

25-097-DCCV-00104

OCT 13 2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TEXAS

220th Judicial District

Angela Tubbs, District Clerk
220th District Court

~~18th Administrative Judicial Region~~ for Hamilton County, Texas

In re:

Petition to Suspend and Remove **Jason Bradley Boulton** Sheriff of Hamilton County, Texas from Office

PETITION FOR REMOVAL

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now Chad Renfro, a resident of the State of Texas, and files this Petition for Removal of **Jason Bradley Boulton**, Sheriff of HAMILTON County, Texas, from office under Chapter 87 of the Texas Local Government Code, and respectfully shows the Court as follows:

I. Petitioner

1. Petitioner is Chad Renfro, residing at 1033 County Road 305, Hamilton, Hamilton County, Texas, a citizen of Texas, and has lived in **Hamilton County** for more than six (6) months prior to the filing of this petition.
 2. Petitioner is not currently under indictment in Hamilton County.
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II. Officer to be Removed

3. The officer sought to be removed is **Jason Bradley Boulton**, who is the elected Sheriff of HAMILTON County, Texas.
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III. Jurisdiction and Venue

4. This petition is filed in the District Court of HAMILTON County, Texas, which is the county in which the sheriff resides.
 5. This petition is addressed to the District Judge of this Court.
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IV. Grounds for Removal

Petitioner alleges the following grounds for removal, in plain and intelligible language, citing the time and place for each act, with as much certainty as the nature of the case permits, as required by Texas Local Government Code § 87.015 and § 87.012–.013.

Ground 1: Official Misconduct

Official Misconduct is defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure as an offense that is an intentional or knowing violation of a law committed by a public servant while acting in an official capacity as a public servant. Official Misconduct is further defined in the Texas Local Government Code (87.011) as intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by an officer entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law. This includes an intentional or corrupt failure, refusal, or neglect of an officer to perform a duty imposed on the officer by law.

Respondent has engaged in official misconduct as follows:

a. Involvement in Illegal Distribution and Possession of Prescription Drugs:

From on or before February 2025 to approximately September 2025 on multiple occasions in Hamilton, Texas, Respondent engaged in an extramarital affair with Erika Bedell, according to her admissions to her husband, Trampus Chew. Erika Bedell, was unlawfully manufacturing and selling prescription medications, including semaglutide, tirzepatide, and other unapproved GLP-1 receptor agonists without a valid pharmacy license, medical license, or prescriptions to citizens in Hamilton, County, Texas, and beyond. These unapproved drugs are prescription-only under the Texas Health and Safety Code (481.074 and 481.129), and their unlicensed distribution constitutes a felony. Erika Bedell was arrested by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for these violations while the Respondent was on a vacation out of the country. Respondent has seen copies of these charges filed in the 220th District Court. Petitioner is aware that the Respondent was not involved in the arrest or investigation of Erika Bedell.

Respondent knowingly purchased, possessed and allegedly used these drugs from Erika Bedell without a valid prescription, in violation of Texas law. Respondent spoke about his use of these drugs to numerous witnesses in the community of Hamilton, County, Texas. Respondent connected other Deputies of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office with Erika Bedell for the purpose of obtaining the drugs for weight loss. Respondent used his position of authority to convince his deputies that the unapproved drugs were legal.

Petitioner has seen numerous news articles, news stories, a public safety warning from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Social Media conversations, and heard numerous conversations regarding this since Erika Bedell's arrest in late August 2025.

Petitioner has learned from the above sources of news that several persons have become violently ill after taking the unapproved drugs sold by Erika Bedell.

Furthermore, according to Trampus Chew during a media interview, Respondent personally purchased (by personal checks), the unapproved GLP-1 drugs from Erika Bedell on at least 5 occasions, thereby participating in and aiding the illegal distribution. This unlawful behavior directly relates to his official duties, as it undermines the administration of justice and the execution of the law, and demonstrates a conflict of interest influenced by his personal relationship with Erika Bedell.

Despite the Respondent's knowledge of these illegal activities, Respondent intentionally failed, refused, or neglected to stop Erika Bedell's illegal sales or to initiate any enforcement action, investigation, or reporting as required by his duties as Sheriff. Petitioner believes this constitutes an intentional or corrupt neglect of duty imposed by law and believes had the Respondent stopped the illegal activities through lawful means that many, if not all, of the hospitalizations could have been prevented.

Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Article 2A.051, General Powers and Duties of Peace Officers. Each Peace Officer **shall**:

- (1) Preserve the peace within the officer's jurisdiction using all lawful means;
- (2) In every case authorized by this code, interfere without a warrant to prevent or suppress crime;
- (3) Execute all lawful process issued to the officer by a magistrate or court;
- (4) Give notice to an appropriate magistrate of all offenses committed in the officer's jurisdiction, where the officer has good reason to believe there has been a violation of the penal law;
- (5) When authorized by law, arrest an offender without a warrant so the offender may be taken before the proper magistrate or court and be tried;
- (6) Take possession of a child under Article 63.00905(g); and
- (7) On a request made by the Texas Civil Commitment Office, execute an emergency detention order issued by the office under Section 841.0837, Health and Safety Code.

In addition to the above duties of a Texas Peace Officer, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Article 2A.063, says the Sheriff is a conservator of the peace in the Sheriff's county and **shall**:

- (1) Arrest each person who commits an offense in the view or hearing of the sheriff and take the offender before the proper court for examination or trial;
- (2) Suppress all assaults, affrays, insurrections, and unlawful assemblies; and
- (3) Apprehend and commit to jail each person who commits an offense until an examination or trial can be held.

Lastly, Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Article 2A.106, Neglect or Failure of Duty; Violation of Law.

- (a) An attorney representing the state shall present to the court with jurisdiction an information charging an officer with neglect or failure of duty if:
 - (1) The attorney learns that the officer has neglected or failed to perform a duty imposed on the officer; and
 - (2) The neglect or failure of duty can be presented by information.
- (b) An attorney representing the state shall notify the grand jury of any act that violated the law or any neglect or failure of duty by an officer if:
 - (1) The attorney learns that the officer has in act violated a law or neglected or failed to perform a duty; and
 - (2) The act that violated the law or the neglect or failure of duty cannot be presented by information.

b. Failure to Enforce the Law:

Despite knowledge of Erika Bedell's illegal sales, Respondent intentionally failed, refused, or neglected to investigate, arrest, or otherwise enforce Texas drug laws against her, in violation of his sworn duty as Sheriff under the Texas Local Government Code (85.001 et seq. and Texas Penal Code 39.02). This dereliction was motivated by personal gain (e.g. continuation of the affair and access to the drugs), constituting corrupt neglect of duty.

These acts occurred within Hamilton, County, Texas and directly relate to Respondent's official duties as Sheriff, including the enforcement of state criminal laws. They demonstrate intentional unlawful behavior, corrupt failure to perform duties, and abuse of office, meeting the definition of official misconduct under the Texas Local Government Code (87.011).

Petitioner has evidence supporting these allegations, including witness statements from deputies, witness statements from Trampus Chew (Erika Bedell's husband), witness statements from unnamed citizens, communication records, and other documentation, which will be presented at trial.

The above acts occurred with as much certainty as the nature of the case permits, based on statements from a Deputy in the Sheriff's Office, news articles, observations by community members affected by the unapproved drugs, and other evidence available to the Petitioner.

V. Prayer

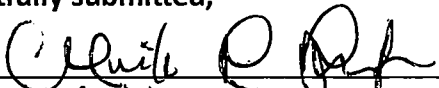
WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that:

- Citation issue be served on **Jason Bradley Boulton Sheriff** to appear and answer this Petition for Removal;
- The Court find that the grounds alleged are true and sustain them;
- The Sheriff be removed from his office as Sheriff of **Hamilton** County;
- Pending trial or after filing, the Court temporarily suspend the Sheriff from duties and appoint someone to perform the duties of the office;
- Petitioner recover costs of court;
- And for such other and further relief, general or special, at law or in equity, to which Petitioner may show himself justly entitled.

VI. Verification

I, Chad Renfro, being first duly sworn on oath, say that I have read the foregoing Petition for Removal, and the statements contained therein are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

<u></u>	Signature
<u>Chadwick R. Renfro</u>	Printed Name
<u>1033 CR 305 Joneboro, TX</u>	Address
<u>464-901-8268</u>	Phone/Email

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of October, **2025**.

[Notary Public Signature & Seal]



