

FILED
ANITA WHITEHEAD, CLERK
SPARKS JUSTICE COURT
MAY 25 2021
By: *A. Whitehead*
DEPUTY CLERK

1 IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF SPARKS TOWNSHIP
2 COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA
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5 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER
6 VACATING PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE
7 ORDERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-02

8 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Sisolak declared a state of emergency in
9 Nevada in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

10 WHEREAS, prior Administrative Orders closed the courthouse to the public and
11 limited court proceedings to remote Zoom trials and hearings;

12 WHEREAS, with the ongoing vaccination of the public and the success of other
13 preventative measures, the risk of catching the virus is decreasing;

14 WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows COVID Risk Meter has generally shown a
15 declining risk to the public;

16 WHEREAS, prior Administrative Orders have closed the courthouse to the public but
17 that all available data as well as the easing of statewide restrictions shows that it is time to
18 begin the process of opening the Sparks Justice Court for business, but that prior Orders need to
19 be rescinded or modified accordingly; and

20 WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Sparks Justice Court has the authority pursuant to
21 NRS 4.157(c) to make administrative decisions pertaining to the business of the Court.

22 AND GOOD CAUSE BEING SHOWN,

23 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 24 1. Amended Administrative Order 2020-2, closing the Sparks Justice Court to public
25 access, is hereby rescinded and replaced with a phased reopening plan that will be
adopted in Administrative Order 2021-03 issued simultaneously with this Order.

- 1 2. Administrative Order 2020-04, establishing procedures for prompt bail hearings
2 pursuant to Valdez-Jimenez v. Eighth Judicial District Court, 136 Nev. 155, 460 P.3d
3 976 (2020), remains in full force and effect.
- 4 3. Administrative Order 2020-5, establishing remote trial and hearing procedures, is
5 rescinded and superseded by Administrative Order 2021-03.
- 6 4. Administrative Order 2020-6, establishing procedures in small claims and civil cases, is
7 hereby rescinded and superseded by Administrative Order 2021-03. The availability to
8 hold civil jury trials will depend on how soon the District Court Jury Commissioner is
9 able to call venires for the justice courts and how soon the criminal jury backlog is
10 resolved.
- 11 5. Administrative Order 2020-8, rescinding prior Administrative Orders, remains in effect.
12 The portions of the Order staying certain evictions will remain in effect only as long as
13 a federal CDC or Nevada eviction moratorium is extended past the current expiration
14 date of March 31, 2021.
- 15 6. Administrative Order 2020-9, concerning the use of the Sparks Justice Court's revised
16 eviction forms and procedures related thereto, remains in full force and effect.
- 17 7. Administrative Order 2020-10, tentatively establishing reopening procedures and
18 vacating in-person trials, is rescinded and superseded by Administrative Order 2021-03.
- 19 8. The Court will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will further
20 relax courthouse access and increase scheduling as appropriate but with the reservation
21 that any sudden spikes in the Truckee Meadows COVID Risk Meter, positive tests,
22 and/or hospital admissions or deaths may require the closure of the Court to the public.

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1 This Administrative Order 2021-02 shall stay in full force and effect until amended or
2 rescinded by the Sparks Justice Court.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 Dated this 25th day of March 2021.

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6 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KH', is written over a horizontal line.

7 Chief Judge Kevin Higgins
8 Justice of the Peace
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