

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
IN RE:)
 JANUARY 2021 GRAND JURY)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This matter is before the Court pursuant to G.S. § 15A-622 which requires that nine of the 18 members of the existing Grand Jury serve until the “first session of court at which criminal cases are heard held in the county after . . . January 4, and thereafter until their replacements are selected and sworn.”

The Buncombe County Grand Jury consists of two groups of nine Grand Jurors, each group serving a twelve month staggered term of service with nine Grand Jurors being replaced with new jurors each six months.

The term of service of one group of nine Grand Jurors is scheduled to expire Monday, January 4, 2021. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley recently announced Judicial Branch measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 among members of the public. Due to the Chief Justice’s Orders, the Clerk of Court will not summon jurors for the first two weeks of January 2021 and therefore the Court directs that the selection of new Grand Jurors be delayed until the week of February 1, 2021.

The Court finds that a delay of one month is necessary to properly summon, organize and empanel nine new members of the Grand Jury. No prejudice will result to the State, to any citizen or to any defendant as a result of such delay.

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge hereby exercises his inherent authority in the interest of the proper administration of justice and directs the following:

1. That the existing nine Grand Jurors whose term was to expire January 4, 2021, shall hold over and remain available for service until at least February 1, 2021; and,
2. Citizens of Buncombe County shall be duly summoned for potential service as Grand Jurors or as Trial Jurors for the criminal and civil sessions of the Buncombe County Superior Court commencing on February 1, 2021, from which the new Grand Jurors will be selected and sworn, unless otherwise directed by order of this Court.

So Ordered, December 15, 2020.



Alan Z. Thornburg
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge