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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RE:		)	Supreme Court of Guam
	AUTHORIZING THE	)	Administrative Order No. ADM20-400
	MAGISTRATES TO PRESIDE	)	
	OVER WARRANT RETURNS IN	)	
	ALL CRIMINAL MATTERS	)	
	BEFORE THE SUPERIOR COURT	)	
	OF GUAM UNDER EXIGENT	)	
	CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO	)	
	COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)	)	

Because of the continued public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* has issued a series of executive orders to stem the spread of the virus. The most recent of such orders—Executive Order No. 2020-27 issued on August 14, 2020—returned the island to Pandemic Condition of Readiness (PCOR) 1 for a two-week period beginning August 16, 2020, through August 29, 2020. Under PCOR 1, all but essential in-person government operations are suspended.

On August 20, 2020, *I Maga'håga* announced that because of the recent rapid rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam and the limited capacity of the island's healthcare system, even stronger measures are necessary to stem the spread of the virus. As a result, *I Maga'håga* announced that effective 12:00 p.m. on August 21, 2020, all but essential government and business operations shall be suspended for a period of at least one week.

The Fifth Updated Order issued as ADM20-399, provides that magistrate proceedings and warrant returns in criminal cases are deemed essential matters and have not been suspended. Under 7 GCA § 4401(c), "[a]s assigned by the Chief Justice, a magistrate shall . . . hear return of warrants in all cases to which assigned." 7 GCA § 4401(c)(5). Under my authority as Chief Justice and

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because of the exigent circumstances related to COVID-19 and the need to implement stronger measures to stem the spread of the virus, I hereby authorize the Magistrates to preside over warrant returns in all criminal cases before the Superior Court of Guam effective from the date of this order until August 31, 2020. This Administrative Order is necessary to limit the transmission of the disease and reduce the number of essential staff required to assist with criminal matters outlined in the Fifth Updated Order.

F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO

**Chief Justice** 

**SO ORDERED** this 21st day of August, 2020.