



Post Office Box 1126
Des Plaines, IL 60017-1126

Contact: Brendan McLaughlin
773-686-3198 or 630-809-1098 cell
bmclaughlin@ohare.com

St. Tarcissus Elementary School Eligible for Funds to Sound Insulate Buildings

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission Continues Aircraft Noise Reduction

Des Plaines, Ill., Sept. 23, 2011—St. Tarcissus Elementary School in Norwood Park was notified this month of its eligibility to receive sound insulation funding, according to the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC), an inter-governmental agency dedicated to aircraft noise reduction at one of the world's busiest airports.

The private Catholic school comprises four buildings at 6040 W. Ardmore Ave. on the northwest side of Chicago and serves more than 370 students.

At the request of the school and ONCC, the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) strategically placed noise monitors in 13 classrooms in 4 buildings to determine whether projected aircraft noise inside the schools would meet an 8-hour Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) test result of 45 or higher. The 45 Leq is the minimum noise threshold the Federal Aviation Administration established for schools to qualify for sound insulation funding.

Each classroom was measured with windows open and windows closed. Artificial noise broadcast through industrial speakers were used to simulate anticipated aircraft noise expected to be present when the O'Hare Modernization Project is completed.

“Our next step is to work with St. Tarcissus on the federal grant application,” said Raymond Kuper, Ed.D, ONCC vice chair and chairman of the School Sound Insulation Committee. “The school will hire an architect and acoustical consultant to determine the scope of the work needed for sound insulation.”

School sound insulation improvements, intended to reduce aircraft noise to facilitate a quieter learning environment, may include insulated windows, additional roofing and ceiling insulation, improved doors, HVAC modifications and similar measures.

While exceeding noise monitor minimum thresholds and qualifying as eligible for funding are important steps to secure federal and city of Chicago grants for sound insulation work, the timing for completion of the actual work will be dependent upon availability of federal funds.

ONCC oversees the largest and one of the oldest school sound insulation programs in the world. Approximately \$323.5 million in federal and airport funds have already underwritten sound insulation for 119 Chicago and community schools near O'Hare, including three schools in the construction or design process.

(more)

St. Tarcissus Elementary School Eligible for Funds/add 1

ONCC is composed of 45 communities and school districts and is recognized nationally as a leading community-based organization that strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise through residential and school sound insulation programs and to reduce aircraft noise, whenever possible at its source.

For more information, call 773-686-3198 or visit www.oharenoise.org to read the CDA 2011 School Noise Monitoring Report.

#

ONCC member communities: Arlington Heights; Bartlett; Bellwood; Bensenville; Chicago including Wards 36,38, 39, 41, 45; 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; 64; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.

St TarcissusEligibleNRF23.doc