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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SCOTLAND

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 16A

2020 MAY 28 A 9:46

IN RE: GRAND JURY
Formed on February 17, 2020

SCOTLAND CO. S. 16A
BY: [Signature]

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

THIS MATTER COMING ON BEFORE THE UNDERSIGNED Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 16A pursuant to G.S. 15A-622;

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 15A-622, the current grand jury was constituted in the normal cause of business as of February 17, 2020; and those grand jurors engaged in their work as needed; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 13, 2020, the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, announced Judicial Branch measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 among members of the public. In the interests of complying with that directive by Chief Justice Beasley, grand jurors in this judicial district were not summonsed for the months of April 2020 and May 2020; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Beasley has entered an Order dated May 21, 2020, that the courts of this State may begin to return to the conduct of judicial business, subject to limitations related to the health and safety of the public, staff, attorneys, jurors, and judges; and

WHEREAS, grand jurors have been summonsed for the June 2020 session; and the undersigned has every reasonable expectation that a sufficient number of grand jurors will attend in order that business can be conducted; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Beasley's above-referenced May 21, 2020 order requires that Senior Resident Superior Court Judges assess local court facilities to determine whether juries can be convened safely in a manner consistent with applicable guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Task Force was directed to submit recommended best practices for jury trials no later than June

30, 2020, and these best practices have not been published as of the date of this Order; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 15A-622(b) states, in pertinent part, that grand jurors shall, upon appointment and swearing in, serve "thereafter until their replacements are selected and sworn"; and

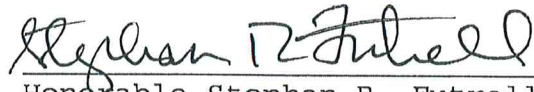
WHEREAS, G.S. 15A-622(b) further states, in pertinent part, "If this formula results in any term likely to be shorter than two months or longer than 15 months, the presiding judge impaneling the grand jury may modify the terms"; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons described above, it is reasonably necessary in the administration of justice that the undersigned modify the terms of grand jurors selected and sworn on February 17, 2020, to extend for 30 days the terms of those grand jurors whose terms were set to expire as of June 30, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to G.S. 15-622 and the inherent authority of the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 16A, it is hereby ORDERED and DIRECTED that:

- 1) The terms of those currently sitting grand jurors whose terms were scheduled to expire on or about June 30, 2020 are extended for a period of 30 days; and during those 30 days, they shall continue to hold over as grand jurors and remain available for service if necessary and properly summonsed; and
- 2) The undersigned shall retain jurisdiction herein in order to determine whether citizens of Scotland County can be safely summoned to the Scotland County Courthouse for purposes of re-constituting the grand jury during August 2020, consistent with the guidelines of the above-referenced COVID-19 Task Force. If it is determined that doing so is not reasonably possible, then the terms of those grand jurors whose terms were set to expire as of June 30, 2020, may be extended again.

This the 26th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephan R. Futrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Honorable Stephan R. Futrell
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 16A