



**O'HARE NOISE
COMPATIBILITY
COMMISSION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Arlington Heights Energy, Sound Control Ordinance Incorporates O'Hare Noise Compatibility Model

Des Plaines, Ill., Dec. 1, 2008—Arlington Heights trustees approved a new ordinance Nov. 17 that will require the use of energy efficient materials in new construction, remodeling and repairs to reduce exterior sound and mitigate noise. The code's purpose is to "promote good health, safety and general welfare of the users of all buildings" and will apply to exterior and interior environments of one- and two-family dwellings as well as commercial and multi-family dwelling structures in the village.

The ordinance is patterned after a Model Sound Insulation Ordinance created by the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC), a 12-year-old non-governmental agency whose 43 community, county and school district members partner with O'Hare International Airport, the airline industry, the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) and others to reduce aircraft noise within the O'Hare region.

Arlington Heights originally introduced a code of noise mitigation standards for construction in January 2007, but replaced that code with the current ordinance to include energy efficiencies. The Energy Efficiency and Sound Control Measures code will go into effect in February 2009.

In conjunction with the O'Hare Modernization Program's construction of new east/west runways and plans for a western entrance to the airport, ONCC is continuing its awareness campaign that urges communities to use its Model Sound Insulation Ordinance as a template for new and renovation construction, explained ONCC Executive Director Brian Gilligan. "ONCC strives to ensure that people who live within the airport region get relief from intrusive exterior sounds and noise," he said.

(more)

Arlington Heights adopts energy, sound mitigation code/add 1

The Arlington Heights plan calls for higher R-values for insulation, thicker exterior sheathing, thicker drywall for interior walls, and a requirement that windows and doors carry the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Star rating.

"Sound insulation can be a costly investment," said ONCC member Joseph Annunzio of Niles, Ill., who chaired the ad hoc committee for the ONCC model noise ordinance. "By using our model as a guide and refining the elements for energy efficiencies, exterior sound mitigation can be achieved for only a slight increase in construction costs."

Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, who also serves as ONCC chairperson, estimates the village ordinance may increase construction costs one percent, or anywhere from \$3,800 to \$10,000 per dwelling. She projects that within a year or so, savings on energy bills will replace that outlay.

"Arlington Heights is ahead of the curve with its new ordinance. They took a proactive approach to improve the quality of life for their residents. Now it's time for us to reach out to other member communities to take the similar action," Annunzio stressed. The ordinance is posted on the Arlington Heights website at www.vah.com.

ONCC oversees the O'Hare Residential and School Sound Insulation Programs operated by the City of Chicago's Department of Aviation. The FAA designates single and multi-unit dwellings and schools as eligible for sound proofing based on the sound contours of the airport. New construction, home additions and renovations are not included in the sound proofing program.

The mission of ONCC 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. For more information, contact Brian Gilligan, 773-686-3198, or visit www.oharenoise.org.

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ONCC members represent the following communities: Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bellwood, Chicago, Des Plaines, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Harwood Heights, Hoffman Estates, Itasca, Maywood, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Northlake, Oak Park, Palatine, Park Ridge, River Forest, River Grove, Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, Schaumburg, Schiller Park, Stone Park, Wood Dale and Cook County. Members represent the following school districts: 59; 63; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.