

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-187

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Anthony Mercer has a pending violation of probation case; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS has also advised the Governor that Anthony Mercer is in a relationship with the daughter of a long-time employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, 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 ARAMIS D. AYALA, State Attorney for the Ninth 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 ARAMIS D. AYALA discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, 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 ARAMIS D. AYALA, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Anthony Mercer.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Tenth 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 July 10, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before June 10, 2018, 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 10th day of July, 2017.

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

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Ritzman", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2017 JUL 10 AM 10:30
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED