



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Grider
215-4750 office
363-8681 cell

September 12, 2011

New library policy addresses new state law on sex offenders

Knoxville, Tenn. — The Knox County Public Library is instituting a policy to comply with a new state law that gives public libraries authority to reasonably restrict the access of any person listed on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry.

“We are telling these predators to stay away or go to jail. No exceptions. No Excuses,” Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett said. “We are going to make sure that families continue to feel safe when they visit a Knox County library.”

“Safety, especially for our young patrons is a primary concern,” Director of the Knox County Public Library Myretta Black said. “While we've always taken measures to ensure our patrons' safety, a result of the new state law is heightened security where registered sex offenders are concerned.”

Under the new policy, individuals listed on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry are barred from visiting libraries. If they wish to use the public library, they can access the library catalog and electronic resources online from a personal computer and have someone else check out and return library materials on their behalf.

“I applaud the state of Tennessee for putting tougher regulations on these dirt bags who prey on our children, and I'm pleased that the Knox County Library system has a policy in place that will help protect the public,” Knox County Sheriff Jimmy “J.J.” Jones said.

“We are happy that the Knox County Public Library is taking the lead to ban sex offenders from our libraries,” Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch said. “This new policy will help ensure the safety of all visitors to our library facilities”

Knox County Public Library is the first of the big four metropolitan library systems in Tennessee to put a new policy in place. Knox County Public Library has 150,000 active card holders who are served by 19 locations across the County.

###