



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 22, 2024

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

Mayor Jacobs Discusses Border Crisis and Its Effects After Traveling to South Texas with Sen. Hagerty and Other State and Local Leaders

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— During his Weekly Update, which will post at 7 a.m. tomorrow (Feb. 23), Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about his trip with US Sen. Bill Hagerty and a number of Tennessee leaders to the southern border on Tuesday.

The two-day visit started in Kinney County, Texas – which shares a 13-mile border with Mexico along the Rio Grande River – and also included a stop in Eagle Pass where the Texas National Guard and Department of Public Safety recently moved into Shelby Park to mitigate illegal border crossings there.

“The trip was eye-opening and illustrated how broken the immigration system is,” says Mayor Jacobs, who paid for his own expenses. “The situation at the border does not consist of haphazard and disorganized illegal border crossings. The cartels, organized crime, are in firm control. They are running a massive, sophisticated human trafficking operation and they are making a lot of money from it by charging huge fees to transport people coming from around the world, over the southern border. This a terrible situation for everyone including the migrants the cartels are feeding off of.”

Mayor Jacobs met with Kinney County Sheriff Brad Coe to discuss how the area is overwhelmed with illegal activity ranging from criminal trespassing to human trafficking, and the increase in criminal court dockets. He also met with Martin Wall, a farmer in Eagle Pass whose fence is cut so often that he can no longer run cattle on his property.

“Even more alarming was Mr. Wall’s stories about criminal activity on his land,” Mayor Jacobs says. “He stated that he had seen a change from what was once more of a nuisance to now a dangerous, scary situation.”

Again, check out the video for more details and information about the visit.

###