STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-234

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Steven M. Alex has filed a motion to modify or early termination of probation; and

WHEREAS, the State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida prosecuted an earlier case involving Steven M. Alex under Executive Order 00-280 and also handled subsequent motions under Executive Orders 13-109 and 15-166, as well as Executive Order 14-255 which was extended by Executive Order 15-162; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX has also advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist as Steven M. Alex is a former Assistant State Attorney in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, 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 motion to modify early termination of probation and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, 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 BRIAN HAAS discharge the duties of the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, 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 BRIAN HAAS, 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 AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the motion to modify early termination of probation and all matters related to Steven M. Alex.

<u>Section 2.</u> 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 Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

<u>Section 3.</u> All residents of the Twentieth 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 October 28, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before September 28, 2022, 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 28th day of October, 2021.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY OF STATE