

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 23-22 (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 Melvin Tennyson was arrested for domestic battery and false imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA has also advised the Governor that Melvin Tennyson periodically works with the state attorney's office and the victim is personally known to the state attorney; 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 Melvin Tennyson; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth 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 MELISSA W. NELSON 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 MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth 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 Melvin Tennyson.

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.

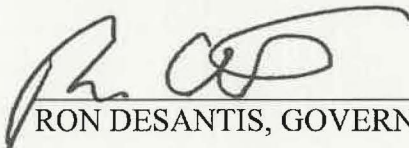
Section 3. All residents of the Seventh Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 1, 2024.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 1, 2024, 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 1st day of February, 2023.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL
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FILED