MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Knox County Notables: Shinedown Lead Singer and SDHS Graduate Brent Smith

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Shinedown lead vocalist Brent Smith as part of his "Knox County Notables" series, which focuses on hometown heroes and local folks who have helped promote and benefit the East Tennessee region.

Smith is a Knoxville native and 1996 graduate of South-Doyle High School. He spoke to Mayor Jacobs about his journey from a teenage musician to becoming the founding front man of Shinedown, a rock band that has sold more than 20 million albums.

"I was born and raised here [in Knoxville]. My dad was a teacher here. My mom worked at First Tennessee Bank right here off Gay Street. I love this city. I had such an amazing upbringing," Smith said. "My affection for this town, from a musical standpoint, just goes back to I was able to cut my teeth here."

In his interview with Mayor Jacobs, Smith shares advice for young songwriters, encouraging them to be willing to fail and grow in pursuit of their goals. He also notes the success of Shinedown has enabled him to raise awareness for issues he finds personally important, including suicide prevention.

"I believe that human beings are inherently good, and we do want to take care of each other. So, I would rather make sure that our music represents giving people strength," said Smith. "Music is medicine."

Smith was in Knoxville for Shinedown's concert at Thompson-Boling Arena on August 28. The band is currently on tour promoting its latest studio album, *Planet Zero*, which debuted No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Top Album Sales chart in July.

The Knox County Notables video ends with footage of Mayor Jacobs surprising Smith with a key to Knox County during the Shinedown concert. The custom key was made by students at South-Doyle High School.

"The best part of the Shinedown concert was when Brent encouraged the audience to continue to follow their dreams and to never give up," said Mayor Jacobs.

You can watch the full interview on YouTube.

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