

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-221

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Phillip J. Johnson has been arrested for kidnapping with a weapon, home invasion robbery with a firearm or deadly weapon, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, three counts of aggravated assault, and false imprisonment. Co-defendant Carl A. Williams, II, has been arrested for kidnapping with a firearm, home invasion robbery with a firearm or deadly weapon, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, three counts of aggravated assault, and false imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON has also advised the Governor that Carl A. Williams, II, is related to a long-time employee of the public defender's office in the Fourth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Phillip J. Johnson and Carl A. Williams, II.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Fourth 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.

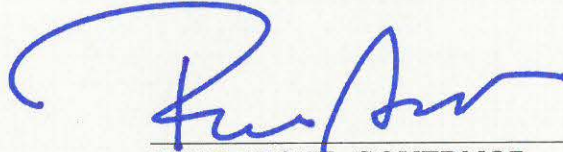
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including August 16, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 16, 2018, if additional time is required.

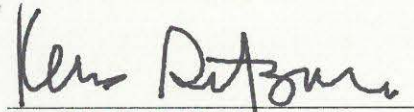


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 16th day of August, 2017.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2017 AUG 16 AM 9:03
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED