

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 23-12 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Steven Wayne Frantz was arrested for lewd and lascivious conduct; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD has also advised the Governor that the victim is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, 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 Steven Wayne Frantz; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth 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 AMIRA D. FOX discharge the duties of the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, 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 AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties

of the Honorable DENNIS W. WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Steven Wayne Frantz.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Sixteenth 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 January 18, 2024.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before December 18, 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 18 day of January, 2023.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2023 JAN 18 PM 2:09
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED