IN THE AVONDALE CITY COURT
IN THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA IN AND FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
LIMITING COURT OPERATIONS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	)	Administrative Order No. 2020 – 004 (Replacing Order 2020-003)

Due to concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Governor of the State of Arizona declared a statewide emergency on March 11, 2020. Additionally, the Arizona Supreme Court has issued Administrative Order No. 2020-70 (Replacing Administrative Order No. 2020-60) authorizing limitations of court operations during a public health emergency.

On March 30, 2020, in order to further reduce the continuing spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-18 urging Arizona residents to stay-at-home other than for essential activities. While the Executive Order acknowledges that legal and court processes constitute essential activities, the Avondale City Court believes that to protect the health and safety of the public and of its employees, further restrictions on in-person court proceedings and court activities are necessary.

Therefore, to continue mitigating all in-person proceedings in the Avondale City Court to the greatest extent possible consistent with core constitutional rights and until further order of the Arizona Supreme Court, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2020-70,

IT IS ORDERED that Administrative Order 2020-003 is replaced by this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from MAY 1, 2020, through MAY 31, 2020, with limited exceptions as set forth below, no in-person proceeding will occur in the Avondale City Court. The Court will continue to hold telephonic hearings and remain available to process all case types and non-appearance proceedings.

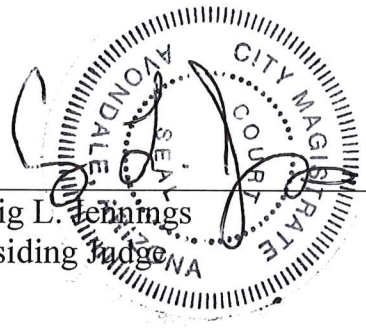
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attendance at any in-person proceeding held pursuant to one of the limited exceptions below will be limited to parties, witnesses, victims, law enforcement officers, and lawyers participating in the proceeding. Family members of the parties may be permitted, if approved by the judge.

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

(a) No jury trials will be scheduled before June 18, 2020.
(b) All in-custody hearings will proceed as normal.
(c) All post arraignment non-trial settings for out of custody defendants currently scheduled for May 5, 2020, through May 28, 2020, are continued for at least six weeks.
(d) All arraignments (both criminal and civil traffic cases) scheduled from May 4, 2020, through May 28, 2020, will be continued until after June 11, 2020. Civil traffic matters can continue to be resolved by telephone and /or email.
(e) All non-jury trials for out of custody defendants currently scheduled for May 7, 2020 through May 28, 2020 are vacated and <u>will be reset for a status conference after May 28, 2020.</u>
(f) All civil traffic hearings currently scheduled for May 4, 2020 through May 26, 2020 are continued for at least six weeks, except as ordered by the Presiding Judge.
(g) For all criminal cases subject to this Order, time is excluded for the purpose of calculating time under Rule 8, *Rules of Criminal Procedure*, between May 4, 2020, and May 28, 2020, subject to further direction of the Arizona Supreme Court.
(h) All Protective Order proceedings will continue with the direction that telephonic or video appearances can be utilized where feasible until further notice.
(i) All persons with scheduled appearances are required to notify the Court of any COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure and to refrain from entering the Court.
(j) All persons entering the Court without a scheduled appearance are required to notify the Court of any COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure and to refrain from entering the Court.
(k) All non-essential functions currently scheduled to be conducted in the Court are cancelled until further notice.
(l) Open Court is canceled until further notice. Anyone contacting the Court regarding Open Court shall be directed to contact the Court by email, fax, or in writing to address their matter.
(m) All proceedings occurring within the Court are to be conducted in a manner consistent with the Center for Disease Control physical distancing recommendations until further notice.

IT IS FURTHER ENCOURAGED that all parties continue to work towards the resolution and settlement of the cases subject to this Order. If the parties need a scheduled hearing prior to June 1, 2020, the parties are directed to file a motion with the Court which includes their specific request. The Court will decide whether a hearing will be scheduled (telephonic, video, or in person).

Dated this 27th day of April, 2020.



Craig L. Jennings
Presiding Judge