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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

