IN THE 16th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT—ORANGE AND MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ORDER

Consistent with the attached press release from Orange County, the Clerk's Offices in Madison and Orange County shall be closed to the public from April 13, 2020 through April 17, 2020. The respective Clerk's Office are not open for walk-in business, but essential operations continue. The Clerk's Office is staffed and can respond to telephone, facsimile and electronic mail requests.

The Virginia Code further defines disaster as "(ii) any natural disaster including any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, drought, fire, **communicable disease of public health threat (emphasis added),** or other natural catastrophe resulting in damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life. Va. Code Ann. 44-146.16 (LEXIS 2020).

Gov. Northam and President Trump have both declared respective states of emergency because of the Coronavirus. www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/march/headline-853537-en.html.

The Virginia Supreme Court also exercised its authority to declare a judicial emergency consistent with 17.1-330, et seq. and extended the same on March 27, 2020 www.courts.state.va.us.

Further, both Gov. Northam and President Trump have advised citizens to avoid gatherings of ten (10) persons or more. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Exponential escalation of the emergency now requires further measures to protect the health and safety of Virginia residents and Judiciary personnel.

The Clerk's office shall remain operational and will respond as circumstances warrant to telephone, facsimile and email inquiries between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Clerk's Office will continue to accept documents for filing by first class mail, Federal Express and United Parcel Service.

The Clerks shall, consistent with Virginia law, use their discretion to increase access to the Secure Remote Imaging of court records, including, without limitation, to the extent possible, waiving fees for current and new users of said system. The Clerk's office shall, to the extent possible, immediately process records to ensure their upload to Secure Remote Access as promptly as possible.

There is also a limited exception for concealed weapon permits. Please mail the same to the Clerk along with a copy of your photographic ID (which shall be shredded upon confirmation).

Emergency request for hearings shall be scheduled through chambers.

ENTER: _____

DATE: 4/13/20