

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 23-121 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that the Polk County Sheriff's Office has charged Nathaniel Walter Adams with felony offenses related to his previous employment with Citizens Bank & Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS has also advised the Governor that he has a personal and professional relationship with Nathaniel Walter Adams as well his family, witnesses, and victims in this case; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, 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 Nathaniel Walter Adams; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ, State Attorney for the Thirteenth 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 SUSAN S. LOPEZ discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, 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 SUSAN S. LOPEZ, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Nathaniel Walter Adams.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Tenth 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 June 13, 2024.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before May 13, 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 13th day of June, 2023.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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