

Resolution 2020-D Condemning Threats or Use of Violence

Whereas the various governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee, have been faced with unprecedented challenges in combating COVID-19; and

Whereas members of these governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee have striven in good faith to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities; and

Whereas members of the public, as well as members of the various governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee do not always agree regarding the proper policies to enact or procedures to follow to combat COVID-19; and

Whereas the various governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee nevertheless attempt to conduct their debate and carry out their actions with sensitivity towards the needs of all members of the community; and

Whereas the rights of peaceful protest and dissent are protected by the Constitutions of the United States and Tennessee through an individual's rights of freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and petitioning the Government concerning grievances; and

Whereas certain threats of violence have been made against members of the Knox County Commission, Knox County Board of Health, and perhaps other various governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee; and

Whereas these threats of violence are considered criminal activity; and

Whereas these actions take the focus of the various governing and policy-making bodies in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee, away from a safe and civil dialogue on issues of importance to our county, and from their ability to carry out their important jobs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Knox County Board of Health—

(1) strongly condemns any threat or use of violence against any member of a governing or policy-making body in Knox County, Tennessee, as well as the Employees and Officials of Knox County, Tennessee, or against any similar official of the state or federal governments;

(2) recognizes that violent opportunists use the cover of legitimate protest or dissent by their fellow citizens to sow chaos;

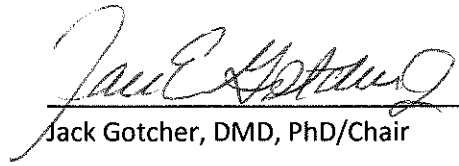
(3) recognizes that while our opinions may differ, we are primarily concerned with the safety and welfare of the residents of Knox County, the State of Tennessee, and the Nation;

(4) expresses that those responsible for any threats or use of violence be held criminally responsible for their actions.

This Resolution shall be in effect upon its passage the public health and welfare requiring it.

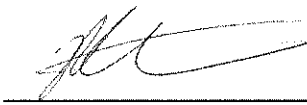
ADOPTED this day of January 13, 2021.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Jack Gotcher, DMD, PhD/Chair Date

ATTEST:



Martha Buchanan, MD/Secretary Date

1/14/2021