STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7ZZ

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – REOPENING PHASE II

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued fifty-two (52) 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; 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, 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 cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; 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, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

WHEREAS, continued declining rates of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, combined with increases in testing and tracing capacity and in the supply of personal protective equipment, have made possible additional relaxations of restrictions imposed to protect the public health with the imposition of reasonable rules and safeguards for expanded economic and recreational activity; and

WHEREAS, to protect the public health by mitigating the risk of transmission of COVID-19, the state, through the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECD"), has issued sector specific rules governing the manner in which additional businesses and other entities may safely begin the process of reopening (individually by sector and collectively, the "Sector Rules"); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7PP provided for the reopening of certain businesses and resumption of certain activities subject to the Sector Rules and provided for enforcement of such Sector Rules under the statutory and regulatory provisions regarding public nuisances; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the DECD Rules for Gatherings and Venues authorized herein through the statutory and regulatory provisions regarding public nuisances will allow safe resumption of certain activities while protecting the public health and the rights of participants and organizers; and

WHEREAS, the state has reviewed best health practices for each business sector that is reopening or expanding operations and has developed rules that businesses and other entities that are reopening must follow to limit the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Nos. 7G and 7T permitted restaurants and other eating establishments, but not hotels, to sell alcohol for pick-up and delivery; and

WHEREAS, some hotels have restaurants whose business models are similar to the types of businesses currently allowed to sell alcohol in connection with pick up or delivery orders and, therefore, can make such sales in a manner that complies with the rules for such other businesses; and

WHEREAS, to promote safe conduct of outdoor dining and retail activity, Executive Order No. 7MM provided an expedited permitting process for such activities to continue for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency; and

WHEREAS, to promote the public health and safety by reducing in-person interactions, and thereby reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 while safely conducting certain

important business and personal legal transactions, Executive Order No. 7Q provided for remote notarization of certain documents and relaxed certain witness requirements;

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, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Prohibition on Temporary Lodging Lifted.** Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 7T, Section 1 is repealed. Hotels and other commercial lodging, including commercially operated timeshares or multi-unit lodging that operate like hotels or employ staff on site, shall operate in accordance with DECD Sector Rules for Hotels/Lodging, as amended from time to time, which Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable. Such Sector Rules shall not apply to private rentals by individual owners.

2. **Restrictions on Large Gatherings and Events.** Executive Order Nos. 7D, Section 1, and 7N, Section 1, as amended by Executive Order No. 7TT, Section 2, are amended to permit social and recreational gatherings pursuant to DECD Rules for Gatherings and Venues and Sector Rules for Outdoor Events, as amended from time to time, which Rules for Gatherings and Venues and Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable. The provisions of Executive Order Nos. 7TT, Section 1 and 7XX, Sections 1 and 2, regarding religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings and drive-in graduation ceremonies shall remain in effect unless further modified or terminated.

3. **Application of Enforcement Authority to DECD Rules for Gatherings and Venues.** Section 19-13-B1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to include in the definition of public nuisance a violation of the Rules for Gatherings and Venues described in Section 2 of this order. The provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and any local rules, codes or ordinances pertaining to such public nuisances are, to the extent necessary, modified to permit and govern the investigation and enforcement of violations of the Rules for Gatherings and Venues as public nuisances by Municipal Designees in the same manner as provided for Sector Rules by Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 2.b. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, alter, modify or suspend any other existing penalties that otherwise apply to violations of orders issued pursuant to a civil preparedness or public health emergency.

4. **Resumption of Indoor Dining Pursuant to Sector Rules for Restaurants.** Executive Order No. 7D, Section 2, is amended to permit indoor dining pursuant to the DECD Sector Rules for Restaurants, as amended from time to time, which Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable. The remaining provisions of Executive Order No. 7D, Section 2, which prohibit the sale of alcohol by certain permittees without the sale of food, shall remain in effect and are extended through July 20, 2020. The provisions of Executive

Order No. 7N, Section 2, establishing rules for restaurant takeout and delivery, shall remain in effect.

5. **Further Clarification of Limits on Alcohol Sales by Restaurants, Bars and Private Clubs.** Executive Orders No. 7G, Section 3, and 7T, Section 2, which addressed take-out and delivery of alcoholic beverages by certain liquor permit holders, are modified to allow holders of Hotel Liquor permits to sell alcoholic beverages for pickup or delivery consistent with the requirements on other permit holders as set forth in prior executive orders and the DECD Sector Rules for Restaurants.

6. **Resumption of Personal Services.** Executive Order No. 7G, Section 4, is repealed. All businesses or services subject to that order shall be permitted to operate pursuant to the DECD Sector Rules for Personal Services, as amended from time to time, which Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable.

7. **Reopening of Gyms, Sports, Fitness and Recreation Facilities and Movie Theaters.** Executive Order No. 7D, Section 4 is repealed. Businesses subject to that order shall be permitted to operate pursuant to the DECD Sector Rules applicable to each such business, which Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable.

8. **Reopening of Public Amusements.** Executive Order No. 7F is repealed. Places of Public Amusement, as defined by that order, shall be permitted to operate pursuant to the DECD Sector Rules applicable to each business, which Sector Rules shall be legally binding and enforceable.

9. **Restrictions on Off-Track Betting Extended.** Executive Order No. 7D, Section 3, prohibiting operations at Off-Track Betting Facilities, is extended through July 20, 2020.

10. **Extension of Essential Business Rules.** Executive Order No. 7H, Section 1, as amended by Executive Order No. 7PP, is extended for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified or terminated.

11. **Clarification of Executive Order No. 7MM.** Any activity permitted pursuant to the expedited approval process provided in Executive Order No. 7MM shall be permitted to continue operating in accordance with such process for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency declared on March 10, 2020, subject to existing laws, regulations, executive orders, and any orders issued pursuant to an executive order, and therefore shall not be subject to any local restriction on its duration prior to the expiration of such emergency declaration.

12. **Extension of Remote Notarization.** Executive Order No. 7Q, Section 3 is extended for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, including any period of renewal of such emergency.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 16th day of June, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State