

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:	:	
	:	
THIRD EXTENSION OF	:	STANDING ORDER
ADJUSTMENTS TO COURT	:	
OPERATIONS DUE TO THE	:	
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES	:	
CREATED BY COVID-19	:	

This Order is issued in furtherance of the Court’s prior Standing Orders issued on March 13, 2020, March 18, 2020, April 10, 2020, and May 29, 2020, which implemented and extended certain adjustments to Court operations due to the exigent circumstances created by the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and in the interest of public health and safety. The May 29 Standing Order extended most of these measures through August 31, 2020, or until further Court order. This Order addresses meetings of impaneled grand jurors, Central Violations Bureau proceedings, and arbitration hearings pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, all of which have been continued only through June 30, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact Court operations in this district, as outlined in the Court’s prior Standing Orders. Upon consideration of the current circumstances with respect to COVID-19 in this district and the available guidance and recommendations from government officials and public health authorities, including the ongoing circumstances and recommendations outlined in the Court’s prior Standing Orders, and to ensure that the process of reconstituting Court operations may proceed gradually and cautiously in order to protect the health and safety of Court employees and all those entering Court facilities, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. Due to the circumstances regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in this district and in light of the available public health guidance, impaneled grand juries have not met in this district since March 17, 2020. The Court anticipates the possibility of resuming meetings of impaneled grand juries in July 2020, with special precautions and accommodations to protect the health and safety of all participants, in addition to the measures already in place to protect public health and safety in Court facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because grand juries continue to be unavailable in this district at this time due to the current public health situation, the deadlines for filing an indictment or information under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b) and (d)(1), which were previously continued in the Standing Orders issued on March 18, April 10, and May 29, shall remain continued through the earlier of July 31, 2020, or the date the requisite quorum of grand jurors is obtained to consider the particular matter. The Court finds the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and each defendant in a speedy trial. In light of the temporary unavailability of a grand jury in this district due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, it is unreasonable to expect return and filing of an indictment within the period specified under § 3161(b). *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iii). In computing the time within which an indictment or information must be filed under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b) or (d)(1), the additional period of time from June 30, 2020, through the earlier of July 31, 2020, or the date the requisite quorum of grand jurors is obtained to consider the particular matter shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), in all cases in this district. This period of exclusion is in addition to the period of exclusion previously granted for the time period from March 18, 2020, through June 30, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances warrant. Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this Standing

Order for the purpose of exercising the defendant's speedy trial rights shall be referred to the Chief Judge.

2. All Central Violations Bureau proceedings are CONTINUED pending further Court order.

3. All arbitration hearings pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2 are CONTINUED pending further Court order.

4. Except as modified herein, the May 29, 2020, Standing Order remains in effect.

/s/ Juan R. Sánchez
Juan R. Sánchez
Chief Judge

Date: June 30, 2020