Dr. Chase Spears Written Statement for Lansing BZA Application January 2, 2025

1. Qualifications for the position.

As a Lansing resident and homeowner, I am deeply invested in our community's success. After retiring from a 20-year military career, my wife and I chose Lansing as our home, and recognize the value of contributing to the community where we live.

To better understand local governance and serve effectively, I completed the Lansing Citizens Academy and the Leavenworth Sheriff's Department Citizens Academy in 2024.

In addition to my community involvement, I bring professional expertise in policy creation, implementation, and enforcement. During my military career, I drafted policies as a fellow at the U.S. Army Public Affairs Center and as a unit commander. In every leadership role, I enforced policies with diligence and integrity. My doctoral dissertation at Kansas State University—a policy analysis—examined the relationship between institutional policy and culture, showcasing my ability to bridge complex theoretical and practical considerations.

2. Personal philosophy of the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals and development in Lansing.

The purpose of zoning—and all government policy—is to uphold ordered liberty. Zoning regulations should strike a balance between sensible governance, respect for property owners' desires, and consistent enforcement. This approach ensures fairness and promotes a thriving, well-organized community.

3. Desired accomplishments as a Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals member.

My aim is that serving on the BZA will allow me to grow as a citizen by furthering my understanding of civic management, to better know the residents for whom this city government exists, and contribute to a positive quality of life within the city limits. Serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals presents an opportunity to deepen my understanding of civic management, foster connections with Lansing residents, and contribute to enhancing the city's quality of life. My goal is to ensure that zoning decisions reflect the best interests of the community through a forward-thinking perspective that respects tradition.

4. Willingness to attend meetings.

I am fully committed to attending meetings, provided they are scheduled with reasonable notice. This ensures I can honor other commitments without the need for last-minute cancellations, reflecting my dedication to serving the Board and the community with reliability and respect.