

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALABAMA

October 22, 2024

Via hand delivery

W. Kent Davis, Commissioner
Alabama Board of Veterans Affairs
RSA Union Building, Suite 850
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36102

Dear Admiral Davis:

The Alabama Constitution confers on the governor the “supreme executive power of this state.” According to our State Supreme Court, this means—at a minimum—that a governor may take action to enforce the laws whenever he or she determines that such action is necessary because of “inaction or inadequate action” by a subordinate within the executive branch of government.

Today, the State Board of Veterans Affairs failed to remove you immediately despite the ample legal causes I have publicly and repeatedly identified as justifying your removal. I therefore determine that your immediate removal is necessary to ensure that, going forward, the laws governing the Department of Veterans Affairs will be properly executed and enforced.

By copy of this letter, you are hereby removed as Commissioner for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and, pursuant to the Board’s vote at its October 10th meeting, Jeffrey L. Newton is now Interim Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. The relevant state officials, including Interim Commissioner Newton, are hereby directed to take the necessary steps to effectuate this removal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Ivey".

Kay Ivey
Governor

cc: Hon. Jeffrey L. Newton
Relevant State Officials