

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2008-002 PI-CIR

RE: COURT SECURITY

Pursuant to section 30.15(1)(c), Florida Statutes, the Sheriff, in person or by deputy, shall attend all terms of the circuit court and county court held in their counties; and

Pursuant to section 30.501, Florida Statutes, the Sheriff may be ordered to provide security to sequestered juries; and

In order to promote the safety and security of all court facilities and proceedings in Pinellas County; and

In order to assist the Chief Judge, the Circuit Court Judges, the County Court Judges and the Sheriff in carrying out their respective constitutional and statutory duties, it is

ORDERED:

1. The Sheriff of Pinellas County shall provide security for all circuit court and county court proceedings including, but not limited to:

- a. all trials and hearings conducted by judges unless otherwise directed by the judge, and
- b. all proceedings or hearings of general and special magistrates, hearing officers, arbitrators, and mediators (excluding private arbitrators and mediators), unless otherwise directed by the magistrate, hearing officer, arbitrator, or mediator.

2. Except for judges, bailiffs, and law enforcement officers as provided in paragraph 3, no person possessing a firearm, knife, mace, pepper spray or dangerous weapon may enter or occupy a courtroom, hearing room, or the court area in a court facility building.

3. Because the Sheriff of Pinellas County is charged with securing the courthouses in this County, Pinellas deputy sheriffs are exempt from the prohibition in paragraph 2 provided:

- a. the officer is in a recognized Sheriff's Office uniform,
- b. the officer is in the courthouse on official business,
- c. the officer displays appropriate identification, and
- d. any firearm in possession of the officer is in a secure holster.

4. The Sheriff of Pinellas County shall take such reasonable steps as are necessary to ensure that no firearms, knives, mace, pepper spray or other dangerous weapons are being concealed by any individuals entering courtrooms, hearing rooms, or the court area in any court facility building, except as authorized in this Administrative Order. These steps may include but are not limited to use of facial recognition systems, metal detection devices, hand-held electronic

scanning devices, personal or other searches by official law enforcement officers, pat-down or other search by security officers with consent of the person. If a person refuses the request of a law enforcement officer to submit to any security measure, the person may be denied access beyond the security device in the courthouse.

5. If a person who is entering the courthouse is taken into custody, the bailiff shall take all reasonable steps to notify the court if such person is a witness, defendant, victim or attorney in a pending proceeding before the court. Upon notification from the court that the person is needed for court proceedings, the bailiff shall follow the court's direction. At the Criminal Justice Center in Pinellas County, if the bailiff is notified by the court that the person is not needed immediately for court proceedings, the person may be booked into the jail on an expedited basis and made available in the pending proceeding as soon as can reasonably be accomplished.

6. The Pinellas County Department of General Services shall post a notice outside the entrance to security checkpoints that persons entering the facility or that portion of the facility are subject to security procedures.

7. Facial recognition systems shall be operated in such a manner to ensure that scans which do not produce a match are not retained in the system.

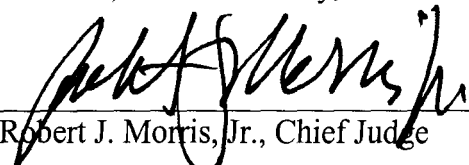
8. At the public entrance to all court facilities in Pinellas County except the Criminal Justice Center any judge, judicial assistant, or court employee displaying identification shall not be subject to security measures unless the law enforcement officer has a reasonable basis to question the validity of the identification. At the Criminal Justice Center, any judge, judicial assistant or court employee using the public entrance may be subject to security measures except for facial recognition measures.

9. Any contractor for the court, employee of the offices of the State Attorney, Public Defender and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Pinellas County, attorney with an identification issued by the Sheriff as set forth in paragraph 10 hereof, or other county officer or employee utilizing the public entrance to a court facility shall pass through the metal detection devices located at such public entrance.

10. Members of the Florida Bar, in good standing, who have their principal office in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, may apply to the Sheriff of Pinellas County for a picture identification card that would allow access to the Criminal Justice Center through the employee entrance. The attorneys will be screened at the employee entrance. The Sheriff shall issue such identification cards to attorneys meeting this requirement, who are approved by the Chief Judge, who pass a background check, who pay a reasonable fee for such identification card, and who otherwise satisfy any other reasonable requirements that the Sheriff may impose to ensure security.

Administrative Order 2003-022 PI-CIR is hereby rescinded.

31 **DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida this day of January 2008.


Robert J. Morris, Jr., Chief Judge

cc: All Judges
The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney
The Honorable Robert H. Dillinger, Public Defender
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County
The Honorable Jim Coats, Sheriff, Pinellas County
Carol Heath, Executive Director, Pinellas County Clerk's Office
Gay L. Inskeep, Trial Courts Administrator
Captain Gary Schobel, Court Security Division, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties