

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-78**

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Marquita LaToya Gordon has been charged with aggravated battery; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE has also advised that Marquita LaToya Gordon is an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified herself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, 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 DENNIS WARD, State Attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Marquita LaToya Gordon.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Eleventh 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 30, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 28, 2013, 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 March, 2012.



*[Handwritten signature]*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten signature]*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED  
2012 MAR 30 AM 10:39  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA