

REPORT TO
THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING BREACHES OF PRIVACY
AT THE KNOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ADDENDUM

Prepared and submitted by:

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August 29, 2025

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At the Board of Supervisors' meeting of August 27, 2025, Special County Attorney David D. Begley learned that Donna Hays voluntarily quit her employment with the Knox County Sheriff's department on September 13, 2024.

As the immediate supervisor of Donna Hays, Sheriff Don Henery had a duty to immediately contact Applied Connective and terminate the use of her computer credentials. He did not do so. This was wrong. The Sheriff failed to act when he had a duty to do so. The County's Employee Handbook prohibits the unauthorized use of county property.

An unknown person in the Sheriff's department continued to use the computer credentials of Donna Hays until Supervisor Marty O'Connor, as a corrective action, telephoned Applied Connective and terminated them on August 27, 2025.

For purposes of this report, I will assume that Donna Hays did not access the county's computer system after her separation.

There are two remaining scenarios here. The benign explanation is that the "Donna Hays" computer credentials were passed on to another authorized employee. The name of Donna Hays, however, should have been completely removed from the computer system. All authorized computer users should only use the system using their own real names.

The other explanation is that someone in the Sheriff's department used the name of Donna Hays to mask and hide who was actually accessing the County's video and audio computer system. That would have been a devious deception designed to hide eavesdropping and spying on the County Board of Supervisors and other persons using the Board's meeting room.

Dated this 29th day of August, 2025.

Special Knox County Attorney

By: /s/ David D. Begley