

Office of the State Attorney
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
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MELISSA W. NELSON
STATE ATTORNEY

January 6, 2022

Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
Attn: Susan Smith
Governor's Legal Office
The Capitol, Room 209
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Request for Executive Assignment for Ben Frazier; CCR 2022-0006528

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On January 4, 2022, Mr. Ben Frazier was provided a criminal citation for Trespass in Jacksonville, Florida. I write to request an executive assignment of Mr. Frazier's case.

Our office has a relationship with Mr. Frazier. In his capacity as a community activist, Mr. Frazier has routinely called upon our office to take certain actions related to investigations and other pending criminal cases. At times, Mr. Frazier has acted in the role of advocate, and other times, concerned citizen, and still at other times, adversary. Members of our office and I have both hosted and attended multiple meetings with Mr. Frazier. Indeed, over the last 18 months, our office has been engaged in dialogue with Mr. Frazier – at his invitation – to address various criminal justice issues unique to our community.

In light of these dynamics and circumstances, and specifically in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety, we respectfully request that another Circuit be assigned to handle this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa W. Nelson".

Melissa W. Nelson

MWN/mmn