STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7CCC

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – CLARIFICATION OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TIMELINES, FIRE SERVICE EXAMINATIONS, DUPLICATE LICENSE ISSUANCE

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-five (55) 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 public health or 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, the intent of Executive Order No. 7I, Section 15, was, in order to ensure the timely filing of grand list reporting by all municipalities, to provide additional time for Boards of Assessment Appeals to complete their duties as set forth in Sections 12-110, 12-111 and 12-117, not to allow for new applications to be filed after said statutory deadlines; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that emergency services personnel could continue to perform critical public safety functions despite the inability to conduct in-person examinations, Executive Order No. 7J, Section 2 authorized the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to extend by 90 days the time by which examination components for a given level of certification must be completed; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued state of emergency and continued need to limit in-person interactions and keep emergency services personnel focused on critical public safety needs, and additional extension of time is warranted; and

WHEREAS, current regulations require people who need a replacement for a valid license, permit or identity card that has been misplaced, stolen or destroyed, to make a personal appearance at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); and

WHEREAS, the DMV has the capability to issue such replacements without such personal appearance and already does so under other authority for certain categories of customers; and

WHEREAS, issuing such replacements without personal appearance will accomplish a necessary service while eliminating the risk of transmission posed by in-person transaction and further reduce COVID-19 transmission risks at open DMV branches by reducing the overall visitor traffic to such branches;

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. **Clarification of Time Periods in Executive Order 7I, Section 15.** The extension granted to a Board of Assessment Appeals in Executive Order 7I, Section 15 is clarified to provide that any such Board may so extend application deadlines only if it has not yet completed its duties pursuant to Sections 12-110,

12-111 and 12-117 of the Connecticut General Statutes and filed its grand list reports pursuant to Section 12-120 of the Connecticut General Statutes with the Office of Policy and Management, which must be completed by July 10, 2020 for any non-motor vehicle appeals on the October 1, 2019 grand list.

2. **Extension of Time for Fire Service Personnel Examinations.** Section 7-323*l*-18a (d) (1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to authorize the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to extend by 180 days from the original deadline the date by which examination components for a given level of certification must be completed, provided that he is authorized, in his sole discretion, to revoke such extensions as he deems necessary to protect public safety, and to further extend such timeline for the duration of this public health and civil preparedness emergency.

3. **Issuance of Duplicate Licenses and Identity Cards.** Section 14-137-71 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to authorize the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for six months from the effective date of this order to waive the requirement to appear in person at the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a duplicate license or identification.

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 25th day of June, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State