

IN THE CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE:)	Case No. 20 MIS 5
)	
<i>SPECIAL EMERGENCY ORDER:</i>)	
SECURITY AND HEALTH)	
MONITORING OF)	<u>JUDGMENT ENTRY</u>
CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT)	
AND CONNEAUT CITY HALL)	
)	July 6, 2020

The Court hereby finds as follows:

1. The Findings of Fact contained in this Court’s March 16, 2020 “Temporary Order in Response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis” and the findings contained in this Court’s “Ninth Emergency Order in Response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis (Court Operations and Local Court Rules Modified” dated May 1, 2020 are adopted herein.
2. At some point in March 2020, Conneaut City Hall was closed to the public as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, Conneaut Municipal Court restricted public access to the Court for some time but did not close to the public. Since March 16, 2020, the Court has developed a series of Orders that at first restricted and thereafter expanded public and other access to the Court.
4. On June 8, 2020, Conneaut City Council adopted Ordinance No. 44-20, which becomes effective July 8, 2020 (hereinafter “Ordinance”).

5. The Ordinance officially re-opens City Hall to the public on or about July 8, 2020, with the following restrictions for persons entering City Hall:
 - a. No weapons, including firearms, knives or hand combat weapons, excepting commissioned law enforcement officer and Court personnel.
 - b. No group shall comprise more than ten persons except for purposes of essential business, including but not limited to members of City Council and its governing boards.
 - c. Persons shall maintain six feet social distancing at all times.
 - d. Compliance with other provisions of the Governor's Executive and Health Orders.
6. In contrast to the current emergency order of this Court which apply to Court staff and Court visitors, the Ordinance strongly encourages but does not require the use of face coverings or masks and does not require the health monitoring of persons entering City Hall for non-Court purposes.
7. For the past several weeks during public closure of City Hall, firefighters from the Conneaut Fire Department and/or Court staff have been conducting health screening of City and Court employees and Court visitors at the doors of City Hall, the only persons permitted entrance into City Hall during that time. The Court understands that, from the City's perspective, such health screenings will terminate when City Hall re-opens on or about July 8, 2020.
8. Prior to enactment of the subject Ordinance, the City and Court prohibited weapons and firearms from being possessed in or carried into City Hall and the Court. However, the Court finds it important to note that the Ordinance, which is focused on the re-opening of City Hall after the COVID-19 closure, included another prohibition against weapons and firearms.

9. The Court understands that, despite having prohibited weapons and firearms from City Hall for several years, the City has never attempted to monitor or screen persons entering City Hall for weapons or firearms and therefore has never enforced or sought to enforce the prohibition.
10. Since January 1, 2020, this Court has made it a top priority that the Court communicate and work cooperatively with all City officials in accomplishing objectives that are in the best interests of not only the Court but all City offices and staff. Court and City Hall security is and should be a vital concern for this Court and all City government. To this end and in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, security monitoring should commence and current health monitoring of Court staff and Court visitors shall continue when public access to City Hall resumes on July 8, 2020.
11. For the benefit of all City staff and offices, particularly for the operation of the Court, the expenditure of funds to staff the entrance of City Hall and the Courthouse with part-time qualified security officers as provided herein is both reasonable and necessary.

Based on the foregoing findings and effective on July 8, 2020, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** as follows:

1. Part-time qualified staff shall be employed by the Court to conduct security monitoring, screening and inspection of all persons and any purses, handbags, backpacks, pocketbooks, and other bags they are carrying upon entry into City Hall and the Courthouse, and health monitoring, screening and inspection of Court personnel and Court visitors, consistent with the

provisions of this Order. Court staff shall be located in the first floor lobby at the entrance doors of City Hall and Courthouse and shall utilize walk-through metal detection equipment initially purchased with Court Improvement funds for which the Court will subsequently seek reimbursement from the Ohio Supreme Court when the Supreme Court security grants become available later this calendar year. Until the walk-through metal detector is placed in operation, Court staff shall utilize a metal detection wand to check all persons entering the building.

2. Other than commissioned law enforcement officers or Court personnel, no persons shall be permitted entry into City Hall if they possess on their person or in any purse, handbag, backpack, pocketbook, or other bag any weapon, which includes but is not limited to firearms, knives or hand combat weapons, and other impermissible items in violation of applicable security policies.
3. No persons shall be permitted entry into City Hall for Court purposes unless they allow their forehead temperature to be taken by Court staff and the temperature result is less than 100.4 F; are wearing a mask or other face covering over their nose and mouth; place hand sanitizer on their hands during the screening process; and answer in the negative all of the following questions:
 - a. Have you been on a cruise or international travel in the last 14 days?
 - b. Have you had a fever, a cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell over the last few days?
 - c. Have you been in close contact with anyone who has been confirmed to have Coronavirus/COVID-19?

- d. Have you been tested for or diagnosed with Coronavirus in the last 14 days?
 - e. Have you previously been tested for Coronavirus but have now been cleared?
4. If a question arises as to whether a person should be permitted entry for Court purposes, Court staff shall immediately consult with the Judge who shall make the final determination whether the person should be permitted entry.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court reserves the right to modify this Order at any time.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Nicholas A. Iarocci

Nicholas A. Iarocci, Judge