



**BEFORE THE  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 16-0929-CO**

**INQUIRY CONCERNING**

**HONORABLE CRAIG DOYAL  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUDGE  
CONROE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**AMENDED ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

On June 28, 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct suspended the Honorable Craig Doyal, without pay, from the office of Montgomery County Judge<sup>1</sup> following his June 24, 2016 indictment. Under the indictment, Judge Doyal was charged with one (1) count of violating Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act, a Class B misdemeanor offense involving official misconduct. A true and correct copy of the Indictment is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** and incorporated herein for all relevant purposes.

On June 28, 2016, Judge Doyal requested a post-suspension hearing before the Commission pursuant to Rule 15a of the Texas Procedural Rules for the Removal or Retirement of Judges. On July 26, 2016, the Commission convened the post-suspension hearing in Austin, Texas. Judge Doyal appeared, with counsel, and presented testimony that because he does not perform judicial functions, his continued service as the chief executive officer of Montgomery County would not jeopardize the interests of parties involved in court proceedings over which the judge would preside nor impair public confidence in the judiciary. Several witnesses also appeared and presented testimony that

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<sup>1</sup> Under Article V, section 16 of the Texas Constitution, County Courts and County Judges are vested with jurisdiction and judicial powers. The specific jurisdiction and judicial powers of County Judges are set forth in Chapter 26 of the Texas Government Code. In certain counties, including Montgomery County, the County Judge declines to perform judicial functions and, instead, serves only as the chief executive officer of the county performing the administrative, non-adjudicative functions associated with the office of County Judge.

Judge Doyal's continued service as the chief executive officer of Montgomery County would not impair public confidence in the judiciary.

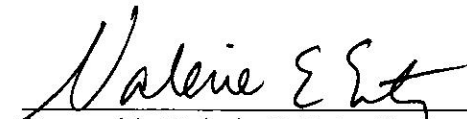
Having considered the Indictment, the testimony of Judge Doyal and his witnesses, and the argument of Judge Doyal's counsel, the Commission determined that Judge Doyal has met his burden.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that **CRAIG DOYAL** shall be **SUSPENDED, WITH PAY**, from performing any judicial functions or duties associated with the office of the Montgomery County Judge that are authorized by the Texas Constitution and/or Chapter 26 of the Texas Government Code. Judge Doyal shall not be suspended from performing the non-adjudicative, administrative duties of Montgomery County Judge.

It is **FURTHER ORDERED** that such suspension, as amended by this Order, shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the Commission.

It is **FURTHER ORDERED** that the Commission retains the authority to reconsider this Order should additional information not yet received warrant such action.

**ISSUED** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2016, at 4:40 o'clock p.m.

  
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Honorable Valerie E. Ertz, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct

THE STATE OF TEXAS

221<sup>st</sup> District Court

V.

Craig Doyal  
PID: 1636963

Cause No. 16-02-07315-CR

RECEIVED AND FILED  
FOR RECORD  
At 1030 O'Clock A M

### INDICTMENT

JUN 24 2016

BARBARA GLADDEN ADAMICK  
District Clerk  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS  
*Barbara Adamick*  
Deputy

Count	Charges	Statute	Degree	DA File #
1	CONSPIRACY TO CIRCUMVENT CHAPTER	551.143 GC	Class B Misdemeanor	16F-002392

#### IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

THE GRAND JURY, for the County of Montgomery, State of Texas, duly selected, empaneled, sworn, charged, and organized as such by the 221<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court for said County, upon their oaths present in and to said Court that Craig Doyal, on or about August 11, 2015 and continuing through August 24, 2015, and before the presentment of this indictment, in the County and State aforesaid, did then and there as a member of a governmental body, to-wit: the Montgomery County Commissioners Court, knowingly conspire to circumvent Title 5 Subtitle A Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (hereinafter referred to as the Texas Open Meetings Act), by meeting in a number less than a quorum for the purpose of secret deliberations in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act, to-wit: by engaging in a verbal exchange concerning an issue within the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Commissioners Court, namely, the contents of the potential structure of a November 2015 Montgomery County Road Bond,

Against the Peace and Dignity of the State.

*Streater*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreman of the Grand Jury

Minute  
Date: 6.24.16

EXHIBIT "A"