

IN THE 16th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In Re: MODIFICATION OF COURT OPERATIONS - JUNE 5, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-095

WHEREAS, information has been provided to the Court regarding scheduled rallies/marches and gatherings which are to occur in and around the downtown Kansas City area, specifically including Kansas City City Hall, on June 5, 2020. The information has been wildly varying, including estimates of gatherings from a few hundred people to several thousand people; and

WHEREAS, based upon conditions that may occur during such rallies/marches and gatherings, it is possible that streets and parking facilities may be closed, movement of traffic will be limited and/or disrupted; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Court take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees of the Court, all judicial officers, all attorneys, all litigants, all victims, all witnesses and any other individuals or entities who have cases, hearings or other business pending in Court, while also balancing the rights of all said individuals to have their matters heard; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 478.240.2 R.S.Mo. and Section 15 of the Missouri Constitution, the Presiding Judge has general administrative authority over all judicial personnel and court officials in the Circuit as well as administrative authority over dockets of the Court and the administrative and discretionary authority regarding the manner in which any hearings are conducted in the Court; and

WHEREAS, COR 7 C 12.2(b) authorizes the Presiding Judge to close judicial offices in the event of conditions that may impede the ability of the judicial offices to conduct business.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that on Friday, June 5, 2020, the following restrictions/modifications apply as to all court departments and court business - **NOT INCLUDING** any court judicial divisions (which are addressed below):

1. No *in person* court business will be conducted in court offices and departments located in the following court buildings (collectively referred to as "Downtown Court Buildings"):

- A. Kansas City Courthouse, 415 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
- B. Albert Riederer Community Justice Complex, 1315 Locust, Kansas City, MO
- C. Community Justice Building, 1305 Locust, Kansas City, MO

All court department employees and staff who work at said buildings and would otherwise be reporting in person to work, will work remotely and be available to conduct court business remotely.

2. Members of the public who have court business with any court department (**NOT** including judicial divisions of the court) located in the Downtown Court Buildings will not be allowed access into said buildings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on Friday, June 5, 2020, the following applies to all judicial divisions located at the Downtown Court Buildings and all conferences, hearings and/or trials scheduled in said judicial divisions:

1. Because of currently unknown conditions regarding the nature and extent of the rallies/marches and gatherings, judicial officers are strongly encouraged to not hold any scheduled in person court hearings, conferences or trials, but rather to continue any said in person hearings.

2. Any court hearings, conferences and/or trials that are scheduled as remote hearings should proceed remotely by telephone or videoconferencing, in the sound discretion of the judicial officer.

Any questions regarding this Administrative Order should be directed to Court Administration at (816) 881-3658.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

June 4, 2020
DATE



David M. Byrn, Presiding Judge

Certificate of Service

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing was emailed to the following on June 4, 2020:

16th Circuit Court Judiciary
Frank White, County Executive
Troy Shulte, County Administrator
Darryl Forte, Sheriff
Theresa Galvin, Legislative Chair
Mary A. Marquez, Court Administrator
Jean Peters-Baker, Prosecutor
Ruth Petsch, District Defender