IN THE COURTS OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS
FOR THE PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

In re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-0001

This General Order is being issued in response to the developing outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and in conjunction with the Court's March 16, 2020, Motion for Continuance, which continued all general civil and criminal appearances until May 1, 2020, tolled the Speedy Trial Rule until the next court date, and found that it was necessary to exercise an abundance of caution in mitigating the COVID-19 outbreak for a minimum of eight (8) weeks.

In response to the continued spread of COVID-19, President Trump has declared a national emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals including those 60 and older, to stay home and away from other people, and encouraging everyone to work from home whenever possible, to avoid discretionary travel, and to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people. The Puyallup Tribal Council has declared a public health emergency with similar guidelines as mentioned above. Additionally, Governor Inslee has also declared a state of emergency and has issued a stay-at-home order for the State of Washington.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the spread of the disease.

ORDER

Given the above-referenced guidance, and to protect the safety and health of all those entering and working in the Tribal Court, the Court ORDERS, effective immediately:

1.0   The Tribal Court will be closed to the public as stated below. This temporary closure began on March 16, 2020 and from this date, will last at least an additional 14 days and may be

continued based on guidance from the Puyallup Tribal Council.

2.0 Pending any further guidance from Tribal Council or any further orders from the Court, the Court will be open Monday-Friday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M., but most Court staff will be working remotely. Some Court staff will be available by both telephone and email.

3.0 Filings accompanied with certificate of service will be accepted by both postal mail and by email at TribalCourtFilings@PuyallupTribe-nsn.gov. All emergency filings, including but not necessarily limited to protection orders and pick-up orders for children, shall be processed expeditiously. The Court will make every effort to mitigate any delay caused by COVID-19 related procedures.

4.0 The Court has continued most hearings scheduled between now and May 1, 2020. If your hearing was continued, then you will receive notice in the mail with a new hearing date. If your hearing was not continued, the Court may proceed with telephonic conferences and you will receive notice in the mail.

5.0 With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to have Court staff present, the above mentioned public health recommendations, and the availability of counsel, the time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Tribe's Speedy Trial Rule (PTC 4.04.490, Rule 29.4).

6.0 If you have a scheduled hearing or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse but are denied entry, you should proceed as follows:

6.1. If you are represented by an attorney or a public defender, please contact your attorney or public defender;

6.2. If you are an attorney, public defender, or a pro se litigant and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the Court (see the Court's website at www.Puyallup-Tribe.com/Court/).

6.3. For all other matters or questions, please contact the Court at (253) 680-5585.

7.0 The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than April 7, 2020.

SO ORDERED this 26th day of March 2020.

Darwin Long Fox
Chief Judge of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians