



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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## **Mayor Jacobs' Business Series Features Tall Man Toys & Comics**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews Mike Hermann, owner of Tall Man Toys & Comics, as part of his small business series.

Each week, the Mayor conducts 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 Wednesday on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms.

Tall Man Toys & Comics, located at 1060 Worlds Fair Park Drive, offers the latest in collectibles but specializes in Funko Pops and prides itself on working with several charities geared toward helping children. Funko Pops are small collectible vinyl figurines that are based on a pop culture character and each sport large black eyes, a square head, and a disproportionately small body.

Hermann said he always enjoyed reading vintage comics but after he opened his shop, he realized that "so many demographics were just tied together to the Funko Pops and I thought that was the way to go. There's a Funko for everybody and they make almost every single person."

He added that one of his customers, who comes in every Saturday to buy toys, now owns more than 8,000 Funko Pops, making it the world's largest private collection.

"For people keeping notes at home, we have Pops for Patients, we're the biggest Funko shop in the Southeast, we have a mayor who has a Pop, and we have a guy who has the world record here in Knoxville, so it's kind of like we're the Funko capital of the US."

Mayor Jacobs also weighed in to talk a bit about his program Read City USA, which he established to encourage folks to get interested in reading. He asked Hermann whether comic books and graphic novels could be a "gateway to opening up an entire world for kids." Hermann felt that they would.

"Right now, when you look at Marvel, their superheroes have vulnerabilities and people can say 'hey I see a part of myself in that comic book'," Hermann said. "I think a lot of people will connect more with characters who have some of the same struggles as everybody else."

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

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