

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 15-241

WHEREAS, the Honorable ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Joseph Mercurio has been arrested for aggravated assault with a firearm; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable ED BRODSKY has also advised the Governor that Joseph Mercurio is related to a current circuit court judge in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable ED BRODSKY, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL discharge the duties of the Honorable ED BRODSKY, 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Joseph Mercurio.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Twelfth 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 November 17, 2016.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 17, 2016, 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 17th day of November, 2015.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Ken Ritzman, written in a cursive style.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2015 NOV 17 AM 11:02
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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