STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9M

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – EXPANSION OF DECD AUTHORITY TO REGULATE SPORTS, CHANGES TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO LIQUOR PERMITS, EXTENDED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN TRADES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall remain in effect until February 9, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued eighty (80) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the "COVID-19 Orders"); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including limitation on the size of gatherings, maintaining a safe distance from others, and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused unanticipated health effects that are not well understood by the medical community, no vaccine or effective treatment for COVID-19 has been approved or made available for wide distribution, residents, businesses, and government agencies face new and

unanticipated economic, fiscal, and operational challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in recent weeks, COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death rates have increased in Connecticut, surrounding states, and throughout the country, reinforcing the need for continued protective measures to limit transmission of the coronavirus as well as measures to mitigate the operational and economic effects of the pandemic and the response to it; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, Executive Order No. 9K , Section 4, issued on November 5, 2020, authorized the commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish Sector Rules for the safe conduct of youth sports; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health has reported increases in COVID-19 transmission among both children and adults from sports activities, including but not limited to, team sports and club sports; and

WHEREAS, certain sports are by their very nature likely to increase exposure to and spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and the Department of Public Health has issued guidance recommending restrictions on sports and related activities; and

WHEREAS, because of the likelihood of patrons gathering in close proximity, service of alcohol without food or table service remains a high-risk activity that presently poses too great a risk of leading to increased transmission of COVID-19, my Executive Order No. 9D, dated September 25, 2020, therefore extended the prohibition on the sale of alcohol by certain liquor permittees without the sale of food, thereby preventing some on-premise liquor permittees from enjoying the full benefit of their liquor permit; and

WHEREAS, because of significant challenges for businesses posed by such prohibitions, modifying the effective date of certain changes in permitting fee structures enacted through Public Act 19-24, which took effect on July 1, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, can serve to promote compliance with the prohibition on service of alcohol without the sale of food; and

WHEREAS, as a result of distancing and other protection measures enacted to limit the transmission of COVID-19, if Executive Order No. 7EEE is not extended, electricians and plumbers may be unable to safely satisfy their continuing education requirements if their only option is to attend an in-person class as would be required under Section 20-334d-1(c)(2) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the limited availability of in-person and online classes, electricians and plumbers may be unable to satisfy continuing education requirements prior to the end of the calendar year, as required by Executive Order No. 7GGG;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, and pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed

on September 1, 2020 and the new public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on September 1, 2020, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **DECD Authority to Enact Rules for All Sports Activities.** Executive Order No. 9K, Section 4 is repealed and superseded in its entirety as follows:

   The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development is hereby authorized to establish, in Sector Rules or other rules issued by him, mandatory rules for the safe conduct of sports. In establishing such rules, the Commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Public Health.

2. **Renewals of Certain Permits Extended.** The Department of Consumer Protection shall extend all café liquor permits due to expire on or before February 8, 2021, that were airport airline club liquor, airport bar liquor, airport restaurant liquor, boat liquor, bowling establishment beer and wine, bowling establishment liquor, racquetball facility liquor, railroad liquor, special outing facility beer, special outing facility liquor, special sporting facility bar liquor, special sporting facility concession liquor, special sporting facility guest liquor, special sporting facility restaurant liquor, tavern liquor, university beer only, university beer and wine, or university liquor permits prior to the enactment of Public Act 19-24, such that they shall now expire on February 9, 2021.

   a. **Refund of Certain Renewal Fees.** The Department of Consumer Protection shall refund any permit renewal fee paid for a renewal effective between July 1, 2020 and February 8, 2021 by any café liquor permittee that was an airport airline club liquor, airport bar liquor, airport restaurant liquor, boat liquor, bowling establishment beer and wine, bowling establishment liquor, racquetball facility liquor, railroad liquor, special outing facility beer, special outing facility liquor, special sporting facility bar liquor, special sporting facility concession liquor, special sporting facility guest liquor, special sporting facility restaurant liquor, tavern liquor, university beer only, university beer and wine, or university liquor permittee, prior to the July 1, 2020 effective date of Public Act 19-24.

3. **Extending Authorization for Online Continuing Education for Plumbers and Electricians**. Executive Order No. 7EEE, Section 2 is amended to authorize the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to further extend to February 9, 2021, the time during which plumbers and electricians may satisfy continuing education requirements through online learning, according to such rules or implementing orders as the Commissioner may issue.

4. **Extended Deadlines for Continuing Education for Plumbers and Electricians.** Executive Order No. 7GGG, Section 3 is amended to extend to February 9, 2021, the deadline for electricians and plumbers to complete their continuing education requirements through any authorized means and the time period during which they may

renew licenses within existing deadlines before such continuing education requirements have been completed.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the existing renewed and newly declared civil preparedness and public health emergencies, unless earlier modified or terminated by me.

Dated at Greenwich, Connecticut, this 20th day of November, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State