MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Makes Statement on Buchanan Resignation

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs made the following statement in response to Dr. Martha Buchanan's resignation from her post as Senior Director of the Knox County Health Department, effective October 1, 2021, and as the local public health officer, effective December 31, 2021.

"I understand Dr. Buchanan's decision and wish her the best but was surprised to receive her resignation today. I respect the work she's done in the name of public health—during the pandemic and well before it. She is highly regarded in the medical community, by health department staff, and by me. We are fortunate she has served Knox County for as long as she has. Her job is a high-pressure job that has become even more stressful due to COVID-19, and I admire what she's done in such a difficult year. Dr. Buchanan will continue serving Knox County as the local public health officer until the end of December, and we look to forward to working with her until then."

Dr. Buchanan provided the following statement about her decision:

"It has been my honor to serve with the Health Department team in service of the Knox County community these past 17 years. The excellence, expertise, and dedication they demonstrate every day is beyond comparison. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together to improve health in Knox County. However, I believe it is time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life."

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