



Knox County Health Department staff prep Monday morning before the drive-thru COVID-19 testing began.

County seeking solutions to overwhelming testing response

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When the Knox County Health Department began free coronavirus testing last Monday at the county's Engineering and Public Works Department, the response



cil voted Tuesday to have the Planning Commission conduct a "small area study" of the area affected by the May, 2019 recycling center fire. The study will look at the industrial area bounded by North Avenue, Central Street, Radford Place and Pershing Street.

The fire, at the Fort Loudoun Recycling Center, forced the evacuation of several nearby North Knoxville homes. Neighbors have been complaining about activity at that company before and after the huge fire there.

"What directly compels this study are conditions at the Fort Loudoun Waste and Recycling facility," Councilman Charles Thomas told The Focus.

"I am a strong supporter of

conducted its operations over a long period of time earns it no sympathy. This in an area that has needed attention for years, and I intend to see that it gets it," he said.

The council also voted to award \$642,750 in Historic Preservation Grant support for property improvements to eligible historic properties. Councilwoman Amelia Parker was the lone "No" vote on the resolution.

Smart street lights are part of a resolution passed in an agreement with Gresham Smith to design services along Middlebrook Pike. The \$495,347 was requested by the Department of Engineering.

Also approved was an

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