

City of Asheville

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Application Form

### APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): City Council  
Your name: Keith V. Blankenship Home Phone #: 828-423-8908  
Street address: 27 Cedar St. City: Asheville Zip Code: 28803  
Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: Comics NOW Inc.  
Your position: Warehouse Manager Office Phone #: 828-423-8908  
Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race White \* Sex Male \* Age 45 \*  
Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? (Yes) or No  
Residence location (check one): Central \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ South  East \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you become aware of the opening? \_\_\_\_\_ Webpage \_\_\_\_\_ Current Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ eNews \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Government Channel \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper  Radio \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise:  
 Legal  Technical \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Community Contacts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Management (Financial)  Business Management (Operational)  Public Speaking \_\_\_\_\_

I have an AAS degree in Chemical Engineering, BA in Business Administration and an MBA. I have taught business at the undergraduate level for Montreat College. I have two research patents in my name. I have managed restaurants, retail stores, and distribution facilities. This experience has developed my skills for dealing with the problems and concerns of individual citizens. I have had many years of research experience which has honed my critical thinking and problem solving skills. These are skills which are sorely needed when serving the populace of a great city like Asheville.

**Return to:** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maggie Burleson, City Clerk  
Post Office Box 7148 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov  
Telephone: 259-5601 Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax #: 259-5499

\* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

**Keith V. Blankenship, MBA**  
27 Cedar St.  
Asheville, NC 28803, USA  
Cell: (828) 423-8908  
E-Mail: [keithblankenship@ltdkate.com](mailto:keithblankenship@ltdkate.com)

## **Objective**

I am applying for the vacant seat on the Asheville City Council.

## **Summary of Qualifications**

- 3 years Teaching Undergraduate accelerated courses Intro to Business, Principles of Management, Business Ethics and orientation courses for beginning students.
- Around 10 years direct management experience.
- 14 years experience in research, which has honed my critical thinking skills, problem solving ability, and insights into crisis management.
- Around 20-some years experience in administrative functions and business administration/management.
- Around 20-some years experience with effective communication and team-building skills.

## **Employment History**

**Warehouse Manager** (2004-Present)  
Comics NOW, Inc. Fairview, NC

**Video Store Asst. Manager** (2003-2004)  
Blockbuster Video Asheville, NC

**Academic Advisor / Adjunct Business Faculty** (2000 - 2003)  
Montreat College School for Professional and Adult Studies, Asheville, NC

**Photo Lab Manager** (1999 - 2000)  
Eckerd's Express Photo Lab, Asheville, NC

**Senior Research Technician** (1988 - 1999)  
BASF Corp. Fibers Division, Enka, NC

**Research Technician** (1986 - 1988)  
Chemtronics, Swannanoa, NC

**Lab Technician** (1985 - 1986)  
Asheville Production Finishing, Asheville, NC

**Assistant Manager** (1979 - 1985)  
KFC, Showbiz Pizza, & Godfathers Pizza, Asheville, NC

## **Academic & Professional Credentials**

Montreat College, Asheville, NC ♦ **MBA** ♦ Degree: 2000; GPA: 3.53

Montreat College, Asheville, NC ♦ **BBA** ♦ Degree: 1998; GPA: 3.40

Asheville Buncombe Technical College, Asheville, NC ♦ **AAS Chemical Engineering** ♦ Degree: 1983

2 **US Patents** within the Fibers Industry ♦ Patent #'s 6,248,696 & 6,413,071

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

A) I have lived in Asheville my whole life. I have been married for 25 years and we have raised 2 children to adults and have 2 more we are raising now. My oldest daughter has given us 2 wonderful granddaughters. I look at the world we are living in today and want things to be better for them and all future generations. I am tired of just complaining about how things are and would like the opportunity to be part of the solution. I want to participate in making this city a better place for all future progeny.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

A) I am both a fiscal and social conservative.

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

A) Our fine city is growing at an astounding rate. I believe the City Council should be working on the infrastructure to handle our current growth. We also need to work on job development as well as job training for our citizens.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

A) I feel the most distinct problem facing Asheville is deciding our direction. The citizens of Asheville are being torn apart by ideology differences. I feel we can pull ourselves together and raise Asheville's overall standards just by working together.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

A) I would like to see wasteful spending reduced while giving the citizenry much needed tax relief.

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