

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 22-235

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that James Russell Leone has been charged in case no. 2021-302879CFDB with making false statements to Department of State, grand theft over \$20,000, and organized scheme to defraud. He has been charged in case no. 2022-303728CFDB with organized scheme to defraud, grand theft, and unlawful filing of false documents against real property; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA has also advised the Governor that a relative of an employee of the state attorney's office was the attorney for the victim in one of the cases and is now a witness and the defense attorney for Mr. Leone was granted his motion to disqualify the state attorney's office in the Seventh Judicial Circuit in this case; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, 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 James Russell Leone; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth 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 PHIL ARCHER discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding James Russell Leone.

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 Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3. All residents of the Seventh 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 October 20, 2023.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before September 20, 2023, if additional time is required.



ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

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 20th day of October, 2022.


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

2022 OCT 20 PM 12:08
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED