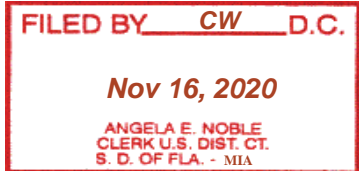


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-87

IN RE: PARTIAL SEQUESTRATION OF GRAND JURORS



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, grand jury proceedings in the Southern District of Florida have been suspended since March 26, 2020. The interests of justice, however, require the Court to reconvene grand juries and will not permit a delay until the health risks associated with the pandemic have diminished. Grand jury proceedings are scheduled to resume on November 17, 2020.

Following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Executive Order of the Governor of Florida, and this Court’s COVID-19 Administrative Orders for Court Operations, all grand jurors summoned for duty to any federal courthouse in the Southern District of Florida are to be considered partially sequestered due to the pandemic.


The Jury Act and Judicial Conference Policy permit meals to be provided to jurors when jurors are sequestered—ordered “kept together and not to separate.” 28 U.S.C. § 1871(e); *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, Volume 4, § 365.60.20(a)(1). The COVID-19 pandemic requires that jurors be partially sequestered while at the courthouse for their safety and protection. *See, e.g., United States v. Gotti*, 459 F.3d 296 (2d Cir. 2006).

As the COVID-19 pandemic has been declared a national emergency, and given the rising number of confirmed cases in the Southern District of Florida, it is clear that the virus is not contained. Since the Court can no longer delay grand jury sessions, and to reduce the possibility of exposing grand jurors to the virus, the Clerk will provide meals for all grand jurors reporting for duty. It is hereby

ORDERED pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1871(e), that all grand jurors are to be kept together and not to separate while serving in the courthouse for their safety and security. It is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is authorized to provide light refreshments and/or meals to grand jurors during all times in which grand jurors convene at any federal courthouse in the Southern District of Florida.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 16th day of November, 2020.



K. MICHAEL MOORE
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: All Southern District and Magistrate Judges
Ariana Fajardo Orshan, United States Attorney
Michael Caruso, Federal Public Defender
Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court
Kevin Kappes, Chief Deputy Clerk · Administration
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