

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission Surpasses Mid-Point in Home, School Sound Insulation

Chicago, Suburbs to Preview O'Hare Modernization Plan, Review Noise Abatement Achievements

Des Plaines, IL, May 16, 2008—"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," according to Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, chairperson of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC).

More than 160 City of Chicago, aviation, community and school district officials will convene at noon Wednesday, May 21, at Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont, to recognize significant accomplishments of ONCC and address future roles and responsibilities under the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

In 1996, Chicago Richard M. 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.

As a result, ONCC was created and to date, 115 schools and 6,900 homes in communities surrounding O'Hare International Airport have been or will be sound-insulated against aircraft noise. ONCC has identified another 6,000 housing units that will be eligible for sound insulation work during the next several years.

The O'Hare Sound Insulation Programs are funded 80% by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program with a 20% 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.

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

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 that includes new runways to identify eligible homes and schools for sound insulation work.

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Noise Commission Notes Progress, Prepares for O'Hare's New Build Out/add 1

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. These noise complaints fell for the ninth consecutive year to just 1,248 calls in 2007, compared to a high of 25,773 in 1998

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

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

The May 21 program will include special recognition for those involved in ONCC's start-up and continued success in aircraft noise reduction.

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. For more information, call ONCC Executive Director Brian Gilligan, 773-686-3198.

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