



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 2, 2021

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Mayor Jacobs to Recognize Black History Month Throughout February

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Through a series of interviews, features and documentaries in February, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will recognize Black History Month—an annual celebration across the country of achievements by African Americans and a time for acknowledging their central role in U.S. history.

In a 6-minute featurette released today, the Mayor talks about the historical impact of current and former black residents on the culture, community, and overall well-being locally and across East Tennessee. To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

“Black history is American history,” said Mayor Jacobs. “Black History Month is a time for all Americans to learn about the achievements and contributions of African Americans that helped to shape the nation. This month we must also celebrate the plentiful black history with which Knox County is richly blessed.”

As part of his weekly small business series, Mayor Jacobs will focus on black-owned businesses with video interviews airing on Wednesdays or Thursdays on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

The schedule includes sit down discussions with Chandra Taylor of Mer-Mer’s Bakery; Marc Nelson of Marc Nelson Denim; Pamela Brown of Mr. Cool’s AC Transmission & Brake Service; and Melba Kendrick of Asheville Highway Animal Hospital.

The Mayor also will highlight black community leaders, including pioneers of the civil rights movement in Knoxville. These minidocumentaries will feature Robert Booker, a former City Councilman and Knoxville’s first state House representative; Theotis Robinson Jr, the first black University of Tennessee of Knoxville student; and Renee Kesler, director of Beck Cultural Exchange Center.

These video features, too, will be published on the Mayor’s various social media platforms during the second, third and fourth week of February. The end of the month will feature an overall wrap-up of the minidocumentaries.

In addition, Knox County Public Library is working on some suggested reading and have one online program with Robert Booker, the author of several books and hundreds of newspaper columns. You can find out more [here](#).

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