

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-103 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Keith Pearson is under investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for election code violations; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL has also advised the Governor that Keith Pearson is the sheriff of St. Lucie County and the State Attorney has endorsed Keith Pearson's opponent for sheriff of St. Lucie County; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, 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 Keith Pearson; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth 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 PHIL ARCHER discharge the duties of the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Keith Pearson.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Nineteenth 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 June 4, 2025.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before May 4, 2025, 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 4th day of June, 2024.


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED