**NOTICE REGARDING RESUMPTION OF MATTERS IN DIVISION 26**

Commencing May 18, 2020, the Court intends to resume its regular docket scheduling in a modified fashion to comply with all Supreme Court and 16th Circuit Administrative Orders, and those of local city and county authorities regarding the COVID-19 virus. Cases will be assigned to specific times for each docket depending on the nature of the appearance (WebEx, telephone, or in-person).

In order to assist in the prevention of the spread or reoccurrence of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary to limit the number of parties and lawyers in the courtroom. Therefore, cases on the docket will be separated into appearance times and only defendants and their attorneys will be allowed in the courtroom. The division will email attorneys with their appearance times.

Please note: Although in-person proceedings are permitted, these are to be minimized and the Court has been directed to “utilize all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing – to conduct court activities remotely in order to limit the number of in-person proceedings conducted in courthouses.” *Supreme Court Operational Directive dated May 4, 2020.*

**It is strongly encouraged that appearances be made by WebEx videoconferencing or telephone conferencing for social distancing and Courtroom capacity reasons.**

All cases involving in-custody Defendants will proceed via WebEx. Given that in-custody defendants will appear via WebEx, Division 26 will continue to make available, and encourages the use of, the option for counsel and parties to participate through WebEx so that in-custody defendants may see and hear all participants.

You and your client may attend the docket by WebEx – please remind your client that any recording of the proceedings are strictly prohibited. You must contact the division staff at least 24 hours in advance to receive instructions for appearing via WebEx. **Failure of your client to call in without leave from the Court will be treated as a failure to appear.**

Pro se defendants are required to appear at the docket time. If you enter an appearance on such a case please notify the division.

The prosecuting attorney is directed to notify the court if a victim wishes to attend a hearing so arrangements can be made.

A standing order prohibits the recording of any videoconference in this division.

Misdemeanor pleas may be entered by WebEx if both the State and Defense waive the defendant’s appearance.

Please bring your own **MASK,** because masks are **REQUIRED** to enter the Courthouse.

ONLY DEFENDANTS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS MAY ENTER THE COURTROOM