of 100°F or higher will not be admitted.
 - (8) Public areas will be periodically sanitized with the heavy traffic areas being frequently sanitized, including, but not limited, to seating, door handles, and counters.
 - (9) Persons entering the Elyria Municipal Courthouse will answer the following questions:
 - Have you had a fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of taste or smell over the last few days?

- Do you currently have a dry cough, runny nose, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Within the last 14 days, have you traveled to any foreign country?
- Within the last 14 days, have you traveled out of State?
- To your knowledge, have you been exposed to anyone who has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus?

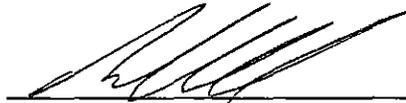
If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the party will not be admitted without the consent of a Judge.

- (10) All individuals appearing pursuant to Summons for misdemeanor cases, traffic cases, and civil matters will be asked to provide contact information on the document titled Elyria Municipal Court Continuation. Those individuals will be contacted by the Court at a later time to reschedule their appearances.
- (11) Attorneys representing individuals in pending cases other than felonies may request that the hearing be held electronically and make those arrangements with the assigned Judge's office. Attorneys should file their request in writing and include a time waiver.

Date: May 20, 2020

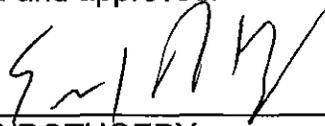


JUDGE GARY C. BENNETT
Administrative and Presiding Judge



JUDGE ROBERT C. WHITE

Read and approved:



ERIC ROTHGERY
Clerk of Courts