

CASE NO.: SC19-240

STATEWIDE GRAND JURY NUMBER TWENTY

ORDER

Pursuant to the February 25, 2019 Florida Supreme Court Order directing the impanelment of a Statewide Grand Jury, the undersigned, as presiding judge, is required to maintain judicial supervision of the Statewide Grand Jury. Additionally, the undersigned as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit is mandated to regulate the use of all court facilities within the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit and to do everything necessary to ensure the prompt and efficient administration of justice.

Accordingly, consistent with the authorities above, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. Inasmuch as grand jury proceedings are secret, no person is authorized to attend any proceeding of the grand jury, unless otherwise permitted by law. *See* § 905.24, Fla. Stat.; *see also, Palm Beach Newspapers, Inc. v. Doe*, 460 So. 2d 406 (Fla. 4th DCA1985) (holding that hearings ancillary or related to a grand jury session, including when the court is called to (1) hear challenges made to individual grand jurors to the entire panel, (2) select a foreperson, (3) extend the term of the grand jury, or (4) charge the grand jurors concerning their duties, are proceedings within the secrecy protection of section 905.24, Florida Statutes).

RECEIVED, 06/04/2019 03:53:29 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

2. Broward County shall place key card access readers outside the rear entry doors to the courtroom utilized for the statewide grand jury proceedings.

3. Access to the statewide grand jury courtroom shall be controlled by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (“FDLE”) and/or the Office of the Statewide Prosecution (“OSP”) for the duration of the time the statewide grand jury is in session. The OSP shall provide to FDLE a list of all persons who shall be entitled to an access card. Only those persons authorized by the OSP and who provide sufficient identification, as requested by authorized FDLE personnel, may gain access to the statewide grand jury courtroom. FDLE, in cooperation with the Broward Sheriff’s Office, shall be responsible for securing the safe entry and exit of all statewide grand jury participants to the statewide grand jury courtroom and courthouse. No person shall be permitted to enter the courtroom utilized for statewide grand jury proceedings, including persons who perform routine maintenance or janitorial tasks, unless specifically granted permission by the OSP or presiding judge. Any issue related to the security of the statewide grand jury proceedings or access to areas occupied by the statewide grand jury shall be brought to the attention of the presiding judge.

4. Broward County shall maintain logs documenting the entry of all persons gaining access to the statewide grand jury courtroom via an access card, and shall retain such records for a period of eighteen (18) months from the closure of the statewide grand jury proceedings or for such time as required by Florida law, whichever period is greater.

5. Only those persons deputized by the Clerk of the Supreme Court to act as deputy clerks of the Florida Supreme Court shall be permitted to attend official proceedings of the statewide grand jury and only in his or her official capacity as a deputy clerk.

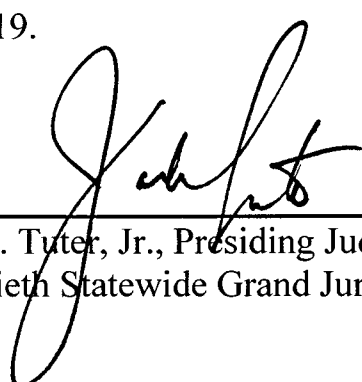
6. Deputy clerks shall hold all evidence and documents presented during proceedings of the statewide grand jury in a designated secure location for the duration of the statewide grand jury proceedings or as otherwise directed by the presiding judge. Only those persons authorized to attend statewide grand jury proceedings in their official capacity (Deputy Clerks, presiding judge, statewide prosecutors) shall be entitled to access such evidence and documents.

7. Broward County shall make available to each statewide grand juror informational pamphlets relating to the orderly evacuation of the courthouse in case of an emergency.

8. Broward County and Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court Administration shall remove any audio and video recording devices from the statewide grand jury courtroom until the conclusion of the statewide grand jury.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 4 day of June, 2019.



Jack B. Tuter, Jr., Presiding Judge
Twentieth Statewide Grand Jury

Copies to:

Honorable John A. Tomasino – Clerk, Supreme Court of Florida
Honorable Brenda D. Forman, Clerk, Broward County
Nicholas B. Cox, Esq., Office of Statewide Prosecution
Julie Hogan, Esq., Office of Statewide Prosecution
Jonathan Moody, Office of the State Courts Administrator