

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 22-181 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Cortlan Watson has been arrested for driving under the influence; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER has also advised the Governor that Cortlan Watson is related to the Alachua County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Cortlan Watson; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. The Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case all related matters regarding Cortlan Watson.

Section 2. The Assigned State Attorney or one or more Assistant State Attorneys and Investigators, who have been designated by the Assigned State Attorney, shall proceed immediately to the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3. All residents of the Eighth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including August 8, 2023.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 8, 2023, if additional time is required.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 8th day of August, 2022.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL
2022 AUG - 8 PM 2: 20

FILED