



August 31, 2020

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY

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Chief Justice Kristina Pickering
Nevada Supreme Court
408 E. Clark Avenue, 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Chief Justice of the Peace Suzan Baucum
Las Vegas Justice Court
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2511

(702) 671-4343

Chief Judge Linda Marie Bell
Eighth Judicial District Court
Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89155

Dear Justice Pickering, Judge Baucum and Judge Bell:

“When those who come to the safe haven of the courthouse arrive to participate in the glory and majesty of our cherished justice system, they should leave knowing that our courts, our judges, were there for them, administering justice fairly and impartially and insuring civil discourse in order that respect for our justice system be preserved and perpetuated.” **Why our judges and courts are important** by William K. Weisenberg, ABA Journal, Feb. 1, 2018, obtained from https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/why_our_judges_and_courts_are_important, August 31, 2020.

As you know, Administrative Order 0009/20-04 was issued by Chief Justice Kristina Pickering and Chief Judge Linda Marie Bell on March 17, 2020 temporarily closing the Las Vegas Justice Court and Las Vegas Municipal Court traffic customer service counters.¹ The Order further requires, “To the extent possible, traffic-related

¹ In contradiction to the Governor, the Order states that “it is critical to prevent the spread of infection in our community.” As we now know, this was a lofty, but unobtainable goal. In contrast, the Governor ordered various measures to “flatten the curve” of the spread of the virus so that our health care system does not get overwhelmed. Critically, the Governor announced months ago that the curve has been flattened and the health care system in Nevada is ready for any increase in the spread of the virus. Even with a more realistic goal of flattening the curve, there is no reason to keep the customer service windows closed at this time.

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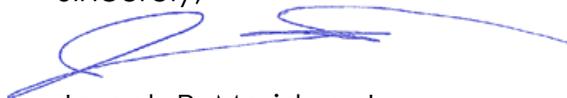
matters should be conducted by telephone, video, or other remote electronic means."

Since April 13, 2020, Chief Justice of the Peace Suzan Baucum has denied the public and lawyers alike any access to the traffic division of the Las Vegas Justice Court.² Rather than comply with Justice Court Administrative Order 20-03³, Chief Justice of the Peace Suzan Baucum, by a secret Order, simply cancelled all traffic warrants in the Las Vegas Justice Court. Rather than allowing defendants or attorneys to appear in court on traffic cases, the only options are to plead guilty and forfeit bail or wait and see what happens. The public, for the most part, is not aware that warrants are not being issued and late fees are not being added to traffic cases in the Las Vegas Justice Court. Most disturbingly, the Las Vegas Justice Court traffic division is the only court in Clark County that is not conducting business as usual.

I urge you to require the Las Vegas Justice Court to process traffic related matters in compliance with the Administrative Order 0009/20-04. In addition, given the progress our great state has made with dealing with COVID-19, the Las Vegas Justice Court and Las Vegas Municipal Courts should be permitted to open the traffic customer service windows with proper social distancing as recommended by the CDC.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Maridon, Jr.

cc: Sherri Parris (via facsimile only - 702-671-2512)

² Customer service windows were closed on March 18, 2020, email service was shut down on March 26, 2020 and telephone requests have been denied since April 13, 2020 and in an apparent direct violation of Administrative Order 0009/20-04, the court has refused to allow any traffic related matters to "be conducted by telephone, video or other electronic means" or any means at all.

³ 7. Any person with an active misdemeanor bench warrant (including traffic) who appears at the Customer-Service Counter shall have the warrant recalled by the Court.