

May 6, 2012

To: Yolo County Board of Supervisors  
Yolo County Planning Dept.  
Yolo County Airport Manager

I am writing this letter in support of Ray Ferrell's camping and food use permit applications for Skydance Skydiving.

I attended the May 2<sup>nd</sup> West Plainfield Advisory Committee meeting where the proposed permits were discussed by the board and general public. I have regularly attended these meetings for the past year and am continually astonished and disappointed by many West Plainfield area residents' false allegations, remarks and general refusal to be supportive of airport businesses and activities. I leave every single one in utter disbelief over the many comments from these residents who chose to buy property next to an airport.

Please allow me shed some light on Skydance Skydiving and its owner, Ray Ferrell, whom I've personally known for at least 20 years.

I grew up in the West Plainfield area and have enjoyed many aspects of this parachuting business throughout my life. I loved watching the jumpers as a child, participated in the sport as a young adult, and have enjoyed taking my kids to watch the parachutists at many of the Skydance events where people come from all over to participate in this unique activity.

Ray has done an outstanding job running this business. Skydance has thrived through a difficult economy and continues to bring much needed revenue to Yolo County as well as area businesses during a time when many have faltered. He provides a safe operation for his patrons as is evident by his record. Customers of Skydance and every resident around the airport can attest to the fact that the necessity of law enforcement at this operation has been next to nil. The clientele of this business, ranging anywhere from U.C.D. students to affluent business people coming from around the world, are certainly not the type who would "defacate" on airport land, as was suggested by an area resident during the last meeting. In a nutshell, this business is a terrific asset to our county and should be treated, protected and supported as such.

The permits applied for are not an indication of any changes or additions to Skydance operations. This is simply the business owner's attempt to comply with regulations after issues surfaced about the occasional overnight camping during Skydance events and the food provided for its patrons. It's unfortunate that Ray has been required to apply for permits to allow his customers to do the very same as what is allowed at Osh Kosh, Sun n Fun, and literally thousands of similar events that occur every weekend all over the country where people camp underneath their airplane wing on airport property, most likely unpermitted.

I urge you to issue the permits applied for. This business is a terrific asset to Yolo County and I personally would be terribly disappointed to lose Skydance Skydiving to another area more willing to work with them. The number of people affected as a result of this loss, which would include employees,

skydiving enthusiasts, spectators and local businesses would by far outweigh the few disgruntled residents who chose to live near this established business of over 25 years. If you want an idea of what people have to say about the way this parachuting operation is run, just take a look at Skydance's reviews on Yelp.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Cross,