

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-248

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Thomas Porter has been arrested for battery on a law enforcement officer, and two counts of possession of a weapon and/or ammunition by a convicted felon; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA has also advised the Governor that Thomas Porter has made threats against an employee of the state attorney's office which is currently under investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth 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 PHIL ARCHER discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Thomas Porter.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Seventh 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 September 18, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before August 18, 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 18th day of September,
2017.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2017 SEP 18 PM 3:54
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED