



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Talks About Judge Cerny, Ambulance Contract and More

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—During his Weekly Update, which will post around 11 a.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about Sessions Court Judge Chuck Cerny, who recently received the Leon Ruben Award for Excellence, county employees of the month, and the county’s ambulance contract.

“The bids were highly competitive, but the results of the review process were conclusive and American Medical Response, the County’s current provider, was the successful bidder,” Mayor Jacobs says. “Obviously, there have been a lot of issues with AMR as of late. However, please keep in mind that these issues are not unique to Knox County or even Tennessee. And the old contract had really become a hindrance to service. In fact, I don’t think any provider would have been successful operating under its provisions. Across the country, ambulance services face serious challenges. One of the biggest is wait times at hospitals. For instance, Fitch and Associates, the consultant who helped us through this process said that ‘current hospital wait times are excessive and will prevent ANY EMS provider from being successful.’ While we don’t expect the new contract to be a panacea that will fix everything, we are optimistic that ambulance service will improve significantly.”

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