



**City of Venice
City Manager's Report
Agenda Item Request**

DATE: September 9, 2016

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Mark Cervasio, Airport Director

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: September 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Approve Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement between the City of Venice and Skydive Venice Beach, Inc.

Background:

In 2009, the City of Venice received a proposal from the operator of Skydive Venice Beach, Inc. to establish a skydiving operation with a Parachute Drop Zone (PDZ) at Venice Municipal Airport (VNC). The operator proposes to utilize one (1) single-engine aircraft to drop up to two (2) tandem jumpers at one time. The business would be open seven (7) days per week throughout the year, but activity would vary based on demand, weather and wind conditions.

In June 2015, the FAA directed the City to identify a parachute landing area and develop the necessary documents in order to integrate skydiving activities at Venice Municipal Airport and to provide access to the skydiving operator to commence operations.

Following a safety analysis that was performed by Quadrex Aviation on behalf of the City, on August 25, 2015, City Council approved submittal of three (3) potential Parachute Drop Zones (Drop Zones) to FAA for consideration.

In December 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) performed an on-site Flight Risk Assessment, which included an evaluation of the proposed Drop Zones and provided recommendations for the City to follow as preparations were made for the commencement of skydiving activities.

Staff worked with the FAA and the skydiving operator to develop a Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement to facilitate use of undeveloped areas of the Airport for a Parachute Drop Zone and an Alternate Parachute Drop Zone to be used when the (primary) Drop Zone is not available.

Since FAA guidance and grant assurances require that access to the Airport be provided for skydiving as a recognized aeronautical activity, approval of the proposed Access Agreement will assist the City in maintaining compliance with that agency.

Requested Action:

Staff requests that City Council approve the proposed Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement.

City Attorney:

The City Attorney's office has reviewed and approved the proposed Access Agreement.

Risk Management:

The Director of Administrative Services has reviewed and approved the proposed Access Agreement.

Federal Aviation Administration:

The FAA has been provided with an opportunity to review the proposed Access Agreement. No comments have been received.

Attachments:

Proposed Agreement