



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Issues Statement on Governor's Executive Order 23

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs responds to Governor Lee's Executive Order 23 with the following statement.

"I applaud the Governor for following through with his convictions and fulfilling his duty to protect the people of Tennessee according to his best judgement. However, I cannot applaud any government monitoring the movements of its people and mandating virtually everything we are allowed to do.

I understand this is a crisis, but an economic crisis also looms with millions of people out of work and no way to earn a living, many of them due to mandated government shutdowns. We also have a looming mental health crisis as individuals struggle with depression and feelings of hopelessness and isolation, exacerbated by job loss—some have already taken their own lives.

Further, we have a political crisis as our state and nation must determine a way to walk back from the damage currently being done to our system of free government. During another crisis, Abraham Lincoln said, 'government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from this earth.' Knox County, will, of course, comply with this Executive Order. However, with our response to COVID-19, I fear that we may be testing the very limits of President Lincoln's notion.

As a people we must maintain our hope, optimism, and our faith in God's provision. I encourage all Knox Countians to exercise the prescribed physical distancing guidelines, to engage in volunteer opportunities where appropriate, and to come together as a community through the use of technology.

I look forward to Governor Lee's visit tomorrow and continuing to work with him to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I also am extremely pleased with the prospect of the Knox County Expo Center providing potential overflow capacity for COVID-19 cases."

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