



August 26, 2025

Sent via E-mail to GovernorRon.DeSantis@eoq.myflorida.com

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Request for Appointment of Special Prosecutor for Sunshine Law
Violations by Jacksonville City Council Members

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I write to respectfully request that you assign the investigation of Sunshine Law violations involving members of the Jacksonville City Council to a State Attorney outside of the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Specifically, I request that you assign the case to State Attorney R.J. Larizza of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, who has recently demonstrated his willingness and ability to prosecute Sunshine Law violations, including a case against St. Johns County Airport Authority Board Members.

There exists a potential conflict of interest for Fourth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Melissa Nelson. Several Jacksonville City Council members implicated in this matter, as well as Ms. Nelson herself, have retained the same political consultant and strategist, Tim Baker, in their political campaigns. This shared consultant relationship raises serious concerns about impartiality and undermines public confidence in the integrity of any prosecutorial decision-making in this case.

The citizens of Jacksonville deserve a thorough and impartial review of the allegations. Reassigning this matter to State Attorney Larizza would not only resolve the conflict but also ensure that the Sunshine Law is enforced fairly and without the appearance of political influence.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter of public trust and government transparency.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie Scott Jean-Bart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Scott Jean-Bart

President

Jean-Bart@terrellhogan.com