



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs' Business Series Features Wow My Garage

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews local entrepreneur and prison reform advocate Josh Smith, who is also the CEO of Wow My Garage.

For more than a year, the Mayor has conducted interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; to highlight their work; and share any future plans. A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms.

This interview focuses on Smith and his various businesses and organizations with an emphasis on one of his latest ventures, the Knoxville-based Wow My Garage.

"(We do) everything you've ever wanted to do to your garage and more," Smith said.

He said they've created showrooms and home gyms and found ways for folks to better organize their garages. The company provides a free consultation where a designer and owner will come up with what they think will work best and then figure out a price.

"We've got it right down to a process . . . and you're looking at a brand-new garage in just 24 to 48 hours," Smith said.

Smith and the Mayor also talked about the entrepreneur's background.

"I started out (in a) broken home, with a single mom just making it happen for us – she's an amazing woman. And then I ended up in trouble at a very young age. At 16, I was in trouble and then again at 21," Smith said. "I was sentenced to spend time in prison. While I was in there, I was in a place where there were CEOs, and finance guys and businesspeople, and I'd never been exposed to that before. So, I began to listen, to pay attention, read some books."

When he was released, he founded Master Service Companies, which he later sold to start 4th Purpose Foundation, a non-profit that helps inmates after they get out of prison.

Said Smith: "People ask me all the time: 'Will you hire people with a bad background?' And I say all the time . . . 'I'm going to give somebody a chance because of who they are today – not who they were yesterday.'"

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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