



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Small Business Series Features Shanklin and Sons Flooring**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Frank Shanklin Jr., owner of Shanklin and Sons Flooring Inc. on East Magnolia Avenue, as part of his latest video series highlighting small businesses.

When the series began, the Mayor conducted interviews with small business owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees, and helping them share any plans they hold for the future.

The Mayor's discussion with Shanklin, however, focuses on the adversity he overcame as a black business owner, and how both the trades and a general sense of togetherness could better the Knoxville community.

Since his father started the flooring company in 1997, Frank Shanklin stated: "One thing that we wanted to always do if we were going to do this, was – number one – be a part of the community where they would be proud of us."

Both the Mayor and Shanklin see hope in the trades as a way to create better opportunities for all. "You know, I'm in the trade industry—I'm a big proponent of trade," Shanklin says. "I think one thing we have to do is make sure we put these trades back into high schools."

Mayor Jacobs agreed and broadened the conversation to include racial inequity and the current social climate.

Shanklin shared some of his personal experiences navigating an industry without much black representation, and how he has adapted to it. "It does make it easier when you can sit at the table with someone that may look like you and maybe have some of the same experiences that you have," Shanklin said.

"I think that's a piece we also can't forget is the African-American community in Knox County is a part of Knox County," the Mayor said. "When things are better in that community, they're better for the entire community."

A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms. To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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