

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT**

**President Judge Administrative Order**

**No. 51 of 2020**

**In re: Municipal Court Criminal Division. Resumption of Court Proceedings. Updated Protocols**

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020, consistent with the April 28, 2020 order of the Supreme Court (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket) and the Court's prior order issued on July 6, 2020 (No. 47 of 2020), it is **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that effective August 31, 2020 Municipal Court will begin in-person hearings for a limited number of cases as provided in this Order.

- (1) Other than cases identified for early resolution by the District Attorney's office and defense counsel, misdemeanor cases currently scheduled for trial beginning August 31, 2020 will be postponed as the Court continues to work with its justice partners to prioritize custody cases for trial.
- (2) Municipal Court will continue to conduct virtual preliminary hearings by agreement of counsel.
- (3) Felony matters that are not scheduled for a virtual or in-person preliminary hearing will receive a status date for further review. Counsel will receive advance notification via email regarding status hearings, as well as instructions to participate remotely through Advanced Communication Technology. The Office of the District Attorney and the Defender Association must be available to participate.
- (4) Notification regarding in-person hearings will be forwarded to counsel via email, and to defendants who were released on bail, to their address of record by first class.
- (5) At the status listing, the Court will review all pending matters including bail and readiness for preliminary hearing. Counsel will be required to provide detailed information regarding their contact with witness(es), how and when contact was made; by whom and the results of same.
- (6) Once a case is scheduled for a hearing or trial, counsel are required to contact the courtroom prior to the date and time of their case to inform courtroom staff if they will be attending in person or through Advanced Communication Technology. Any counsel who chooses to appear in person, must maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks, and comply with all safety directives provided by courtroom staff. It is strongly recommended that counsel participate by Advanced Communication Technology rather than in person.
- (7) Defendants should contact their attorney or the FJD at (215) 686-7000 if they have questions concerning their court date. Victims in a criminal case should contact the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office if they have any questions regarding the status of the case.

**BY THE COURT:**

*/s/ Patrick F. Dugan*

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**Patrick F. Dugan, President Judge  
Philadelphia Municipal Court**