STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7OOO

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – EXTENSION OF EVICTION MORATORIUM AND OUTDOOR DINING EXPANSION, RESUMPTION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR DEFAULTS AND NONSUITS IN CIVIL AND FAMILY MATTERS

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 sixty-six (66) 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, 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 provide for safe resumption of economic and social activity with a reduced threat of transmission of COVID-19, Executive Order No. 7MM, issued May 12, 2020, provided for the expansion and expedited approval of certain outdoor activities, including restaurant dining and retail sales; and

WHEREAS, the activities permitted by Executive Order No. 7MM have provided a safe and successful social outlet and a critically needed economic lifeline to businesses and local communities, and continuing such activity will provide for safe activity without increased risk of COVID-19 transmission and encourage compliance with necessary safety restrictions that limit other activities; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7S extended the period of credit for certain liquor licensees in recognition of the fact that the prohibition of on-premise food and beverage sales would hinder their ability to make timely payments to their creditors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has allowed businesses with on-premise food and liquor sales to open by following strict rules to protect public health, thereby better enabling those businesses to make timely payments to creditors, such that a gradual return to the credit period in place during normal circumstances is appropriate; and

WHEREAS minimizing evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic is critical to controlling and reducing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing a resurgence of the disease by allowing residents to stay home or at their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, in order to keep people safely in their homes and avoid increasing homelessness and the associated risk of COVID-19 transmission, Executive Order Nos. 7X and 7DDD provided temporary relief from statutory eviction proceedings; and

WHEREAS, continued economic disruption could increase homelessness and associated risk of COVID-19 transmission unless certain relief measures provided in those orders are continued; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has found that people dislocated from their homes may be unable to shelter in place, may have more difficulty maintaining a routine of social distancing, and will have to find alternative living arrangements that may include a homeless shelter, a crowded family home, or travel to other states, posing multiple challenges that can exacerbate and amplify the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, for those reasons, as declared in certain executive orders issued by the President of the United States, it is the policy of the United States to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, residential evictions and foreclosures during the ongoing COVID-19 national emergency; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 19, 2020, suspended all statutory (1) location or venue requirements; (2) time requirements, statutes of limitation or other limitations or deadlines relating to service of process, court proceedings or court filings; and (3) all time requirements or deadlines related to the Supreme, Appellate and Superior courts or their judicial officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters and/or render decisions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7YY, Section 1, dated June 10, 2020, amended Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2 to allow the resumption of requirements or deadlines related to Supreme Court or Appellate Court filings in cases pending before those courts; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Chief Court Administrator on behalf of the Chief Justice, I have determined that the Judicial Branch may safely resume certain additional court operations and reinstate certain time requirements and deadlines necessary for such resumption; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch intends to issue guidance related to this order in conjunction with its publication; 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

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. **Extension of Expanded Outdoor Dining.** All provisions of Executive Order No. 7MM and any approvals issued under it shall be extended through November 12, 2020. Extension of any approval for use of a right-of-way owned or controlled by the state shall be contingent upon approval, as applicable, by the appropriate federal transportation officials.

2. **Modification of the Extension of 30-Day Period of Credit for Liquor Permittees.** Executive Order No. 7S, which addressed the maximum period of credit available to certain liquor permittees, is amended so that the maximum period of credit shall be sixty days after the date of delivery for all permittees that were restricted from engaging in on-premise sales per Executive Order No. 7D and its subsequent modifications. The extension of credit shall not apply to permits that were delinquent at the time Executive Order No. 7D became effective on March 16, 2020. The period of delinquency shall begin on the sixty-first day after the date of delivery. All other requirements addressing the maximum period of credit, including Section 30-48(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 30-6-A36 and 30-6-A37a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall continue to apply, except as modified to reflect the increased period of credit, and the standard thirty-day period of credit will continue to apply to all permittees whose businesses were not engaging in on-premise sales at the time Executive Order No. 7D became effective. This credit extension modification will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency, including any period of renewal, unless earlier modified or terminated.

3. **Extension of Eviction Moratorium.** The provisions of Executive Order No. 7X, Section 1, as modified by Executive Order Nos. 7NN, Section 4 and 7DDD, Section 1, shall remain in effect until October 1, 2020, with the following modifications:

    a. **No Notice to Quit or Service of Summary Process Before October 1.** Section 47a-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to additionally provide, "(g) No landlord of a dwelling unit, and no such landlord's legal representative, attorney-at-law, or attorney-in-fact, shall, before October 1, 2020, deliver or cause to be delivered a notice to quit or serve or return a summary process action, for any reason set forth in this chapter or in sections 21-80 et seq. of the Connecticut

General Statutes, except for nonpayment of rent due on or before February 29, 2020, for serious nuisance as defined in section 47a-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or, provided the notice to quit is not delivered during the term of any existing rental agreement, for a bona fide intention by the landlord to use such dwelling unit as such landlord's principal residence." All notices to quit for nonpayment of rent issued before October 1 shall specify and recite the period of nonpayment of rent before February 29, 2020 for which rent has not been paid. All notices to quit issued before October 1, 2020 based upon the bona fide intention by the landlord to use such premises for the landlord's principal residence shall state that reason, and specify the date of the expiration of the lease.

b. **Extension of Ability to Apply Security Deposit to Rent.** The provisions of Executive Order No. 7DDD, Section 1 concerning application of security deposits in excess of one month's rent shall additionally apply to rent due for the month of September 2020.

4. **Suspension of Requirements and Deadlines by Executive Order No. 7G Shall Not Apply to Defaults and Nonsuits in Civil Matters and in Family Matters.** On a schedule to be determined by the Chief Court Administrator and not later than September 20, 2020, Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 19, 2020, is amended to provide that the suspension of statutory requirements or deadlines shall not apply to defaults and nonsuits, as the case may be, in civil matters or family matters pending before the Superior Court.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for six months.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 21st day of August, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State