



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

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Contact: Mike Donila Rylie McClurg  
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office  
705-1681 cell

## **Mayor Jacobs Talks About Liberty Place, Officer Blakely and More**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— During his Weekly Update that will post around 1 p.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about Liberty Place, a memorial for Knox County Sheriff's Officer Tucker Blakely, the annual Holiday Festival of Lights at the Cove, and more.

Liberty Place, which officially opened this week, will provide 32 units of permanent supportive housing for military veterans who might otherwise be homeless. This project, a collaboration among Knox County, the City of Knoxville, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and other business and community partners, will be managed by the Knoxville Community Development Corporation and is KCDC's first housing development specifically focusing on veterans.

"Not only will struggling veterans have a place to live but will be provided with wraparound services from organizations like the McNabb Center and the Veterans Administration," Mayor Jacobs says.

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs mentions the Knox County Commission's approval to place a memorial to KCSO Officer Tucker Blakely at the intersection of Emory Road and Brickyard Road, as well as naming the bridge crossing Beaver Creek after Tucker. Both sites are close to Powell High School, Tucker's alma mater. Officer Blakely was killed in October 2023 while responding to a domestic call.

"We hope that these memorials will keep him in the hearts of Knox Countians for many years to come," Mayor Jacobs adds.

The mayor also reminds folks that the 26th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park kicks off at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2. The festival features a beautiful light display along the park's greenway and is free to the public although visitors are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to donate to The Love Kitchen. The festival runs from 6 to 9 p.m. every night through Tuesday, Dec. 31, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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