



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs' Small Business Series Features Asheville Animal Hospital

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews Dr. Joseph “Papa Joe” Kendrick, the founder of Asheville Highway Animal Hospital.

Dr. Kendrick graduated Knoxville College with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He went to work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, training post doctorate students from Harvard and Yale. While there he had an “epiphany moment” that led him to apply at Tuskegee University. After working in another animal hospital for five years, he and his wife started their own clinic in 1979.

Throughout the past year, the Mayor has conducted interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; to highlight their work; and share any future plans. A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

Dr. Kendrick said, “You’re either growing your business, or you’re going downhill.”

In this week’s interview, the Mayor asked Dr. Kendrick about any additional challenges he’s faced being an African American business owner.

“The best thing I ever got from my mother and father was not to worry about being an African America,” said Dr. Kendrick. “I never grew up thinking I was less than anybody else. My daddy wouldn’t allow it,” he said. “When you go out and work for yourself...if you work hard and do the right thing, you’re going to be alright.”

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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