June 15, 2020

**KPH Statement on Racism, Inequity and Non-Violence**

Knox Public Health is committed to supporting and promoting the health of all Knox County residents and works towards allowing each resident to experience optimal health and a safe environment. The events that have unfolded over the past few weeks are a reflection of systems that we realize are broken, and that have been for some time. Optimal health and a safe environment should be defined as the ability of all residents to be treated equally, without prejudice and in a non-violent manner.

Now more than ever, our community including Knox Public Health needs to develop and implement policies and practices that ensure the conditions in which all people can be healthy and thrive. Racism and inequity directly affect all aspects of health and is therefore a public health issue. Knox Public Health commits to listening, learning and using our knowledge and expertise to seek innovative solutions that address inequities and builds a strong, healthy, thriving and safe community.

Knox Public Health advocates for equality, we encourage people to call for change, participate in their communities, and exercise their right to vote. We support all members of our community in making their voices heard at all levels. Every Knox County resident must all examine our personal efforts to remedy injustice; we must listen to each other; we must work together; and we must continue to advocate that our leaders and policy makers take action.