

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-27

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Philip Bennett has filed a motion to travel and a motion for early termination of probation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN HAAS, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, handled the original case under Executive Order 10-25, extended by Executive Orders 10-278 and 12-12; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable AMIRA D. FOX has also advised the Governor that a conflict continues to exist as she and the defendant are members of the same Rotary Club for which the defendant handled investments and allegations were raised regarding irregularities of those investments; 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 the investigation and prosecution of this case 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 investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Philip Bennett.

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

Section 3.

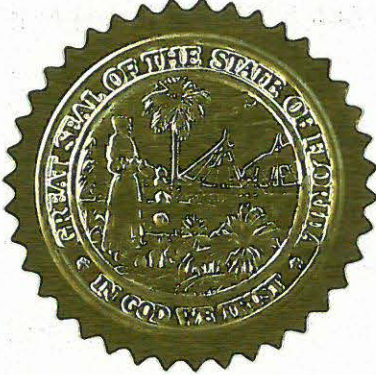
All residents of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

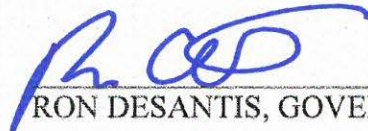
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 11, 2021.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 11, 2021,
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 11th day of February, 2020.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 FEB 11 PM 4:20
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA