



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Announces Start of Effort to Redevelop Rule High School Site

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs announced the start of the formal process for the sale and redevelopment of the historic Rule High School site. Tomorrow, at the Mayor’s direction, the Knox County Purchasing Department will release a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Rule High School opened in the fall of 1927 as an elementary and junior high school. Additions to the school were made in 1949, 1951, and 1973. The school was closed in 1991 due to low enrollment numbers. In 2016, the school was acquired by Knox County as a surplus property. Though the building is in terrible disrepair, part of the property still houses Knox County Schools’ maintenance division.

“The fact that the school has been vacant for so long has, sadly, resulted in serious degradation of the building,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “It’s time for someone to breathe new life into the property.”

According to the RFP, acceptable uses could include affordable, senior and/or workforce housing and continued civic use and, “Proposals that include a mixed-use redevelopment of the property including various affordable housing options, workforce development, and other appropriate services that include a community economic development initiative to provide housing and create jobs in the local community may be given special consideration.”

Recognizing the Rule High site is bordered by Knoxville’s Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and lies fully within the City of Knoxville, Knox County has been in regular conversation with the organization and city officials.

The question deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021. The submission deadline is 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021. (All deadline times are local/EST.)

A copy of the RFP document can be found [here](#). Site visits can be scheduled by contacting Ben Sharbel at 865-215-5765 or ben.sharbel@knoxcounty.org.

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