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Honorable Mayor Witt and City Council:

My name is Abbie Chasteen and I am honored to submit my name as a candidate for the District 14 City Council seat. I am a native and lifelong resident of Columbia County and have resided in District 14 since 2008. I am community minded and strongly believe that in order for Lake City to remain a functional municipality it is going to take unity and inclusion to move forward. I have a track record of being fair, trustworthy, and having a voice of reason. I believe one of my greatest attributes is the love that I have for Lake City and my desire to do all that I can to help make it a great place to live, work, and play.

I am a graduate of Columbia High School, Lake City Community College, and Saint Leo University where I earned my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. My family has owned and operated a restaurant business in Lake City my entire life which has provided me with the opportunity to build and foster relationships, as well as establish and maintain a strong work ethic, drive, and sense of community.

I was employed with the Columbia County School System from 2006-2012 where I taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Westside Elementary. As an educator, my desire for continuous improvement thrived and it is where I learned to be an excellent listener and problem solver. During my time as a teacher, I served on various committees within the school, planned school wide events, and served as team leader for my grade level.

In July 2012, I was hired as the Marketing Director for The Lake City – Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and the coordinator for The Ichetucknee Partnership. During my time at the Chamber, I worked alongside many leaders in our community and helped to promote our city, our county, our local businesses, and our Chamber. As Marketing Director, I was involved in all aspects of the Chamber. My duties included planning community events alongside the City of Lake City, such as Trunk or Treat, Snow Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, creating sponsorship opportunities for additional revenue, organizing volunteer opportunities, working closely with business owners to promote their companies through networking opportunities, and assisting with programs such as Dale Carnegie and Leadership Lake City (both of which I completed). While at the Chamber I was fortunate to fill the Chamber seat on the CRA board, which much like I expect of the City Council, required me to work closely with diverse individuals with a common goal of making Lake City a better place. The Chamber allowed me to learn, grow and have a new appreciation for the place that I always called home, while developing many of the

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skills that I believe would serve me well on the Council, including planning for growth and the future, educating myself and becoming knowledgeable on issues that were previously unfamiliar to me, and familiarity with parliamentary procedure.

Currently I serve as the Marketing and Public Relations director for a local law firm. My duties include working with our attorneys and staff to develop ideas to generate new business opportunities, build and foster relationships with clients, maintain a positive brand reputation, and support the overall growth and success of the firm. Our firm was founded by Lake City natives and we strive to maintain a strong connection to our community in all that we do.

My experiences of being raised in the restaurant business, teaching school, and marketing for the Chamber and law firm have all afforded me with a variety of opportunities that I feel would benefit me in this position. I have built lasting relationships with all types of people, taught the future leaders of our great city, and worked with and learned from the sharpest business minds in our community. I am not a lifelong politician or someone who is looking to add to my resume. I am a concerned citizen who feels she can make a difference in the lives and businesses in Lake City, Florida. Admittedly, I do not know everything there is to know about City government, but I am willing to work hard and learn while listening to my constituents to also act in the best interest of the City and its residents. I can't promise I will be able to fix all of the problems that we are experiencing. What I will promise is that I will give it 100%.

I am confident that I have the ability, temperament, and desire to serve the City of Lake City with excellence. I am excited about the possibility to serve my community. Whoever is selected for this role has the chance to make a difference in the future of Lake City that will be felt for years to come. I look forward to speaking with the Council about this opportunity to serve our great city.

Sincerely,



Abbie E. Chasteen