



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2020

Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris
 215-4750 office 215-4579 office
 306-1177 cell 705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs Urges Reopening Task Force to Follow Gov's Lead

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs today announced his plans to issue a letter to the Knoxville-Knox County Reopening Task Force urging them to follow the lead of Governor Bill Lee and further loosen restrictions on certain businesses beginning this Friday, May 22.

The Mayor will share his letter with County Commission during his Mayoral Update at tonight's work session, which takes place electronically via Zoom streaming at 5 p.m. The Commission Work Session will be available to the public on Community Television (CTV) or by internet at www.ctvknox.org.

Regarding this letter, Mayor Jacobs issues the following statement:

“Knox County has done what's been asked of it. Too many of our neighbors remain without work and too many businesses continue to struggle to keep their doors open, even after implementing alternative business models. I understand the desire to exercise extreme caution before making changes, but available information indicates it is safe to further loosen restrictions just as Governor Lee and the State Health Department are doing in 89 other Tennessee counties. Knox County is reporting some of the lowest pandemic numbers in the State and there is no certainty that staying closed—as other counties in our region open—will offer any protection from community spread. Toward this end, I urge the Health Department's Reopening Task Force to follow Governor Lee's lead and begin taking steps to end our local shut down.”

###