

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission



For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian Gilligan, Executive Director
773-686-3198 or 773-732-9322
bgilligan@ohare.com

ONCC Member Des Plaines Secures \$750,000 FAA Land Use Grant

(Des Plaines, IL) — September 14, 2006 — The City of Des Plaines has been awarded a \$750,000 grant for land use planning related to compatibility with O'Hare International Airport. The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) made its members aware of the FAA grant program last May and Des Plaines is the first member to qualify. In fact, the city is only the second municipality in the nation to receive this grant and it is the program's largest grant award to date.

With the intent to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise, the grant program announced earlier this year by the FAA is intended to help communities near major airports to design plans that reduce existing non-compatible land uses and prevent the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses.

Des Plaines officials intend to use the grant money to upgrade zoning ordinances and industrial design standards, as well as conduct some studies related to compatible land use as the O'Hare Modernization Program progresses. City officials say that the projects will aid in planning for the compatibility of industrial, residential, commercial, and mixed-use redevelopment with O'Hare Airport's future operations.

"The planned changes to O'Hare are already producing changes in Des Plaines with increased construction activity underway, especially industrial and hotel projects," said Des Plaines Mayor Anthony Arredia. "This grant will be a tremendous help as our city works to keep all new construction in the city compatible with the changing aircraft noise contours. I'm grateful to the ONCC for bringing this grant program to my attention."

"While the ONCC is focused on reducing aircraft noise at the points of impact through sound insulation and at its sources through technology, it's also extremely important that the land around O'Hare is used appropriately for purposes that are compatible with the noise contours," said ONCC Chair Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder. "This grant program is a tremendous addition to all the efforts directed at aircraft noise issues."

The ONCC continues to encourage and assist its members in applying for this grant program, which expires at the end of fiscal 2007. The ONCC has detailed information about the grant program on its Web site at www.oharenoise.org.

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The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission began working in 1996 to bring together the parties that are most able to reduce aircraft noise with representatives of communities affected by aircraft noise in a partnership to address jet noise at its impact and sources. The Commission's current membership includes the villages of Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bellwood, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Harwood Heights, Hoffman Estates, Maywood, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Palatine, River Grove, River Forest, Rosemont, Schaumburg and Stone Park and; the cities of Des Plaines, Northlake, Oak Park, Park Ridge, Rolling Meadows and Chicago; Cook County; and school districts 59 (Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect), 63 (Des Plaines, Niles, Morton Grove and Glenview), 80 (Norridge), 81 (Schiller Park), 84 (Franklin Park), 84½ (River Grove), 85½ (River Grove), 86 (Harwood Heights), 87 (Berkeley, Northlake, Bellwood), 88 (Bellwood, Melrose Park, Stone Park) 89 (Maywood, Melrose Park and Broadview), 214 (Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove), 234 (Norridge, Harwood Heights), 299 (Chicago Public Schools) and 401 (Elmwood Park). More information about the Commission, including its meeting schedule, can be found at www.oharenoise.org.

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