

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 23-218

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Jorge Gonzalez, Jr. has been arrested for obstruction of justice – tampering with a witness absent official proceeding and obstruction of justice – hinder witness communication of information to law enforcement officer or judge. An arrest warrant has been issued for his co-defendant Vinessa Noriega for two counts of tampering with a victim; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, is handling the original case under Executive Order 22-116, as extended by Executive Order 23-81, for which Jorge Gonzalez, Jr. was charged with one or more counts of each of the following offenses: human trafficking, lewd or lascivious battery, use of a child in a sexual performance, promoting a sexual performance by a child, sexual performance by a child (possession), transmission of material harmful to minors by electronic device, and failure to register as a sex offender; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR has also advised the Governor that a witness in this case is a former employee of the state attorney's office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Jorge Gonzalez, Jr. and Vinessa Noriega; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE discharge the duties of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, 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 KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Jorge Gonzalez, Jr. and Vinessa Noriega.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Seventeenth 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 November 9, 2024.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 9, 2024, 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 9th day of November, 2023.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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