

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 2006, 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) 215-3860.

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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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.

citizens 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 can 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 Spivey is calling for applications for the one position the commission appoints. A non-voting ethics commission county commissioner serves as

adviser to the sheriff. (865) 215-2036. 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 618, City County Building, or call (865) 215-2005 or fax (865) 215-2000. You may also email mayorknox-county.org.

The commission will host 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.

Diversity Business Enterprise Awards recognize five companies as leaders

Firm to be evaluating possible new police and fire headquarters

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Review for expanding legal council to amend the city