

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION
OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE,
EXPRESSING THE COMMISSION’S
COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING
THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDREN.**

RESOLUTION: R-23-9-904

REQUESTED BY: COMMISSIONER LEE

PREPARED BY: COMMISSIONER LEE

**APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS: _____
DIRECTOR OF LAW**

**APPROVED: _____
DATE**

**VETOED: _____
DATE**

**VETO
OVERRIDE: _____
DATE**

**MINUTE
BOOK _____ PAGE _____**

WHEREAS, the future of Knox County, Tennessee relies on the health and wellbeing of its children and young people; and

WHEREAS, children are our greatest treasure, and our most vulnerable population. We must always weigh the risk of harm to children in public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, we value integrity and excellence and will not trade the innocence of children for other governmental goals; and

WHEREAS, protecting the innocence of children should be an issue of concern for all adults; and

WHEREAS, adults and children are increasingly over-sexualized in our nation, state, and county; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent Tennessee Department of Health report titled “Sexual Violence” there were 1,798 counts of sexual assault victims in Knox County from 2016 to 2020 with 944 of those cases (52.5%) being under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the average age of a child sold for sex is 13 years old and human trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal industry; and

WHEREAS, the exposure to and normalization of sexualized behaviors reduces children’s inhibitions and ability to protect themselves from the sexual advances of others; and

WHEREAS, children learn from observing and subsequently acting out the behaviors they have observed. Children who have observed sexualized behaviors or who have been the victim of sexual assault may act out with other children at home or school, which may lead to additional child victims; and

WHEREAS, the normalization of sexualized behaviors and content to children is not in the long-term interest of children or society. Wholesome, good, and honorable content and activities should be promoted to children instead.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF KNOX COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

The Knox County Board of Commissioners is committed to protecting the innocence of children, and to cultivating healthy children, families, communities, and institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no county staff or resources shall be allocated to activities, programs, events, content, or institutions which support, normalize, or encourage the sexualization of children and youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board encourages individuals and communities to promote the good and the honorable to children rather than the normalization of sexual behaviors, protecting the health and wellbeing of our children and the future of our county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any notifications are to be made to effectuate this Resolution, then the County Clerk is hereby requested to forward a copy of this Resolution to the proper authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is to take effect from and after its passage, as provided by the Charter of Knox County, Tennessee, the public welfare requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Commission Date

County Clerk Date

Approved: _____
County Mayor Date

Vetoed: _____
County Mayor Date