

COLLIN COUNTY BADLY NEEDS A NEW COUNTY JUDGE



Judge John Payton

GUEST EDITORIAL
By Judge John Payton (ret.)

Four years ago, we gave Chris Hill an opportunity to protect and serve the citizens of Collin County as our County Judge. Today, it's clear that we made a serious mistake. We must fix that mistake and restore integrity and professionalism to the office of Collin County Judge.

Chris Hill abused his office to have a political opponent (a combat veteran) arrested after publicly criticizing Hill in a public hearing regarding the death of an inmate in the Collin County Jail. Tax Assessor Kenneth Maun said he felt "blackmailed" by Hill's Court. Hill's public emails attacking a College Professor contributed to Collin College paying \$70,000 in settlement, plus attorney's fees.

Spent Taxpayer Money to Shield Himself

Hill spent taxpayer money on attorneys to shield himself from libel and slander while conducting political attacks on elected officials. Hill made false allegations against an elected official in a letter requesting an attorney's opinion at county expense, then publicly released the letter to attack the elected official.

Hill collects a salary of \$167,234.47. Not satisfied, Hill tried to add more than \$25,000 to his salary by making himself the Collin County Magistrate, even though Hill is not an attorney and doesn't have a law degree. Hill tried to take advantage of a Texas law that allowed a County Judge to receive a salary boost of 18% of a District Judge's salary if 40% of their duties are "judicial." In Hill's case, his duties are almost entirely administrative.

Threatened Elected Officials

When Collin County Judges refused to support Hill's plan to increase his own salary by making himself the Collin County Magistrate, Hill threatened to reduce the Judge's salaries. Hill was informed by Judges and lawyers that he

could not function as the Collin County Magistrate; Hill ignored them and spent thousands of taxpayer dollars on attorneys, seeking an opinion that he could.

Hill then had a section of the Texas Government Code amended to remove magistration (the process of setting bail and bond conditions for the accused) from Collin County Judges and Justices of the Peace. Hill had magistration shifted to the control and supervision of Hill's Commissioner's Court. When the Collin County District Clerk, who is the Clerk of the Magistrate Court, attempted to restore control of the Magistrate Court to the elected Judges, Hill embarked on a political smear campaign to bully and intimidate her.

Lowers Bail and Removes Bond Conditions

Hill's appointed Magistrate routinely lowers bail and removes bond conditions for defendants charged with serious crimes. In the case of Kirby Glynn Smith, Hill's appointed Magistrate lowered the Smith's bond from \$500,000 to \$100,000, putting an accused serial child rapist back on the streets of Collin County, contrary to a District Judge's order.



Educator, Kirby Glynn Smith, accused of Child Sex Abuse was booked into the Collin County jail had his bond reduced by Chris Hill's appointed Magistrate and released back onto the streets.



The Public Safety of Collin County Citizens is on the line in the race for County Judge on March 1st.

The District and County Court at Law Judges warned Chris Hill and his appointed Magistrate against lowering bail and issuing bonds contrary to a County or District Judge's "No Bond" order.

But Hill's appointed Magistrate continues to lower bonds and amend bond conditions, even in serious felony cases like domestic violence and continuous sexual abuse of a child. When one Judge directly confronted Hill's appointed magistrate over a bond issue, Hill's appointed Magistrate responded: *"I don't work for the Judges."*

Hill Uses His Own "Woke" Liberal Behavior

Hill violated the separation of powers by seizing magistration from your elected Collin County Judges and is jeopardizing the safety and security of every citizen for his personal agenda. Hill uses his own version of "woke" liberal cancel behavior to gain power.



Conservatives in disbelief that Chris Hill's Magistrate releases Child Sexual Predators out on Bail.

Hill's self-serving actions and lack of legal training have seriously compromised the health and safety of every Collin County citizen and the business of county government.

Collin County deserves better

The solution is Lee Finley, a Marine Corps Veteran with over 20 years legal experience. Lee Finley will restore integrity and professionalism as Collin County Judge.

Please vote for Lee Finley for County Judge.