



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 2, 2012

Mayor: Ray, KTSC Board leadership, executive committee should resign

Knoxville, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett issued the following statement this morning asking Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation CEO Gloria Ray, as well as the KTSC Board leadership and executive committee, to resign.

“It is now obvious that a serious change is needed in the leadership of the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation. The KTSC is an organization that receives millions each year in Knox County tax dollars, and I have lost confidence in the organization’s leaders. Worse, they have lost the public’s trust. Gloria Ray should resign. The KTSC Board leadership, as well as the KTSC Executive Committee should do the same.

“Additionally, I am asking the state comptroller to review KTSC’s financial books. With the amount of taxpayer dollars KTSC receives, and in light of recent revelations, this is the appropriate action.

“Too many times those who cause problems are the ones who are expected to fix them, but that is not how things should work. The problem must be eliminated, and you have to be willing to clean house, if you truly want to move forward. We are at that point now, and it is time for these individuals to step down and begin the process of restoring transparency and, ultimately, public trust.

“In order to help move this process in the right direction, I will be appointing Knox County Commission Chairman Mike Hammond and local business woman Susan Rothchild to the KTSC Board to fill two vacant seats.

“There are many good people on the KTSC Board who have been kept in the dark, and they need to be given the chance to do their job. At the end of the day, though, public confidence must be restored.”

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