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STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT Judicial Conduct

IN RE: HONORABLE JENNY HICKS

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4 TENAHA, SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS

CJC Nos. 18-0049 & 18-1407

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO RESIGN FROM JUDICIAL OFFICE IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

This Agreement is being entered into by the undersigned parties pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code.

WHEREAS at all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Jenny Hicks was the Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace in Tenaha, Shelby County, Texas, and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2017, the Commission received a confidential complaint against Judge Hicks regarding allegations that she "is never in her office" and is otherwise inaccessible to members of the public attempting to transact business with her court, and

WHEREAS no Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law have been made in connection with the above-referenced matters, and

WHEREAS no prior disciplinary action has been taken against Judge Hicks, who denies the allegations in their entirety, and

WHEREAS the parties agree that the allegations of judicial misconduct, if found to be true, could result in further disciplinary action against Judge Hicks, up to and including removal from office, and

WHEREAS the parties to this Agreement are desirous of resolving these matters without the time and expense of further disciplinary proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED that Judge Hicks, upon the signing of this Agreement, officially and formally resigns her judicial duties effective immediately, and is entering into this Agreement to resolve the above-referenced complaint in lieu of disciplinary action by the Commission, pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code. The Commission agrees that it shall pursue no further disciplinary proceedings against Judge Hicks in connection with the above-referenced matters.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Judge Hicks, by her execution of this voluntary agreement, does not admit guilt, fault, or liability regarding the matters contained in the complaint referenced above.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that, upon the Commission's approval of this Agreement, Judge Hicks shall be forever disqualified from judicial service in the State of Texas, including (a) sitting or serving as a judge, (b) standing for election or appointment to a judicial office, and/or (c) performing or exercising any judicial duties or functions of a judicial officer, including the performance of wedding ceremonies.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that any violation of this Agreement by Judge Hicks would constitute willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of her duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice in violation of Art. 5, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, and Section 33.001(b) of the Texas Government Code.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that this agreement shall be made public as a voluntary agreement to resign from judicial office, pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code, and the Commission may enforce this Agreement through any legal process necessary, including injunctive relief; that Travis County, Texas, shall be the proper venue for any dispute between the parties or proceeding relating to this Agreement; and that Judge Hicks, individually, shall bear the expense, cost, and any reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees in the event any dispute arising under this Agreement is decided against her by any court or tribunal.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED upon its execution by the parties.

HON JENNY HICKS

Date: <u>9/17/2018</u>

HON. DOUGLAS S. LAMS, CHAIR STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL

CONDUCT

Date:

VERIFICATION

State of Texas
County of Shelby

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared JENNY HICKS, who by me being first duly sworn, on her oath deposed and said that the above "Voluntary Agreement to Resign from Judicial Office in Lieu of Disciplinary Action" is a true and correct recitation of the facts and accurately reflects her understanding of the terms and conditions of, and voluntary consent to enter into, such Agreement.

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on this the _____day of September, 2018.

NOTARY PUBLIC, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAROL CAIN
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
ID#354869-1
My Comm. Exp. April 26, 2022