## STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-99**

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Kimyatta Hawthorne was arrested for possession of MDMA, possession of drug paraphernalia, battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting an officer without violence; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS has also advised the Governor that Kimyatta Hawthorne is related to a current circuit court judge that presides over criminal cases prosecuted by 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 ANDREW H. WARREN, State Attorney for the Thirteenth 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 ANDREW H. WARREN discharge the duties of the Honorable BRIAN HAAS 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 ANDREW H. WARREN, State Attorney for the Thirteenth 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 Kimyatta Hawthorne.

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 April 29, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 29, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ÉCRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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