

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11-124

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Robert Vincent Skidmore III is under investigation for an allegation of battery on a person 65 or older, a violation of the criminal laws of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL has also advised the Governor that the alleged victim played an active role in Mr. Russell's campaign for state attorney and he is related by marriage to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and potential prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND, 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 interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable EARL MORELAND discharge the duties of the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, pursuant to Section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 EARL MORELAND, 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution, and all matters related to Robert Vincent Skidmore III.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Twentieth 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 7, 2012.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before May 7, 2012, 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 7th day of June, 2011.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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