

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11-234

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Karen Miller-Maness has been arrested for driving under the influence, driving under the influence and refusing a DUI test after license suspended; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL has also advised the Governor that Karen Miller-Maness is a former assistant public defender and is currently in the private practice of criminal defense work; 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 DENNIS WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth 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 DENNIS WARD 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, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Honorable DENNIS WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereinafter referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is hereby 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 representation of the State of Florida in all matters related to Karen Miller-Maness.

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

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, to the end that justice may be served.

Section 4.

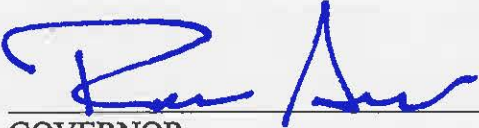
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including November 18, 2012.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 18, 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 18th day of November, 2011.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA