

Subj: **Quote in today's paper Mayor's office**  
Date: 5/21/2008 10:32:28 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [LewisKnox](mailto:LewisKnox)  
To: [mike.ragsdale@knoxcounty.org](mailto:mike.ragsdale@knoxcounty.org), [mike.arms@knoxcounty.org](mailto:mike.arms@knoxcounty.org), [john.troyer@knoxcounty.org](mailto:john.troyer@knoxcounty.org),  
[dwight.vandevate@knoxcounty.org](mailto:dwight.vandevate@knoxcounty.org), [richard.walls@knoxcounty.org](mailto:richard.walls@knoxcounty.org), [hugh.holt@knoxcounty.org](mailto:hugh.holt@knoxcounty.org)  
CC: [bakers@knoxnews.com](mailto:bakers@knoxnews.com)

Mayor Ragsdale

The following quote was attributed to your office and I assume it was from Mr. Van de Vate in today's News Sentinel....."Officials from the mayor's office would like Walls to look into all the purchases. For example, they point to the April purchasing-card statement, which shows almost \$690,000 in charges throughout Knox County government. Those charges include payments to Party City, Things Remembered, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sports Treasures, Target, Ski-Scuba Center, storage units and numerous hotel stays."

Mayor, it is YOUR responsibility to assure that Knox County purchasing procedures and Code are followed prior to payment. Per Charter Section 3.03, your primary job is the chief fiscal officer of the county. You brought the P Card program to Knox County and you are not administering it properly. This program administered by you has not saved us anything and has cost you much respect and confidence through out the county. You said that you have put a CPA on your finance staff as chief compliance officer of the program and still questionable expenditures that you identified are paid and you have the audacity to ask the internal auditor to investigate these items. As in every business and branch of government, the executive branch is supposed to prevent these things from happening. You sir are the first line of defense. These items should have not be paid by you and you or your staff should investigate. You promised us last July 7th that this would not happen again and if it did people would be fired. One of the problems is that you have the full amount of the credit card bill taken out of the county checking account prior to proper approvals and then nothing happens.

I hope you and your finance office investigates and pursues anything that is questionable and collects any amounts that are questionable. Maybe it is time we go back to purchase orders and you signing the checks until you get this under control. Lewis Cosby

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