MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 11, 2020

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

Mayor Jacobs issues statement on City's ransomware attack

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs provided the following statement regarding the cyber attack on the City of Knoxville.

"Cyber attacks can happen to anyone or any government no matter how good the defense is. In a lot of cases it's not a matter of if but a matter of when. Our IT department has been in contact with the city and we stand ready to help if they need it.

I have an insurance background, so when I took office, I was extremely concerned about cyber security issues, and I made it a priority to harden our defenses in case of an attack. Our IT department has done an amazing job protecting the county and I'd like to thank them for that.

The county and city do share some of the same network paths, but to date we have no evidence of any compromise on our side.

However, we did pull back and sever the connectivity between all of our shared agencies until we are fully confident that the issue has been contained. We will bring those paths back online one at a time as soon as our cyber team feels that we don't have any exposure."

###