

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

Chicago Mayor Daley Congratulates O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission on Successful Sound Insulation Programs

Promises City's Continued Collaboration with Suburbs to Reduce Aircraft Noise as O'Hare Modernization Program Continues

Des Plaines, Ill., May 22, 2008 — Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley joined more than 160 City of Chicago, community and school district officials in Rosemont, Ill., on May 21 to recognize significant accomplishments of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) and address future roles and responsibilities under the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

"It's wonderful to see our success with sound insulation programs for homes and schools situated near O'Hare. The O'Hare School Sound Insulation program is the largest such program in the nation," noted Mayor Daley.

"With a spirit of collaboration and commitment to improving the quality of life for people who live near O'Hare, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission has achieved real and meaningful results for our communities," he continued.

Mayor Daley and Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, ONCC chairperson, each received an award created by noted artist and sculptor Joseph Burlini to commemorate the long-standing collaboration between the City of Chicago and suburban communities to mitigate aircraft noise.

Also recognized for more than 10 years of service as the City of Chicago's liaison to ONCC was Rita Athas, former deputy chief of staff for Mayor Daley and now executive director of World Business Chicago, an agency that promotes the region's economic interests.

"Aircraft noise is synonymous with O'Hare International Airport. But communities surrounding O'Hare are discovering compatible ways to live comfortably near this major economic hub," said Mayor Mulder.

To date, 115 schools and 6,100 homes in communities surrounding O'Hare International Airport have been sound insulated. ONCC has identified another 6,000 housing units that will be eligible for sound insulation work during the next several years.

(more)

Daley recognizes ONCC sound insulation programs/add 1

“We are in the process of deploying additional permanent noise monitors to capture aircraft noise events due to construction of new runways,” Mulder said. “ONCC will work aggressively to ensure that all homes and schools affected by O’Hare’s modernization will receive high quality insulation work.”

The O’Hare Sound Insulation Programs are funded 80 percent by the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program with a 20 percent match from the City of Chicago’s collection of Passenger Facility Charges. Thus far, over \$285 million has been spent on school sound insulation and \$200 million for residential sound insulation.

In 1996, Mayor Daley invited suburban mayors and school officials to begin constructive dialogue to reduce aircraft noise, following a successful pilot project to sound insulate ten Chicago homes near O’Hare airport.

ONCC officially began its work in 1997 with 17 municipalities and nine school districts. Since then, ONCC’s membership has more than doubled to 43 members in Cook and DuPage counties, including 27 communities, Cook County and 15 school districts.

Today, there are more than 110 active members working on various aircraft noise mitigation committees and projects. ONCC is comprised of three standing committees that direct funding for the school and home sound insulation programs and promote technological advancements to reduce aircraft noise.

ONCC relies on precise noise contour mapping as it analyzes areas likely to be affected by aircraft noise. Currently, ONCC is reviewing the OMP Full Build Out Noise Contour map to identify eligible homes and schools for sound insulation work.

Also, a highly sophisticated Airport Noise Management System generates real-time reports of aircraft noise incidents. The City of Chicago noise hotline tracks aircraft noise complaints. In 2007, these complaints fell for the ninth consecutive year to just 1,248 calls compared to a high of 25,773 in 1998.

ONCC also recognizes airlines and individuals for their outstanding participation in the nighttime O’Hare Fly Quiet program.

Fifteen ONCC members also received special service awards.

ONCC is a policymaking organization whose mission is to develop meaningful methods of reducing the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods through home and school sound insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source.

###

Editor’s Note—Photographs will be available.