

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-98

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Sean Lauriston, Phillip Lauriston and Cui Lian Ng were arrested for various felony offenses involving the same minor victim. Sean Lauriston was arrested for lascivious molestation on a child 12-16 years old by defendant less than 18 years old and lewd and lascivious exhibition on a child under 16 years old by defendant less than 18 years old. Phillip Lauriston was arrested for child abuse with no great bodily harm, obscene material/protection of minors and sexual battery on a minor by an adult. Cui Lian Ng was arrested for child neglect with no great bodily harm; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE has also advised the Governor that the three defendants are related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE 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 HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Sean Lauriston, Phillip Lauriston and Cui Lian Ng.

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

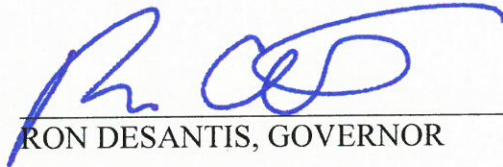
Section 3. All residents of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

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 29th day of April, 2021.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2021 APR 29 AM 9:33
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED