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Pilot Company and the Haslam family have donated \$5 million to East Tennessee Children's Hospital to renovate the Emergency Department at the hospital's main campus on Clinch Avenue in downtown Knoxville. Pictured from left with a rendering of the new Emergency Department are Crissy and Bill Haslam; Ann and Steve Bailey; Dee and Jimmy Haslam; and Natalie and Jim Haslam.

Pilot, Haslams donate \$5 million for new Emergency Department at ETCH

East Tennessee Children's Hospital's renovation scheduled to be complete next fall

Pilot Company and the Haslam family have donated \$5 million to East Tennessee Children's Hospital to renovate the Emergency Department at the hospital's main campus on Clinch Avenue in downtown

Knoxville. The facility will be named Pilot Emergency Care Center, in honor of past, present and future Pilot Company team members and their families.

In a statement, the Haslam family said, "East

Tennessee Children's Hospital is a beacon of hope in our community. The new Emergency Department will enhance the offerings and efficiency of the world-class children's hospital in the heart of Knoxville, as well as provide improved comfort and amenities to families seeking treatment. We are grateful to partner with East Tennessee Children's Hospital in setting

the standard for pediatric emergency medical care in our region."

The donation represents gifts from Pilot Company, Natalie and Jim Haslam; Dee and Jimmy Haslam; Crissy and Bill Haslam; and Ann and Steve Bailey.

More than 60,000 injured and sick children come through the Children's Hospital Emergency

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Board of Health members feel 'threatened' by video narrated by Jacobs

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Health's online meeting on Wednesday was business as usual as members recapped county statistics and case numbers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting took a bizarre turn when board member Maria Hurt voiced concerns about a video narrated by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and created by the group "Freedom Forward."

Hurt played the video, which was posted online days after the Board of Health Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16, to the board assembled last week.

The video appeared to target members of the Knox County Board of Health. The video was taken down shortly after it was posted on social media but Hurt and other board members said the damage was already done.

"My adult children have begged me to install a security system to make sure that I was safe," Hurt

said. "My neighbors, both Republicans and Democrats, patrol my neighborhood to make sure people aren't harassing us."

While Jacobs said he was sorry that board members felt threatened by the video and its dark and confrontational tone, he refused to apologize for his role in narrating it.

Board member Dr. Patrick O'Brien said that he found the video to be disturbing. "As a military officer who has sworn to defend this country, I felt threatened by what I saw," O'Brien said. "The division has got to stop. We're all in this together. We'll do what we can based on science."

"If others want to go some other way or want to do it shooting from the hip, so be it. You will reap what you sow."

The video shows news clips of looting and protests from other cities across the country and states that appointed bodies like boards of

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City Council applauds Board of Health efforts

By Mike Steely
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In a time when the county commission and Mayor Glenn Jacobs want to restrict what the Knox County Health Department and the Board of Health can do, the Knoxville City Council applauded both of those organizations by resolution Tuesday evening.

The motion by Councilwoman Lauren Rider, who was joined by several other members as sponsors, applauds the board and the health department for their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Rider disputed the "naysayers" and thanked the Board of Health for their time, effort and expertise. Mayor Indya Kincannon cited three new deaths last Monday and an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases locally.

The resolution, which passed unanimously, reads: "The Knox County Health Department has worked tirelessly to implement testing, contract tracing, education, and guidance for the community aimed at protecting the health of the public."

safety of the citizens of the county."

The Knoxville Police Department stepped up recently to announce it would enforce the Board of Health and health department regulations as needed by those bodies. The Knox County Sheriff's Department has shown no statement or effort to enforce the COVID-19 local regulations.

A motion to place a "citizen" as a voting member of the Board of Health is on the agenda of the Knox County Commission today as well as a resolution to limit the powers of that board and make any decision they reach subject to the approval of Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.

Jacobs has voted "No" on every regulation the Board of Health has passed, including a mask mandate, social distancing, and curfews for bars and restaurants. The commission resolution would remove "regulation" from the health body and add "recommendations." The resolution would also place Knox County under the state mandate under which most rural counties currently operate.

Knox County is one of only eight counties in the state with its own health department and, by edicts from the governor, may set more restrictive measures than the state mandate.



County Commissioner Carson Dailey, third from right, prepares to cut the ribbon at the new Seymour Fire Station. The Volunteer Fire Department there covers a 118-square mile area including portions of Knox, Blount and Sevier counties.

Seymour VFD dedicates a new fire station

By Mike Steely
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Since 1971 the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department has served homes and businesses in their growing community. The department responds to calls in Knox, Blount and Sevier counties because all three county borders meet there.

SVFD began with 12 volunteer firefighters, a new fire engine, and 24 calls during its first year.

Nowadays the volunteer department is growing with its community, responding to more than 1,700 calls a year. The department responds to emergency medical, fire-related and hazardous material service calls as well as offering the general public

educational programs and smoke alarm installation or car seat inspections by appointment.

Last Monday morning the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department cut the ribbon on Fire Station No. 2, located at 7915 Chapman Highway. The department's expansion was needed to meet the growing

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