

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-26

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Albert Knighten has been arrested for operating an unlicensed radio station; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL has also advised the Governor that he serves on the Board of Director for the non-profit organization Quality Life Center, where the radio station first began operating; 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 Albert Knighten.

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 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, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including January 30, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before December 30, 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 30th day of January, 2012.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA