



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Knox County Mayor Files Proposal to Settle Suit Between Law Director and Retirement and Pension Board

Knoxville, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs was joined by Sheriff Tom Spangler for a press conference this afternoon to announce that he and the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board have signed and filed with the court a settlement proposal to end the pension lawsuits.

During the press conference, Mayor Jacobs gave the following remarks:

“I’m proud to be joined today by our Sheriff, Tom Spangler in addition to representatives from the Knox County Sheriff’s Office. These men and women tirelessly and selflessly put their lives on the line to both protect and serve our community and for that, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

For the past several months, Knox County has been in the bizarre situation of suing itself. So far, this lunacy has cost the tax payers of Knox County nearly six hundred thousand dollars. Of course, as long as this suit goes on, that number will continue to grow. But even worse, some of the folks standing right here next to me have been caught up in this mess. Retirees from the Sheriff’s Office, and people like Renee Ricker, the widow of Dennis Ricker, who have had to dig into their own pockets to fight for benefits that they were promised.

Knox County has a moral obligation to uphold this promise. Since inception, the County has paid its actuarial required contributions – meaning that we’ve included the 43 days of annual leave cash out all along. So we have the financial ability to fulfill this promise without costing the taxpayers a dime more. It is the right thing to do.

Everyone wants good jobs, good schools, and safe neighborhoods. Issues like this distract us from this work and it is time to put an end to it. Earlier this afternoon, the Knox County Retirement & Pension Board presented me with their Settlement Proposal for this lawsuit. As Knox County Mayor and Chief Executive, I have agreed to and signed this proposal. Just minutes ago, the Pension Board’s attorneys filed a notice with the court. I think I speak for everyone when I say that I would like to see this matter come to a swift resolution.

I urge the Knox County Commission to follow suit and pass a resolution in support of bringing this matter to a close as soon as possible so that we can all focus on the real issues that face the citizens of Knox County every day.”

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