



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Knox County Register of Deeds Warns Residents of Letters Seeking Payment for Free Services

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— What appears to be a Florida-based company is bombarding Knox County and Knoxville property owners with an advertisement that seeks an \$89 payment for the retrieval of documents that are available online to the public for free.

Knox County Register of Deeds Nick McBride has received numerous phone calls and visits from residents asking about the validity of the notice.

The company – called Clerk’s Property Office – is based out of St. Petersburg, Fla., but uses a Nashville post office address for its business. The official-looking document cites the importance of keeping a copy of property deeds.

In the notices, the company alerts mostly new property owners of a deed transfer and offers to obtain a copy of the recorded deed for \$89.

McBride said these records are available for free at KGIS.org and that there is no need to pay the out-of-state company to retrieve them.

He added that property owners can also request a copy of their deed on the Register’s website or can come to his office to obtain a certified copy for a small fee of \$1 per page. The nominal fee is set by state law. Most deeds are rarely more than two pages.

McBride said the advertisement reads like a bill and believes its intention is to fool our neighbors into paying for something they don’t really need. The most at-risk are possibly new or first-time homeowners and senior citizens.

“This is not only happening in Knox County, but across the region and state, so we don’t want taxpayers paying for services that are basically free,” McBride said. “The best thing to do if you receive an official-looking document is to call to your elected official before making any payments.”

The Register of Deeds Office is located on the second floor of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, and can be reached by calling 865-215-2330 or visiting www.knoxcounty.org/register.

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