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Date: January 1, 2022

To: All Members of the Prince Hall Family of the Jurisdiction of Alabama

From: Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., Most Worshipful Grand Master

Re: "Soft" Re-opening of the Jurisdiction of Alabama

Greetings:

Effective immediately, the Jurisdiction of Alabama will engage in a "soft" re-opening of masonic functions. During this "soft" re-opening, lodges will have the option of meeting in person or may meet virtually. **REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE LODGES OPT TO MEET IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY, ALL LODGES ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OBLIGATIONS TO THE GRAND LODGE.** If lodges do opt to meet in person, they must conform to the following **mandatory** stipulations:

- ❖ Must wear masks at all times
- ❖ Must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within seventy-two (72) hours of the meeting date and time
- ❖ Must have temperature checked, using a non-contact, digital thermometer, and not have a fever to enter the lodge hall
- ❖ Must meet in a hall or facility that will accommodate social distancing
- ❖ Air filters in the hvac units where lodges meet must be replaced.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer must be readily available

- ❖ Antibacterial soap must be placed in all lodge restrooms
- ❖ Meeting places must be sanitized prior to each meeting
- ❖ If the facility where meetings are held reaches social distancing capacity, then no others are to be admitted
- ❖ No one with COVID-19, its variants or any of the symptoms are allowed to attend
- ❖ Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or its variants must receive a negative test prior to attending a meeting
- ❖ Degree work can only be performed by dispensation from the Grand Master
- ❖ No ritualistic work will be performed virtually
- ❖ No elections are to be held until June of 2022
- ❖ Candidates must show proof of a negative test within seventy-two (72) hours of the initiation, passing and raising dates and time, regardless of vaccination status
- ❖ A member who has had contact with someone who has been recently diagnosed with COVID-19 or its variants cannot attend a meeting for five (5) days from the date of contact, provided the individual is without symptoms and without fever
- ❖ Participants in community service projects must wear masks and practice social distancing.
- ❖ **Worshipful Masters are responsible for their lodges' conformance to these MANDATORY stipulations**

**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE MANDATORY STIPULATIONS. NONCONFORMANCE TO THE MANDATORY STIPULATIONS WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people of any age with the following conditions are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19:

- ❖ Cancer
- ❖ Chronic kidney disease
- ❖ Chronic liver disease
- ❖ Chronic lung diseases
- ❖ Dementia or other neurological conditions
- ❖ Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)

- ❖ Down syndrome
- ❖ Heart conditions
- ❖ HIV infection
- ❖ Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
- ❖ Mental health conditions
- ❖ Overweight and obesity
- ❖ Pregnancy
- ❖ Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- ❖ Smoking, current or former
- ❖ Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- ❖ Stroke or cerebrovascular disease, which affects blood flow to the brain
- ❖ Substance use disorders
- ❖ Tuberculosis

**ANY MEMBERS WHO SUFFER FROM ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONDITIONS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED NOT TO ATTEND IN PERSON MEETINGS.**

In a continued attempt to eliminate external risk of exposure to our employees, the Office of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. and A. M. of Alabama remains closed to appointments and walk-ins. The business of the Grand Lodge will continue to be transacted via U. S. Mail, email, telephone, and/or facsimile, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The “soft” re-opening of the jurisdiction remains in effect until upgraded to a “full” re-opening, unless otherwise rescinded in part or in its entirety. Take notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

Fraternally,



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

