



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

DATE: April 4, 2017

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Mark Cervasio, Airport Director 

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 11, 2017

SUBJECT: Termination of 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.

Since Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance and grant assurances require that access to airports be provided for skydiving as a recognized aeronautical activity, in December 2015, the FAA performed an on-site evaluation of proposed PDZs and provided recommendations for the City to follow as preparations were made for the commencement of skydiving activities.

Following those guidelines, staff worked with the FAA and the skydiving operator to develop a Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement (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.

On September 27, 2016, City Council approved entering into an Access Agreement with Skydive Venice Beach, Inc., and skydiving operations commenced on December 17, 2016.

Since commencing operations, Skydive Venice Beach, Inc. has committed a number of violations of the Access Agreement, which include those detailed in the attached Notice of Violation and Default dated March 7, 2017, as well as subsequent violations on March 11, 2017 (off-airport landing near Sharky's on the Pier) and March 25, 2017 (off-Drop Zone landing on the airport).

On April 4, 2017, Skydive Venice Beach, Inc. was notified the operator must immediately suspend operations, pending City Council action.

Requested Action:

Staff requests City Council approval to terminate the Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement between the City of Venice and Skydive Venice Beach, Inc.

City Attorney:

The City Attorney's office prepared the proposed Access Agreement termination letter.

Attachments:

Access Agreement between the City of Venice and Skydive Venice Beach, Inc.

Notice of Violation and Default

Notice of Suspension of Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement

Draft Notice of Termination of Commercial Skydiving Parachute Drop Zone Access Agreement