25-43

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF WINCHESTER AND COUNTY OF FREDERICK.

Joint Judicial Center Order Closing Cameron Street Entrance January 1, 2026

Whereas, the City of Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center, which serves as the courthouse for both the City of Winchester and the County of Frederick, has two points of public entry: one at the postal address for the building at 5 North Kent Street and the other on Cameron Street; and

Whereas the *Virginia Courthouse Security Guidelines*, published by the Office of the Executive Secretary Supreme Court of Virginia, for security reasons, recommends a single point of public entry to courthouses; and

Whereas the Court Security Handbook, published by the Conference of Chief Judges and Conference of State Court Administrators recommends limited access to courthouses to a single point of public entry to minimize risk at the front end; and

Whereas the Sheriff of the City of Winchester, for security reasons, recommends and requests a single point of public entry to the Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center; and

Whereas the Sheriff of the County of Frederick, for security reasons, recommends and requests a single point of public entry to the Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center; and

Whereas the judges who regularly sit at the City of Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center, for security reasons, seek a single point of public entry to the Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center; and

Whereas having a single point of public entry to the Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center would greatly enhance the security of the public, the judges, sheriff's deputies, clerks, and other personnel working within the City of Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center; and

Whereas delayed implementation gives stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback;

Wherefore, <u>effective January 1, 2026</u>, it is ADJUDGED, ORDERED, and DECREED that the Cameron Street entrance to the the City of Winchester/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center shall be closed to the public and 5 North Kent Street shall serve as the single point of public entry to the building.

It is further ADJUDGED, ORDERED, and DECREED that, on or before October 15, 2025, stakeholders shall provide any written comments to the Court regarding

implementation of this order. Such comments shall be directed to Circuit Court Chambers, 5 North Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601, ccuthrell@vacourts.gov.

The Clerks of the Circuit Courts for the City of Winchester and the County of Frederick are directed to post a copy of this Order on their Bulletin Board, Website, and to prominently display a copy of this order on the doors of the Winchester City/Frederick County Joint Judicial Center. The Clerk of the Court for the City of Winchester is further directed to send copies of this order to the members of the Winchester-Frederick County Bar, the City Manager for the City of Winchester, the County Administrator for the County of Frederick, and to the other Circuit Court Clerks of this Circuit.

ENTERED this 21st day of February 2025.

Alexander R. Iden, Judge

William W. Eldridge, IV. Judge

Christopher E. Collins, Judge