

**FILED**

**MAR 31 2020**

**Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy  
Courts for the District of Columbia**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF PROCESS  
SERVICE BY U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE  
IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DUE TO  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED  
BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Standing Order No. 20-18 (BAH)

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of current circumstances relating to the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including: (a) the state of emergency declared by the Mayor of the District of Columbia on March 11, 2020 and the national emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020<sup>1</sup>; (b) the “stay-at-home” orders issued by the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia on March 30, 2020, which orders require residents to remain at home unless engaged in essential activities, reflecting the seriousness of the pandemic in this region as of this date;<sup>2</sup> (c) guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities that limiting personal contacts and public gatherings is necessary to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and

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<sup>1</sup> *Mayor Bowser Declares Public Health Emergency*, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-declares-public-health-emergency> (last visited Mar. 31, 2020); *Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak*, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak/> (last visited Mar. 31, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> *Stay Home DC*, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/stayhome> (last visited Mar. 31, 2020); *As COVID-19 Crisis Escalates in Capital Region, Governor Hogan Issues Stay at Home Order Effective Tonight*, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/03/30/as-covid-19-crisis-escalates-in-capital-region-governor-hogan-issues-stay-at-home-order-effective-tonight/> (last visited Mar. 31, 2020); *Temporary Stay at Home Order Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, [https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf) (last visited Mar. 31, 2020).

to slow the community spread of the disease; (d) an announcement by the President of the United States on March 29, 2020 that social distancing guidelines will remain in effect at least until the end of April, 2020,<sup>3</sup> reflecting the seriousness of the need to combat the community spread of the virus; it is hereby

**ORDERED** that any requirement that personnel in the United States Marshals Service assigned to the District of the District of Columbia effect personal service of process, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3), 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) or 28 U.S.C. § 1916, for any cases pending in this District or any other district is **SUSPENDED** until further order of the Court or **June 15, 2020**, whichever is earlier; it is further

**ORDERED** that this Order does not apply to service of process by other means, including service of process by mail, waivers of service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(d), or service by electronic means; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, in any civil case in which the United States Marshals Service has been ordered to serve process, the time for service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) is **TOLLED** until further order of the Court or **June 15, 2020**, whichever is earlier.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: March 31, 2020



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Beryl A Howell  
Chief Judge

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<sup>3</sup> *Remarks by President Trump and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in a Press Briefing*, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing/> (last visited Mar. 31, 2020).