

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11- 208

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that three complaints have been filed against Matthew Steven Peterson for battery/strangulation, a felony offense and two separate counts of misdemeanor battery and was also previously charged with underage possession of alcohol, a misdemeanor offense; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE has also advised the Governor that Matthew Peterson is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and potential prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, 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 R. J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution and all matters related to Matthew Steven Peterson.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Eighth 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 12, 2012.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before September 12, 2012, 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 12th day of October, 2011.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
2011 OCT 12 AM 11:28

FILED