


**From:** rc@robcrimmins.com   
**Subject:** request for notice of permanent ban  
**Date:** May 7, 2021 at 3:37 PM  
**To:** ben@skydivechesapeake.com  
**Cc:** chris@skydivechesapeake.com, max@skydivechesapeake.com, rbell@uspa.org, fin16sds@gmail.com, gooden82@hotmail.com



May 7, 2021

Skydive Chesapeake,

My original suspension was accompanied by an email and a formal [notice of suspension](#) dated April 1, 2021. One reason was cited. The email also stated that I would be on probation for six months following my thirty day suspension.

Friday, April 30, I sent an [email](#) that informed the drop zone owners that I would be returning in the near future, as the terms of the suspension allowed, and that I sought a meeting at which I might be informed of how to make my probation a success.

A few hours after sending the message Ben Harris called to inform me that I was permanently banned from the drop zone. He stated two reasons. The first was that I had informed the USPA and the FAA of safety concerns, one of which being an FAR violation. Of course, addressing [safety concerns](#) to any authority should not result in retaliation but it should be noted that USPA notification has been known by Harris since March 23, 2021, three days before I was suspended. The document listing those concerns was sent to John Williams, the drop zone's USPA Safety and Training Advisor on that date and Harris was copied on that email. Furthermore, in the meeting on March 27th at which I was informed of my suspension, Harris told me and the others at the meeting that he had sent the document that outlined my concerns to the USPA himself. This was appropriate given that he and I disagreed that the issues I raised deserved consideration. However, it seems he didn't actually forward the document that I prepared or he wouldn't have been surprised or offended that I had.

The other reason stated for the ban was that by offering my services to the airport owner I had somehow interfered with the drop zone's business. Since Harris has chosen to include his landlord in this matter, all concerned should know various facts and the attached documents are being provided for Mr. Gooden's edification.

My acquaintance with John Gooden, the owner of Ridgely Airpark, preceded the existence of Skydive Chesapeake and I am the one who originally facilitated their current relationship. I am a commercial building restorations consultant. My web site is [JVSBS.com](#). I am also an owner of a rental property. A few months ago Mr. Gooden, who is aware of both of these facts, asked me for assistance. The specific service he sought was one of property management and help with writing a lease for the drop zone. Other than his acceptance of a sample lease document and advice on commercial rental rates in Caroline County we've not worked on or discussed the matter. Until now, I've done nothing that could be considered contrary to Skydive Chesapeake's business interests.

Neither of the stated reasons for the permanent ban have anything to do with the ostensible reasons for the original suspension. They may however indicate the actual motivation for both actions.

The original suspension dated April 1, 2021 was accompanied by formal,

written notice, as was proper. According to your "[formal letter of suspension](#)" the USPA was notified of my suspension. In any event, as a USPA member, and as yours is an affiliated drop zone, written notice of such a serious and irrevocable action as permanent banishment is also necessary. Please provide formal, written notice of this action with the reasons for it.

Frankly, given these facts it seems that the permanent ban was not thought through. I ask that you reconsider it and admit to your errors.

Rob Crimmins  
USPA member 88930  
D-37708  
302-632-4972



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