



STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

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July 13, 2018

Via email delivery to: VRao@coj.net

Dr. Valerie Rao, M.D.
District Four Medical Examiner
2100 Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, FL 32206

RE: Retirement

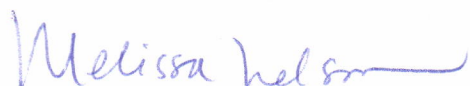
Dear Dr. Rao:

On May 2, 2018, you notified Governor Scott of your intention to retire. You subsequently requested that I appoint Dr. Pfalzgraf as the Interim Medical Examiner. On June 6, after meeting with Dr. Pfalzgraf, I requested that you delay your retirement and allow the District Four Medical Examiner Search Committee time to conduct a comprehensive search for your replacement. Thank you for agreeing to continue in your current position. The Search Committee conducted its first meeting last Wednesday and is scheduled to meet again in August.

In recent discussions with me and with representatives of the Mayor's Office, you stated you believe you cannot or you should not rescind your retirement. Rather, your position is that the State Attorney must appoint you as the Interim Medical Examiner if you are to continue to serve District Four. After consultation with FDLE staff who work closely with the State of Florida Medical Examiners Commission, I understand you may either rescind your retirement or I can appoint you as the Interim Medical Examiner pursuant to section 406.15, Florida Statute.

My overriding interest in your continued service is continuity within the District Four Office and minimal disruption to current pending criminal prosecutions and investigations. After consultation with State Attorney Jeff Siegmeister, I will notify Dr. Nelson and the State Medical Examiners Commission of our decision to appoint you on an interim basis pursuant to section 406.15, Florida Statute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Nelson" with a decorative flourish at the end.

Melissa W. Nelson
State Attorney