

TESTIMONY

NAMING OF K-7 IN LANSING TO HONOR MAYOR KENNETH W. BERNARD 2015 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

I am Lansing City Administrator Michael W. Smith and I submit this written testimony supporting the bill renaming the portion of K-7 Highway through Lansing as “Kenneth W. Bernard Highway.”

Kenneth W. Bernard was elected Mayor of Lansing and held office for 29 years, before he retired in January 2013.

Mayor Bernard lived for the city of Lansing. He understood the importance of high public image. Through his time as Mayor, Lansing continued to grow into a proactive community with more than 11,000 citizens. Today, Lansing features many infrastructure improvements, including the K-7/Main Street Enhancement Project, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility, citywide trails system, and a 127-acre park which bears his name – Kenneth W. Bernard Community Park. In 2007, *Money Magazine* named Lansing as one of the top 100 places to live. This honor and recognition would not have been possible without Mayor Bernard’s leadership and vision.

He attended all local events, from City little league games to state legislative breakfasts. He championed issues which resulted in upgrades for citizens – that’s why the new 127-acre city park was named after him. Mayor Bernard started the city sidewalk program and citywide trail system – working hard on funding both. He cared about children – The Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund, which he started and continues to this day, provides toys, clothing, and food to low-income families every year in the Lansing area. He also helped coordinate the Lansing Correctional Facility’s Bicycle program, which inmates build and repair bikes for local children.

Mayor Bernard was at City Hall every morning before any other employee. He often spent his own money to attend meetings and events where it was important for Lansing to be represented. When the City needed something, it was often Mayor Bernard who led efforts to make sure things got done.

It is for these reasons and more that I support renaming of K-7 Highway through Lansing