

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT \* ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY \* EXTENDING GRAND JURY TERM  
STATE OF MARYLAND \* 2020-16

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals of Maryland has issued emergency orders related to the administration of justice during the state of disaster, including ordering all Maryland courts or other judicial facilities to modify or suspend court operations or judicial functions; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera issued the Amended Administrative Order on the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 on June 3, 2020, which set forth a phased reopening of the Maryland courts, culminating in a full resumption of normal court activities and operations on October 5, 2020; and


WHEREAS, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera issued the Amended Administrative Order Lifting the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials and Resuming Grand Juries on June 3, 2020, which provides the County Administrative Judge the authority to extend the term of a grand jury currently convened; and

WHEREAS, this Court has determined that the goals and efforts referenced above will be furthered by extending the term of the current grand jury which will delay the empaneling of a new grand jury until after the Court is fully reopened.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted under the various Court of Appeals Orders and pursuant to the Court of Appeals of Maryland Amended Administrative Order Lifting the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials and Resuming Grand Juries filed on June 3, 2020, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the current Wicomico County Grand Jury Term scheduled to end on August 31, 2020 is hereby extended until February 28, 2021.

Signed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
S. JAMES SARBANES  
Administrative Judge  
Circuit Court for Wicomico County