

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-52 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Freddy Barton Jr. has been arrested for driving under the influence; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ has also advised the Governor that Freddy Barton Jr. is the head of Safe Sound Hillsborough County and therefore has a working relationship with the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified herself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Freddy Barton Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth 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 ED BRODSKY discharge the duties of the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ, 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 ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable SUSAN S. LOPEZ, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Freddy Barton Jr.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Thirteenth 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 March 27, 2025.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 27, 2025, 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 27th day of March, 2024.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 MAR 27 PM 3:21
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED