



**O'HARE NOISE
COMPATIBILITY
COMMISSION**

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ONCC Seeks Change in Aircraft Noise Standards Questions Nighttime Activity on New O'Hare Runway

Des Plaines, Ill., January 22, 2009—In a two-pronged effort to reduce aircraft noise for residents living near O'Hare International Airport, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) this week appealed to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration for remedial action.

Air traffic on O'Hare's new north Runway 9 Left, 27 Right, commissioned Nov. 20, 2008, has resulted in a surge of resident discontent as flight tracks shift over Chicago and Northwest suburbs, according to Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, ONCC chairperson.

In a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Acting Administrator Lynne A. Osmus, Mulder requests the initiation of new national aircraft noise standards that "take into account frequency of flights or heightened annoyance to residents."

The current measurement of "averaging noise decibels throughout the day and night does not resolve significant annoyance for people living, working and attending schools beneath air traffic," she said.

On a local level, Mulder has requested FAA Great Lakes Region Administrator Barry Cooper to document all nighttime events that occur after 10 p.m. on Runway, 9 Left, 27 Right. The Chicago Airport System's Fly Quiet program restricts hours of operation between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Residents living under the new runway's flight path report aircraft flying throughout night, said Mulder.

First official reports of aircraft noise levels, including all aircraft events since Runway 9 Left, 27 Right opened, will be released by the Department of Aviation on Friday, Jan. 23 and published on its website, www.flychicago.com, and on www.oharenoise.org.

ONCC's Technical Committee will review these noise level reports at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 at Mount Prospect's Village Board Room, 50 S. Emerson St. A formal presentation will be held at ONCC's monthly meeting at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6 at Rosewood Banquets, 9421 W. Higgins Rd., Rosemont. These meetings are open to the public.

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ONCC seeks change in aircraft noise standards/add 1

ONCC is composed of 27 Cook and DuPage communities, Cook County and 15 school districts. It strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods through home and school insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source. For more information, contact Brian Gilligan, 773-686-3198.

ONCC member 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.

ONCC member school districts: 59; 63; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.

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