STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7Z

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT, REMOTE CONDUCT OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS HEARINGS, OUT-OF STATE SECURITY OFFICERS

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 confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued twenty-six (26) 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, 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, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the protection of the public health and safety that state agencies be able to procure essential goods in high demand and in low supply as expeditiously as possible; and

WHEREAS, many potential vendors and donors of goods and services essential to the state's COVID-19 response effort are outside the United States or have never done

business with the state, and have little or no familiarity with Connecticut statutory requirements for state contracting; and

WHEREAS, familiarizing potential vendors and contractors with such requirements, negotiating, drafting, and, in some cases, translating contracts to contain such requirements, is not possible in the time frame that such essential goods and services are required to effectively and expeditiously respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in-person attendance at public meetings, including those of boards of assessment appeals, may increase the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7B provided procedures for conducting public meetings and providing public access to them remotely; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it have reduced the availability of licensed security officers throughout the state, such officers are needed by financial institutions and other businesses, and such officers may be available in nearby states;

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. **Modification of State Contracting Statutes to Facilitate the Emergency Procurement of Essential Goods.** In accordance with the provisions of Section 28-9(b)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes, for any contract entered into on or after March 10, 2020, the head of a state contracting agency may waive the provisions of the following statutes if he or she deems such waiver necessary to expedite the procurement of "essential goods," defined as "all things which are movable at the time of contract, including, but not limited to supplies, materials, equipment, products or devices that are manufactured, used, designed, developed, modified, licensed, or procured to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat, cure or limit harm that COVID-19 pandemic may cause":

    a. Sections 4-252 and 9-612(f)(2)(E) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Governor Malloy's Executive Order 49, which require disclosure of certain gifts and campaign contributions by state contractors, prospective state contractors for state contracts over $50,000;

    b. Section 4-61dd(h) of the Connecticut General Statutes, which requires the inclusion of language regarding contractors' civil liability for violations of the state's whistleblower statute in state contracts;

c. Section 4a-57 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which requires the competitive solicitation for all purchases and contracts for supplies, materials and equipment, including, pursuant to Section 4d-8, the purchasing, leasing and contracting for information system and telecommunication system facilities, equipment and services;

d. Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a of the Connecticut General Statutes, which requires the inclusion of certain anti-discrimination terms in State contracts and requires contractors to adopt anti-discrimination policies;

e. Section 4e-29 and 4e-30 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which require state contractors to permit certain audit and inspection activities by the State at the contractors' expense; and

f. Section 4e-70(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, which requires state contractors to comply with certain confidentiality requirements.

2. **In-Person Attendance Requirement Suspended for Assessment Appeals.** Notwithstanding Section 12-113 of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other provision of law requiring in-person attendance by a property owner or such owner's attorney or agent, a board of assessment appeals may hold such meetings and obtain necessary information remotely by conference call, videoconference, electronic communication, or other technology and may reduce the valuation or assessment of property on the grand list without the physical presence of the owner of such property or such owner's attorney or agent, provided that such owner or such owner's attorney or agent participates remotely, and the hearing is conducted in accordance with open meeting requirements, as amended by Executive Order No. 7B.

3. **Suspension of Requirements for Security Officer License.** Section 29-161q of the Connecticut General Statutes and any statute, regulation or requirement or part thereof relating to unarmed Security Officer licenses is hereby modified to authorize the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to waive licensing requirements for the purpose of temporarily allowing security services or businesses to employ security officers who are not licensed in Connecticut but are licensed in another state. This suspension of requirements does not apply to security officers who are armed pursuant to Section 29-161z of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may issue any orders he deems necessary to implement this order.

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 14th day of April, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State