

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

In re:)
)
RECOVERY OPERATION OF)
THE U.S. BANKRUPTCY)
COURT FOR THE WESTERN)
DISTRICT OF NORTH)
CAROLINA AND RETURN TO)
IN-PERSON HEARINGS IN)
RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS)
DISEASE (COVID-19))
_____)

FILED
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, NCW

JUN 10 2021

Steven T. Salata, Clerk
Charlotte Division

GENERAL ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court upon its own motion.

The Governor of the State of North Carolina ("Governor Cooper") declared a public health emergency throughout the state in response to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 10, 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other public health authorities advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease. The United States Bankruptcy Court took appropriate and necessary steps to protect public health by adopting measures that continued the essential role of the court by using various technologies to hold court remotely.

On May 13, 2021, Governor Cooper, by way of Executive Order 215, lifted the capacity limitations and social distancing requirements on businesses, and lifted the indoor face covering requirement on most businesses and operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, bearing in mind the importance of the essential role of the Court, The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina hereby issues the following order regarding court operations and hearings:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that public intake counters in the Asheville

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and Charlotte divisions of the Clerk's Office remain open to the public and observe the regular hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Statesville division intake counter shall remain closed until further notice. Members of the public without an attorney may file bankruptcy petitions and other papers in Statesville by drop box in accordance with the following procedures or by U.S. Mail addressed to the Charlotte office address listed below:

1. All papers filed by drop box or U.S. Mail, should include a coversheet containing the telephone number and email address at which the filer may be reached. The coversheet will be a private entry on the Court's docket and will not be available on the public docket;
2. All bankruptcy petitions filed by drop box or U.S. Mail should be accompanied by a copy of a form of government issued identification for the debtor(s). The identification will be a private entry on the Court's docket and will not be available on the public docket;
3. Drop boxes shall be available and accessible from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the lobby of the United States Courthouse in Statesville at the address listed below. Parties are directed to check the Court's website, www.ncwb.uscourts.gov, or call the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500, for more information;
4. Filings made by drop box must be accompanied by either: (1) an email to filings@ncwb.uscourts.gov, indicating the filer's name, the case name and number (unless the filing is a bankruptcy petition), and the date and time at which the filing was placed into the drop box, or (2) a telephone call to the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500 to confirm the deposit;
5. All required filing fees shall be mailed to the Charlotte office at the address listed below. The only acceptable forms of payment are cashier's checks and money orders. Should any party be unable to obtain a cashier's check or money order, that party may file a motion to request temporary relief from the judge assigned to the case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning **JULY 6, 2021**, the Court will conduct all Charlotte Chapter 7 and 11 hearings, asbestos hearings and special settings **IN-PERSON**. All other matters, including those

in Statesville, Asheville and Shelby will continue to be conducted telephonically or virtually through September 6, 2021. For all in-person hearings, the Court will observe current CDC and Executive Branch guidelines, whereby, fully vaccinated individuals may enter the federal building and bankruptcy courtrooms without wearing a mask or the need to social distance. Unvaccinated individuals should continue to comply with CDC guidance for face coverings and social distancing;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning **SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**, all matters will be held **IN-PERSON**, including Charlotte Chapter 13 hearings, and Statesville and Asheville division hearings;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorneys or parties with any concerns about appearing in person contact chambers by email with all parties in interest copied to make the Court aware of those concerns. The presiding judge will make a determination about how to proceed on a case-by-case basis;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Shelby hearings continue to be held telephonically until further notice;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorneys shall continue to file bankruptcy petitions and other papers by electronic filings in CM/ECF;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that members of the public without an attorney ("Pro Se parties") file bankruptcy petitions and other papers with the Court at the intake counters, in-person, at the Charlotte and Asheville divisions;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all deadlines in all cases continue to remain in effect, unless modified by further order;

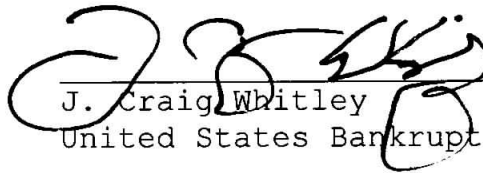
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all information regarding bankruptcy hearings may be found by checking the Court's website at www.ncwb.uscourts.gov. Parties should also consult the website for instructions on accessing hearings telephonically through September 6. Parties are encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500 for any necessary assistance; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this **SUPERSEDE** the General Order dated October 8, 2020.

This the 10th day of June 2021.



Laura Turner Beyer
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge



J. Craig Whitley
United States Bankruptcy Judge



George R. Hodges
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Mailing Address for All Divisions:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of North Carolina
401 West Trade Street, Room 2500
Charlotte, NC 28202

Statesville Drop Box Address:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of North Carolina
200 West Broad Street
Statesville, NC 28677