

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE:)
) SO-20-09
SUSPENSION OF GRAND JURY)
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE EXIGENT)
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY)
COVID-19)

FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE
United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee
Date: *Apr 01, 2020, 3:43 pm*

STANDING ORDER

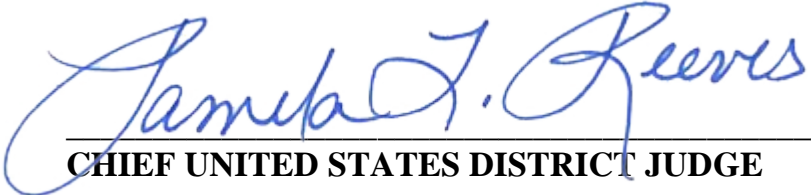
Given that the World Health Organization has declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a pandemic, that the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Tennessee have each declared public health emergencies in response to the spread of COVID-19, and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective immediately:

1. All grand jury proceedings—in Greeneville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville—shall be suspended through April 30, 2020. This Standing Order extends the suspension of the Greeneville and Chattanooga grand juries previously ordered in Standing Order 20-06 and also suspends grand jury proceedings in Knoxville. Grand jurors are not to report for service while grand jury proceedings are suspended unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
2. If the United States Attorney's Office believes it is in the public interest to consider certain matters while this Order is in effect, it may file a motion with the Chief District Judge to waive the suspension as to a specific matter. The Court shall consider the request and determine whether it is in the public interest for the Grand Jury to convene

to consider the matter pursuant to Rule 6(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

3. The Court finds that, due to the current COVID-19 situation, a temporary suspension of all grand jury proceedings is necessary because those proceedings cannot be conducted without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety, including the health and safety of grand jurors, counsel, and Court staff. The Court further finds that the time period of the grand jury suspension implemented by this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering this suspension outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy indictment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Should any challenges associated with the findings in this Order be filed in any individual case, the presiding judge is encouraged to make any necessary case-specific findings in the record of such case.

ENTER:



CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE