

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-38

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Preston Baker has been accused of violating probation, has a pending case in Suwannee county for possession of firearm by a convicted felon, and a pending case in Columbia county for fleeing and eluding, resisting without violence, and possession of ammo by felony; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT has also advised the Governor that Preston Baker is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, 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 Preston Baker; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, State Attorney for the Eighth 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 S. KRAMER discharge the duties of the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, 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 S. KRAMER, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable JOHN F. DURRETT, State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Preston Baker.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Third 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 March 5, 2025.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 5, 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 5th day of March, 2024.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 MAR -5 PM 3:34
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED