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Police Advisory and Review Committee celebrates 20 years



Past and current members of the Police Advisory and Review Committee pose during the group's 20th Anniversary Friday. Photo courtesy of Traci McDonnell.

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville Police Advisory and Review Committee celebrated 20 years of service as a mediator between the city police and citizens last week. The event, held in the City-County Building Friday afternoon, recognized the citizens committee for its efforts.

One of a few such groups in the state, the city PARC committee has been recognized by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs as a possible model for the county. Formed in 1998 under Mayor Victor Ashe and adopted in ordinance by the City Council in 2001 the committee usually meets each quarter in public session to hear comments from the public and meetings are moved around throughout the city to reach more of the public. PARC also takes complaints from the public directly. The phone number is (865) 215-3869.

Members of the committee review complaints and citizens can lodge complaints directly to Clarence Vaughn, the executive director.

Over the past few years PARC has reviewed complaints involving racial profiling, failure of police officers to turn on their wireless mikes while talking with

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Knox County Ethics Committee seeks members

By Mike Steely
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Want to be a member of Knox County's Ethics Committee?

Three new members will be appointed soon, two by Mayor Glenn Jacobs and one by the Knox County Commission.

The ethics committee in recent years has become active in hearing various complaints by citizens including issues like campaign violations by candidates. Complaints are reviewed by the law department and the results given to the committee. The committee has changed a few rules about complaints in that complaints cannot be reviewed if filed 60 days before an upcoming election.

Other rules contain language that, once heard, a unanimous vote must be made to find the complaint valid. Violations of the county ethics codes are then passed to the appropriate department for action.

Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom is calling for applications for the one position the commission appoints. A non-voting ethics commission county commissioner serves as

well as non-voting representatives of the sheriff's department and the county mayor's office.

All terms are for four years beginning November 1.

Resumes should be submitted by mail, fax, email or hand delivered before Thursday, October 11. The commission office is in Suite 603 in the City-County Building and information is available at (865) 215-2538. The fax number is (865) 215-2038 and the email is commission@knoxcounty.org.

Applications for the two seats appointed by Mayor Glenn Jacobs can be obtained at Suite 615, City County Building, or call (865) 215-2005 or fax (865) 215-2002. You may also email mayor@knox-county.org.

The commission will hold a public hearing to interview ethics committee candidates on Monday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. following the Knox County Commission Work Session in the main assembly room at 400 West Main Street. Appointments will then be considered on Monday, October 22.



The Knox County Sheriff's office hosted a Media Luncheon last week where Sheriff Spangler's team recognized the partnership between the department and media. Sheriff Spangler spoke on the department's goal of a continued relationship and offering transparency with the public. "We rely on the media to help keep the public informed. We appreciate what you do."

Kimberly Glenn, communications director pictured beside Spangler, announced the launch of the Group Me App which will alert the media organizations with breaking news.

Diversity Business Enterprise Awards recognize five companies as leaders

The City of Knoxville's Purchasing Department honored five small, women- and minority-owned businesses for their customer service, entrepreneurship and leadership at the third annual Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE) Awards ceremony Wednesday.

The awards also saluted City departments and partners for their commitment to reaching out to DBEs with procurement contracts.

Every year, \$50 million or more is awarded in City contracts, and roughly 1 in 3 City dollars spent in competitively bid contracts went to small businesses in the last fiscal year.

"That's no accident," said Deputy Finance Director Boyce Evans. "We know that small businesses help drive our local economy, and the City's Purchasing Department is always eager to work with local DBEs to help them understand the specific contracts coming up for bid and what's required to bid."

"In addition, we try to suggest strategies that small mom-and-pop companies might be able to use to successfully

submit a bid. For example, they might look for opportunities to partner with other companies to team up on large, complicated projects."

Those honored are:

Arrow Crane Services, Rising Star Award

Arrow Crane was touted for its dependability and commitment to safety in its nomination: "It is a pleasure to be able to build a relationship with such an honest and hard-working company."

The Cor-Tenn Co., Above and Beyond Award

Cor-Tenn supplies many of the tools used by the City's Public Service Department, including rechargeable battery-operated lawn equipment like chainsaws and blowers. Its services have made City horticulture operations more eco-friendly and the equipment lighter and more durable.

Scientific Sales, Minority-owned Business of the Year Award

Scientific Sales supplies multiple City departments - hazardous waste cleanup materials used by the Fire Department,

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Firm to be evaluating possible new police and fire headquarters

By Mike Steely
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The search for a new location for the Knoxville Police and Fire Department headquarters is getting serious. The city council is being asked by the administration to authorize \$50,000 in a contract with Benefield Richters Company, Inc. to assist the city in evaluating the former St. Mary's Hospital.

The site of the hospital, now owned by Tennova, would allow both departments to relocate without a major building project and might also include moving the city courts there as well.

The city council agenda also includes an appeal from Ronnie Collins, resident of the Alice Bell/Spring Hill Neighborhood Association, regarding a planning commission approval. Collins is asking that the MPC's approval of the Use on

Review for expanding Legends on Washington Pike and McCampbell Drive be overturned. The planners voted 12-2 to approve the development.

The Transit Authority is asking to permit the mayor to apply for more than \$5.5 million in federal and state funds for KAT.

KAT is also asking for \$912,277 in an application to the state and federal governments for bus and bus facilities grant assistance with a city match of \$101,364.

The Office of Redevelopment is asking the council to approve the Industrial Development Board to negotiate with Orange Knoxville Cumberland LLC for in lieu of taxes for two Cumberland Avenue projects.

Councilman and Beer Board Chairman George Wallace is asking the

council to amend the city code relating to temporary serving area permits.

Also on the agenda are four pension requests, a request for approval of funds for the Knoxville Urban League's Shoes for School event, a request for funds for Wesley House Community Center to purchase camera and an access control system, a request for funds for the Tennessee Theater Foundation toward its upcoming 90th Anniversary Celebration, and a request for funds to go to Walk with Me to be used to expand the walking tour project.

Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders is asking that Councilwoman Stephanie Welch be approved to replace him on the City Pension Board.

The city council meets at 6 p.m. in the main auditorium of the City-County Building.

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