

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 14-270

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that he has received an affidavit from a potential witness regarding the death of Michelle O'Connell; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRAD KING, State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, handled the initial investigation under Executive Order 11-240 and upon completion was discharged from his duties on November 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA has also advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist as the subject of the initial investigation, Jeremy Banks, is a deputy sheriff with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office with which his office has a close working relationship; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, 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 with respect to the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable JEFFREY L. ASHTON, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable JEFFREY L. ASHTON discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 JEFFREY L. ASHTON, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to the investigation into the death of Michelle O'Connell.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Seventh 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 September 30, 2015.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before August 30, 2015, 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 30th day of September, 2014.


RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA