ORDER OF SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT
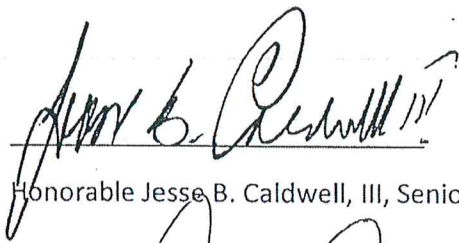
WHEREAS the Governor of North Carolina has issued an Executive Order effective on June 26, 2020 at 5 P.M. requiring persons in public places to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the mouth and nose, this Order being effective for three weeks; and the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court has issued a directive requiring the courts of our state to implement and execute the Governor's Order in the state courts;
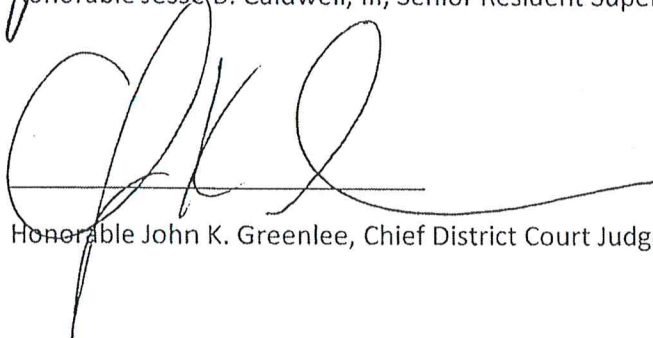
THEREFORE, the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge order that unless covered by one of the exceptions as set forth in the Governor's Order, all persons entering the Gaston County Courthouse during this three week time period will be required to wear such a mask or face covering as described in the aforesaid Order, and to continue wearing such mask while he or she is in the courthouse; and that all such persons entering any Small Claims, District or Superior Courtroom will be required to continue wearing such mask;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff of Gaston County and the deputies of his Office shall have the power to greet people at the courthouse door, advise them of the Governor's Order and Chief Justice's directives, and this Order of the undersigned; offer to furnish masks (if available) to those who do not have one; and advise anyone who, without citing an exception to the Governor's Order, states he or she will NOT wear a mask, that such person will not be allowed admittance to the courthouse, and is ordered and empowered not to allow such person admittance into the courthouse facility; and to advise such person that if he or she is a defendant in a criminal case, that person will be called and failed if he or she is not present when the case is called for trial, and the court will issue an order of arrest;

This the 30 day of June, 2020,

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Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

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Honorable John K. Greenlee, Chief District Court Judge