

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-255

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that allegations have been made against Michelle Keown Cook, former City Clerk for the City of Vernon, for misappropriated funds/fraudulent acts while serving as City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS has also advised the Governor that Michelle Keown Cook is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First 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 EDDINS discharge the duties of the Honorable GLENN HESS, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, 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 EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Michelle Keown Cook

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Fourteenth 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.

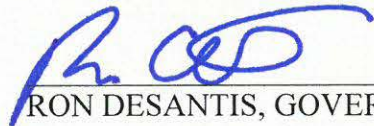
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including November 22, 2020.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 22, 2020,
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 22nd day of November,
2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2019 NOV 22 AM 10:42
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA