

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ALBANY DIVISION

In re:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 136 CANCELING IN-PERSON
APPEARANCES FOR ALBANY HEARINGS JULY 14-15, 2020**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus pandemic,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that no in-person hearings will be held in this Court for Albany, Georgia during the period of July 14 and 15, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the hearings scheduled for those dates will be handled by telephone in the same manner as in April, May, and June 2020.

Teleconference call-in instructions:

Call-in number: 1-888-398-2342

Access code: 5569600

Security code: None required

In connection with the telephonic hearings, all counsel and parties are directed that:

- (1) participants shall mute their phone when other parties' cases are being heard;
- (2) participants shall use a traditional landline rather than a cell phone whenever possible;
- (3) no participant shall use a "speaker" phone function;
- (4) no participant shall place the call on hold while participating in the telephonic hearing (in order to avoid hold music or other noises playing on the call); and
- (5) if, during the telephonic hearing, a participant is disconnected, he or she should call back into the telephonic hearing using the same call-in number and access code.

Parties are reminded that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure ("FRBP") 9014(c), FRBP 7055 applies to contested matters. Accordingly, if a respondent does not attend a telephonic hearing on a contested matter, the Court may presume that the motion is not opposed and grant relief if the movant is so entitled under the law. In addition, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 43(c) and Federal Rule of Evidence 611 (each incorporated by FRBP 9017), the Court may

in appropriate circumstances consider evidence in the form of affidavits or declarations executed in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746.

Any request for an in-person evidentiary hearing shall be made during the telephonic hearing.

Parties are reminded that they have the option of requesting an evidentiary hearing using Zoom for Government. The Court has successfully conducted a chapter 11 confirmation hearing by this method. Interested parties should contact Chief Deputy Scott Poupard with inquiries regarding Zoom for Government.

It is expected that in-person hearings will resume in the Macon Division before the Court's next session in Albany. Therefore, parties may request that an Albany Division case be heard in Macon, and the Court will decide whether it is appropriate.

Parties with additional questions may contact the Courtroom Deputy.

It is SO ORDERED, this 30th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Austin E. Carter
Austin E. Carter, Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Georgia