

# **Alligator, Inc.**

# **GUT Works, LLC**

**Flight Test Engineering Consultants**

**Premier Builder Assist Center and Aircraft Exporter**

1 May 2009

City of Lawrence, Kansas  
6 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Attn: Charles Soules, Airport Manager  
Lawrence Aviation Advisory Board

Ref: Kansas Sky Dive Center Proposal

Dear Mr. Soules,

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May Airport Advisory Board meeting you will be considering a proposal to establish the Kansas Skydive Center at the Lawrence airport. This proposal raises numerous issues in my mind that need to be addressed prior to acceptance.

This operator needs to be aware of, and comply with all of the currently established rules at the airport. Of particular concern are the rules regarding insurance. They intend to offer, among other services, tandem jump packages. My insurance agent has advised me that insurance for tandem jump skydive operations is virtually impossible to obtain. The City needs to verify that there is adequate liability insurance obtained as a result of these operations, and verifies that the coverage includes the City as an additional insured. There should be no consideration to waiving this requirement of the airport rules.

Parachute jump operations inside the Lawrence Airport Control Zone are the most concerning aspect of their proposal. The Control Zone is approximately 10 Miles in diameter centered on the airport. Inside this area are conducted the airport operations. Aircraft operators expect all traffic to conform to the normal traffic patterns. Parachute jump operations by their nature cannot conform to these traffic patterns. Most pilots are wary of parachute jumping operations, and will give these areas a wide berth because of the obvious safety implications. Jump operations inside the control zone should be prohibited by the airport, as they will negatively impact the safety of flights into the Lawrence Airport. Many corporate airplane operators will avoid airports with jump operations. This will negatively impact my business, and I believe will negatively impact the Lawrence airport and thus the Lawrence community that relies on the airport.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ronald R.L. Renz  
Manager Gut Works, LLC.  
President Alligator, Inc.



May 6, 2009

Chuck Soules  
City of Lawrence  
6<sup>th</sup> & Mass.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Ref: Kansas Skydive Center business proposal

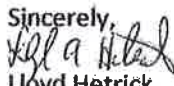
Dear Mr. Soules,

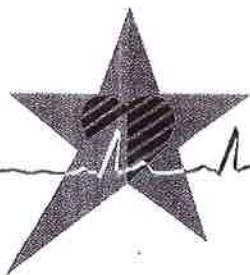
This letter is in reference to the proposal from Kansas Skydive Center to allow parachute operations at the Lawrence Municipal Airport. As the city of Lawrence FBO, this operation would be devastating to our business. The FAA has established an airport traffic control area with a 5 mile radius from the center of the airport that requires certain procedures to be followed to help assure the safety of all aircraft.

It would be safe to say that many corporate jet traffic would not even consider making Lawrence their destination airport if they have to maneuver around parachutes in the air. Our business relies heavily on corporate business travel for fuel sales. A parachuting operation would also affect the safety of our student pilots in our flight school operation.

The Lawrence Municipal Airport plays a large role in enticing corporations to relocate or expand to Lawrence. If a corporation cannot utilize the airport safely this could cause them to look elsewhere.

I would strongly recommend that the City deny Kansas Skydive Center's business proposal to locate at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Sincerely,  
  
Lloyd Hetrick  
President



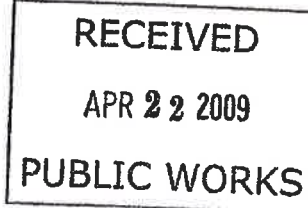
*Life Star*  
*Of Kansas*

**Emergency Dispatch 1.800.666.9111**

P.O. Box 19224 Topeka, Ks. 66619 Admin Phone 785.862.5433

April 20, 2009

Rob Chestnut, Mayor  
Lawrence City Hall  
PO Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044



Mayor Chestnut,

It has been brought to my attention that the Kansas Skydive Center has presented a proposal to locate a base of operations at the Lawrence Municipal Airport. This letter is to express our strong opposition to that proposal.

Life Star of Kansas is a not-for-profit, Kansas corporation providing critical care and emergency transport for the sick and injured in northeast Kansas since 1988. We are the area's only provider of this service, with the next closest aircraft being based in Osage City, KS, Harrisonville, MO and Blue Springs, MO. Our Lawrence aircraft has been based at the Lawrence airport for a number of years and responds to interhospital and scene requests for care and transport of critically ill and injured patients in Douglas, Jefferson, Franklin, Leavenworth, Johnson and other area counties. We rely on the ability to gain timely clearance from the airport in able to quickly and safely respond to area emergency needs.

We have experience operating in the vicinity of skydiving operations in Osage City. For the safety of the skydivers as well as our people we routinely delay any lift-off until all sky-divers are on the ground, a time that can be five minutes or longer. In Osage City this delay is not as critical as in Lawrence since the Osage City aircraft is not nearly as busy and the majority of the flights for that aircraft are for patients being transported from a controlled hospital environment under the direct care of a physician. Our Lawrence aircraft responds to a large number of scene (non-hospital) events, where time can be a much more critical factor in patient survival.

The sky-diving operation in Osage City is significantly different than the one being proposed in Lawrence. For one thing, sky-diving in Osage City only occurs on weekends and is not done year-round. The Lawrence operation will operate year-round, seven days per week. For another, the Osage City sky-divers were there before us. We opted to locate there, anyway, based on the high percentage of interhospital transports we do out of that base, as well as the relatively lower volume of flights done by that base. We have developed a good, working relationship with that sky-dive company that maintains safety for both operations through enhanced communications of drop zones and flight plans. It works, in part, due to the smaller nature of both operations. This would not be the case at Lawrence.

Suffice it to say that if a sky-diving operation is allowed to locate at the Lawrence Municipal Airport we will likely be required to look for another location for our Lawrence base. I simply cannot see a scenario where we can operate safely and optimally in the same airspace as a major sky-dive operation, as proposed.



**Life Star**  
**Of Kansas**

**Emergency Dispatch 1.800.666.9111**

P.O. Box 19224 Topeka, Ks. 66619 Admin Phone 785.862.5433

While I realize sky-diving is an attractive spectator and participant activity, it is also a difficult activity to safely co-exist with an operation like ours. While I wish the Kansas Skydive Center well, and while I have a number of friends who enjoy sky-diving, it is my sincere hope that they find their success somewhere other than at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. If I can provide additional information please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Greg Hildenbrand, FACHE, CMTE  
Executive Director  
Life Star of Kansas

Cc: David Corliss, City Manager  
Rick Bryant, Chair, Aviation Advisory Committee  
Chuck Soles, Airport Manager