

I was born in Knox County and have lived here my entire life. My grandparents bought agricultural land in 1953, that I now live on, in Powell. I have lived on the same street since 1993 and have seen many drastic changes in my community over those 31 years. Powell \*was\* rural. Powell \*was\* a farming community. My grandparents chose the area because it was a rural farming community. I chose to stay on the same property \*because\* it was a rural farming community. But because of exploding growth, farming in Powell has become difficult. It is no longer the type of area I chose.

Extreme growth has caused light pollution, noise pollution, air pollution, higher crime, flooding and erosion, excessive traffic, overcrowded schools, and a crumbling infrastructure. I work for Knox County Schools, and the schools in the area CAN NOT handle more students. The roads are not equipped for more traffic. The utilities are not prepared for more growth. Emergency services are not prepared for more growth. Hospitals and doctor's offices are not prepared for more growth. Say NO.

I am concerned about other areas in Knox County, as well. For example, East Knoxville is still currently a farming community, but the majority of that area is included in the "planned growth" zone. Will it be destroyed by cheaply built homes, with no supporting infrastructure like Powell was? The current plan includes large areas of "planned growth," swallowing up over 9,000 acres of farmland. Tennessee's State seal still includes Agriculture... did we forget that?? Vote no. Vote for infrastructure BEFORE any growth at all. Take care of the current residents first!!

I'm also quite concerned that this meeting wasn't posted on the February agenda until late on February 2nd and is scheduled for the middle of the workday on a Thursday, with only 6 days notice for those working during the week to request time off so that they can attend. It's almost like someone doesn't want residents to have a chance to speak out against this... interesting.