WEST VIRGINIA:

At an emergency session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Friday, August 13, 2021.

Present: Gene Buckner, Greg Puckett, Bill Archer, Vicky Reed, and Jessica Dixon

RE: CIRCUIT COURT – GENERAL ORDER – MASK REQUIREMENTS

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the following General Order from Circuit Court regarding mask requirements.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.

GENERAL ORDER

MASK REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, our area has seen a surge in the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, even among those individuals fully vaccinated;

WHEREAS, the prevalent variant of the virus, the Delta variant, is highly contagious;

WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control are recommending masks for all indoor public gatherings; and,

WHEREAS, the undersigned Circuit Court judges feel that courtroom mask mandates are necessary to protect the health of the public, court personnel, attorneys, and litigants;

ACCORDINGLY, it is therefore **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that:

Effective August 16, 2021, all persons entering a Circuit Court or Magistrate Court public area in Mercer County, West Virginia, including the courtrooms, **shall be required** to wear a face mask or face covering at all times while in said areas.

The Circuit Court will defer to the guidance of the Family Court judges as to whether to require masks in the public areas of the Family Court areas of Mercer County, West Virginia.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice and until rescinded by

further general order of this Court.

A copy of this Order shall be sent to Judge Swope, Judge Sadler and Judge Wills, all Magistrates and their assistants, other Court Officials, and local court employees. A copy shall also be sent to all members of the Mercer County Bar and others practicing before this Court. A copy shall also be sent to the head of each law enforcement agency in Mercer County. A copy shall be sent to Brian Cochran, Prosecuting Attorney of Mercer County. A certified copy shall be sent to Joseph Armstrong, Administrative Director of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Dated this the 10th day of August, 2021.

ENTER:

WILLIAM J. SADLER, CHIEF JUDGE

DEREK C. SWOPE, JUDGE

MARK E. WILLS, JUDGE

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

_____PRESIDENT