

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 09-43

(Executive Order of Suspension)

**WHEREAS**, Charles W. Morris, is presently serving as Sheriff for Okaloosa County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2009, the United States District Court, Northern District of Florida, issued a Warrant for Arrest charging Charles W. Morris with Theft or Bribery concerning Programs receiving Federal Funds in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666; Wire Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; Deprivation of Right to Honest Services in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1346; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957; and Conspiracy to Commit the Aforementioned Offenses in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution provides that the Governor may suspend from office any county officer for "malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or commission of a felony[.]"

**WHEREAS**, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666, 1343, 1346, 1957 and 371 constitute felonies, malfeasance or misfeasance; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the residents of the County of Okaloosa, and the citizens of the State of Florida, that Charles W. Morris be immediately suspended from the public office, which he now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this executive order;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST**, Governor of Florida, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution, find as follows:

- A. Charles W. Morris is, and at all times material was, Sheriff for the County of Okaloosa, Florida.
- B. The office of Sheriff for the County of Okaloosa, Florida, is within the purview of the suspension powers of the Governor, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

C. The attached Warrant for Arrest alleges that Charles W. Morris committed acts in violation of the Laws of the United States. This suspension is predicated upon the attached Warrant for Arrest which alleges the commission of felonies, and which alleged conduct constitutes malfeasance or misfeasance, and is incorporated as if fully set forth in this executive order.

**BEING FULLY ADVISED** in the premises, and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued, effective today:

Section 1. Charles W. Morris is suspended from the public office, which he now holds, to wit: Sheriff for the County of Okaloosa, Florida.

Section 2. Charles W. Morris is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of public office during the period of this suspension, which period shall be from today, until a further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



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, the Capitol, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in black ink.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Paul Sawny in black ink.  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2009 FEB 27 AM 10:19  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**FILED**

# United States District Court

NORTHERN

DISTRICT OF

FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

WARRANT FOR ARREST

CHARLES W. MORRIS  
a/k/a CHARLIE MORRIS

CASE NUMBER: 3:09Mj30

To: The United States Marshal  
and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest CHARLES W. MORRIS a/k/a CHARLIE MORRIS

and bring him or her forthwith to the nearest magistrate to answer a:

Indictment    Information    Complaint    Order of court    Violation Notice    Probation Violation Petition  
charging him with (brief description of offense)

**Theft or Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds; Wire Fraud; Deprivation of Right to Honest Services; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity; and Conspiracy to Commit the Aforementioned Offenses**

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) 666; 1343; 1346; 1957 and 371

Elizabeth M. Timothy  
Name of Issuing Officer

U.S. Magistrate Judge  
Title of Issuing Officer

Elizabeth M. Timothy  
Signature of Issuing Officer

2-25-09 Pensacola, Florida  
Date and Location

Bail fixed at \$ none - to be addressed at the initial appearance by E. Timothy  
Name of Judicial Officer

| RETURN   |                                     |                                |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| This warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named defendant at _____ |                                     |                                |
| DATE RECEIVED  | NAME AND TITLE OF ARRESTING OFFICER | SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER |
| DATE OF ARREST   |                                     |                                |



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2009

Mr. Kurt Browning, Secretary  
Department of State  
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Browning:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment:

Edward M. Spooner

as Interim Sheriff of Okaloosa County, succeeding Charles Morris, for a term beginning February 27, 2009, and shall remain in office until further order from the Governor.

Please prepare the necessary papers and mail to:

Mr. Edward M. Spooner

Quincy, Florida 32351

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

CC/lm



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*Thomas F. Kirwin*  
*United States Attorney*  
*Northern District of Florida*

*111 N. Adams Street*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Floor, U.S. Courthouse*  
*Tallahassee, FL 32301-1841*  
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*300 East University Avenue*  
*Suite 310*  
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*Telephone (352) 378-0996*  
*Fax (352) 338-7981*

*30 W. Government Street*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, U.S. Courthouse*  
*Panama City, FL 32401*  
*Telephone (850) 785-3495*  
*Fax (850) 763-3415*

Please reply to: Pensacola

**February 27, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Managing Assistant U.S. Attorney Dixie A. Morrow (850) 444-4000**

**OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND  
FINANCE ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES**

Pensacola, Florida Thomas F. Kirwin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, announced that **Sheriff Charles "Charlie" W. Morris**, age 59, of Shalimar, Florida, and **Teresa Adams**, age 50, of Niceville, Florida, were arrested today based upon a federal criminal complaint alleging violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666 (Theft or Fraud from Federally Funded Programs), 1343 (Wire Fraud), 1346 (Fraud or Theft of Honest Services), 1957 (Money Laundering) and Sections 371, 1349 and 1956(h)(Money Laundering Conspiracy).

Sheriff **Morris** was arrested by federal agents in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is expected to make an initial appearance in United States District Court for the District of Nevada today. Thereafter, he is expected to be returned to the Northern District of Florida. According to the complaint filed in federal court, **Morris**, with the assistance of his Director of Administration and Finance, **Adams**, created fictitious bonuses to sheriff's department employees. The complaint alleges the employees were directed to return all or a portion of the bonuses in the form of cash and cashier's checks under the pretense that these returned funds were to be used for charitable purposes. **Adams** is expected to make an initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth M. Timothy in Pensacola today.

A criminal complaint is merely a charging instrument. Each defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in United States District Court.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall J. (Randy) Hensel.