IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

)	
)	THIRD GENERAL
)	ORDER RE:
)	RESUMPTION OF
)	TRIALS
)	

The Court, being fully informed, hereby issues the following FINDINGS:

1. All findings included in the "General Order Re: Resumption of Jury Trials," dated August 23, 2021, are hereby incorporated.
2. While staffing issues have recently improved, COVID-19 infections continue to pose a severe risk of infections in Whatcom County. The Bellingham Herald, citing public health statistics, reported on November 12, 2021 that Whatcom County had 901 cases that tested positive in the past two weeks.
3. COVID-19 is consistently spreading at an alarming rate. There were 91 hospitalizations in August, 115 in September, 119 in October and 47 reported in the first 10 days of November.
4. The dangerous risk of infection, illness, and death posed by COVID-19 to participants, potential jurors and staff constitutes good cause to continue trials.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Bench and jury trials, other than stipulated bench trials, may only resume on or after January 1, 2021.
2. Any trials scheduled before January 1, 2021 may be reset by a written, agreed order or at the next scheduled hearing.
3. When trials resume, the Court's "Trial Procedures During Covid-19" will be followed.

DATED this 16 day of November, 2021.

DEBRA LEV,
Presiding Judge