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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RE:) Supreme Court of Guam
UPDATED ORDER RELATIVE TO) Administrative Order No. ADM20-404
AUTHORIZING THE)
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. On August 21, 2020, *I Maga'håga* issued Executive Order No. 2020-28, which imposed a stay-at-home order and closed all government operations except functions critical to the health and safety of the community until August 28, 2020.

Because of the continued rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam, which has placed the island's public hospital beyond its capacity to treat COVID-19 patients, *I Maga'håga* issued Executive Order No. 2020-29 on August 27, 2020. The order extends the stay-at-home directive and continues the closure of most government operations until 12:00 p.m. on September 4, 2020. At the same time, the order lifts some restrictions to ensure the health and safety of the island's residents and to support critical business functions.

The Sixth Updated Order issued as ADM20-403 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). On August 21, 2020, Administrative Order

