

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF CALHOUN

STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER CONTINUING THE SCHEDULED  
MONDAY 5:00 PM ARRAIGNMENT  
AND TRIAL CALENDARS FOR MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>, APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>, AND APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a contagious viral disease caused by a novel coronavirus that has not been previously identified (hereinafter collectively as “COVID-19”) and the World Health Organization has officially recognized is a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to COVID-19, on Friday, March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to COVID-19, on Saturday, March 14, 2020 the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State of Emergency in Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the COVID-19, on Saturday, March 14, 2020 pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, did ORDER AND DECLARE a Statewide Judicial Emergency in the State of Georgia suspending all but certain necessary legal proceedings until April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:59 PM, including any criminal proceedings which did not directly and immediately affect the liberty rights of the accused; and

**WHEREAS** the Court finds that such action is prudent at this time to also determine and set up future appropriate public health procedures and policies for the protection of both the public and those employed within the court itself, *it is therefore*

**ORDERED** and **DECREED** that the Municipal Court of the City of Calhoun, Georgia shall hereby continue all cases scheduled for the ordinary 5:00 PM arraignment/trial currently for March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to a date to be determined later.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** and **DECREED** that, pending further information from the Governor or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the normal operations of the municipal court with regard to the normal Monday arraignment and trial calendars shall resume on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 PM unless otherwise further suspended by a renewed action by Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia or the Governor’s Office.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** and **DECREED** that all individuals may continue to pay fines on-line and in person at the Court office, however the electronic means is the preferred method for this period.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** and **DECREED** that any individual who may wish to resolve their pending municipal court case already scheduled for ordinary 5:00 PM arraignment/trial currently for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 by the entry of a *nolo contendere* may elect to

do so by the filing of a *plea in absentia* with payment of the appropriate fine, said plea to be submitted to municipal staff by electronic mail and to be reviewed by the Court during this time period.

**SO ORDERED** and **DECREED** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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SUZANNE H. SMITH, CHIEF JUDGE  
MUNICIPAL COURT  
CITY OF CALHOUN, GEORGIA  
STATE OF GEORGIA