

## **Johnson City Ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in South for Economic Development Performance**

### **Evaluation by *Southern Business and Development Magazine***

**July 25, 2008** — *Southern Business and Development Magazine* has released its “Best 250 Places in the South to Locate Your Company” evaluation in commemoration of the magazine’s 15<sup>th</sup> year of publication. Based upon data from 1993 – 2007, Johnson City, Tennessee ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the Mid Market classification, an extremely commendable ranking.

Ranked in the publication are the top 100 Major Markets (750,000 in population or more), the top 50 Mid Markets (250,000 – 749,999) and the top 100 Small Markets (under 250,000). Communities are ranked by the number of economic development projects creating more than 200 jobs.

Several Tennessee communities made the Top 250 rankings. In the Major Market category, Memphis ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and Nashville 21<sup>st</sup>. In the Mid Market classification, Johnson City ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, Knoxville 17<sup>th</sup>, Chattanooga 32<sup>nd</sup>, Clinton (Knoxville MSA) 33<sup>rd</sup>, Clarksville 37<sup>th</sup>, and Kingsport, 42<sup>nd</sup>. Both Bristol ranked 54<sup>th</sup> and Morristown ranked 61<sup>st</sup> finished just outside the Top 50 Mid Market list.

SB&D Magazine publisher, Michael Randle stated “Companies that want to locate in the South prefer to do business with winners, or those who have done it before. The 250 markets profiled in this issue are indeed winners over the course of 15 years of economic development in the South.”

P.C. Snapp, Executive Director of the Johnson City, Jonesborough, Washington County Economic Development Board had several thoughts on the rankings. “It is extremely pleasing to see Johnson City ranked highly among its peer communities in the South as well as the strong rankings and recognition for communities throughout East Tennessee. Johnson City, Jonesborough and Washington County public officials as well as the entire community deserve credit for creating a positive business climate and willingness to aggressively pursue new business activity. The evaluation using a 15-year time interval is valuable as it shows long term success in contrast to some ratings that only consider one or two years.”

Snapp is also confident the momentum generated from Volkswagen’s recent decision to locate a major facility in Chattanooga will be a boon for all of East Tennessee’s recruiting efforts. “Koyo and Nakatetsu conducted an exhaustive site selection search prior to choosing Washington County and our area has proven its value to the automotive sector through the success of both companies. We have a proven track record from which to recruit.”