

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-128

WHEREAS, the Honorable MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Joseph Morris Fonte has been arrested for hiring with intent to defraud, petit theft (two counts), and obtaining food with intent to defraud; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MARK A. OBER has also advised the Governor that Joseph Morris Fonte is a former employee of the state attorney's office and is a personal friend; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MARK A. OBER, 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 JERRY HILL, State Attorney for the Tenth 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 JERRY HILL discharge the duties of the Honorable MARK A. OBER, 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 JERRY HILL, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Joseph Morris Fonte.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Thirteenth 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 May 19, 2017.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before April 19, 2017, 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 19th day of May, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Patzour', is written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2016 MAY 19 AM 11:57
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED