



February 9, 2019

RE: SPEX-06-2018 Vickstrom Special Events Facility

To whom it may concern:

I am writing at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Vickstrom regarding their plans for establishment of a wedding venue service on their property in Caroline County.

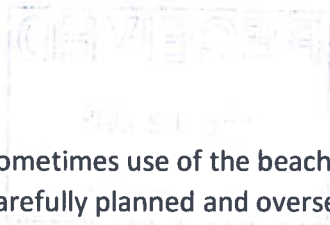
My relationship with Doug and Sharon Vickstrom is social in nature. We are not related, we have no mutual financial arrangements in place or in planning, nor are we obligated to one another in any manner. I do have, because of my interaction and experience with them, a very high level of respect and admiration for how they conduct themselves and the values by which they live. In the 14 years that I have known and observed them, they have always maintained the highest levels of integrity both personally and professionally.

Learning of their plans to conduct a wedding venue, I imagined the young couples experiencing what is for many, among the most memorable days of life. Knowing of Doug and Sharon's numerous skills and general attitude which would directly impact such a venture, I pictured the wonderful memories that would be made. It goes without noting, that the good will felt as a result would reflect not on their business only but upon the community as well.

I am sure that you can see why I was surprised that an objection would be raised to their plans and would agree to relay to you my observations and experience with them.

During the years that my wife and I have known Doug and Sharon, we have been in their home at numerous times for occasions small and large. Whether the visit involved a family dinner or a gathering of more than 200 for a day of activity, food and fun, Doug and Sharon were always very gracious hosts. Their planning was meticulous, and the execution of that plan was, for all that I knew, flawless. Plans included, without exception, cleanup and restoration of the site back to a state that would provide no clue that the event took place. While that is not uncommon for a dinner party, the same result for a gathering of hundreds is truly impressive.

At least four times I have participated in events at their home involving large numbers of people as high as more than 200. Consideration was always given to the variety of ages, their comfort and their safety. Doug and Sharon thought through such aspects as communication with guests about event plans, alternate plans in case of adverse weather, arrival procedure, orderly parking, organization of games and activities, set up of water stations and portable toilets. Plans for food and snacks varied but were always well thought out. There was always included in the planning persons with medical training who could respond to any emergency that may arise. They enlisted the help of responsible participants to direct parking, coordinate the flow of traffic graciously and to be aware of the movements of small children and others. The rural, "near-the-river" setting is picturesque, but it also warrants caution, particularly on behalf of those unaccustomed to the potential wildlife and water hazards that exist.



Sometimes use of the beach area was included; other times it was not. The things done were carefully planned and overseen.

Based upon my experience, I can envision only positive effects resulting from their operation of a wedding venue. The couples and their families will be well served for an affordable cost. Participants coming to the area would contribute positively to the local economy. Experiencing the beauty and hospitality offered, how could they do anything other than relay their satisfaction to family and friends?

Doug and Sharon invest themselves fully in whatever they do. That attitude is reflected in how they care for their home and property; it is reflected in how they conduct their business; it is reflected in how they treat their family, friends, associates and customers. In short, I have never known them to be anything other than a very positive contributing factor in whatever they are involved.

I am hopeful that those responsible for the permitting process will see this as the opportunity to positively impact the community that I believe it to be. If I may provide additional information or comment, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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