

# O'Hare Monitor



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Noise Hotline 1-800-435-9569

## Commission Wraps Up 2002 Citing Significant Noise Reduction

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission has issued its 2002 Annual Report, which highlights many of the Commission's major accomplishments for the year and the past six years. Especially significant is the reduction in aircraft noise recorded at almost all of the 31 permanent noise monitoring sites around the airport during 2002.

"Since we began meeting as a commission more than six years ago, each of the members has focused on reducing aircraft noise in the communities around O'Hare," said Commission Chair, Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder during the Annual Meeting in March. "We have been making steady progress and the reports from the monitors graphically document our accomplishments."

As explained in the Commission's 2002 Annual Report, 27 of the permanent noise monitors, showed a 1 dB or greater reduction in aircraft noise levels in 2002 as compared to 2000. The average among all the monitors was a



The 2002 Annual Report is available online at [www.oharenoise.org](http://www.oharenoise.org)

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## Commission Re-elects Leadership

Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder and Dr. Raymond Kuper, who is the superintendent of school district 86 in Harwood Heights, were elected unanimously to new terms as the Commission's chair and vice chair, respectively, during the Commission's Annual Meeting in March. Both have served in the positions since the Commission's inception.

"It's been an honor to serve the Commission over the years and work with so many dedicated people," said Kuper. "The tremendous accomplishments by all the members of the Commission for homeowners and schools in the O'Hare area make the work we do very satisfying."

## Bartlett is Newest Commission Member

The Village of Bartlett is the latest community to join the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission. Bartlett became the 36<sup>th</sup> member by a unanimous vote at the Commission's February meeting.

"Our community has admired the wonderful work of the Commission and the way it has approached difficult issues," said Bartlett Village President Catherine Melchert. "We're pleased to now be a member."

## Commission Members

### Municipalities

Arlington Heights  
Bartlett  
Bellwood  
Chicago  
Des Plaines  
Elmwood Park  
Franklin Park  
Hoffman Estates  
Melrose Park  
Mount Prospect  
Niles  
Norridge  
Northlake  
Oak Park  
Palatine  
River Grove  
River Forest  
Rolling Meadows  
Rosemont  
Schaumburg  
Stone Park  
Unincorporated Cook County

### School Districts

59 Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect  
63 Des Plaines, Niles, Morton Grove, Glenview  
80 Norridge  
81 Schiller Park  
84 Franklin Park  
84.5 River Grove  
86 Harwood Heights  
87 Berkeley, Northlake, Bellwood  
89 Maywood, Melrose Park, Broadview  
214 Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove  
212 Franklin Park, Schiller Park, Rosemont, Northlake, River Grove, Melrose Park  
234 Norridge, Harwood Heights  
299 Chicago Public Schools  
401 Elmwood Park

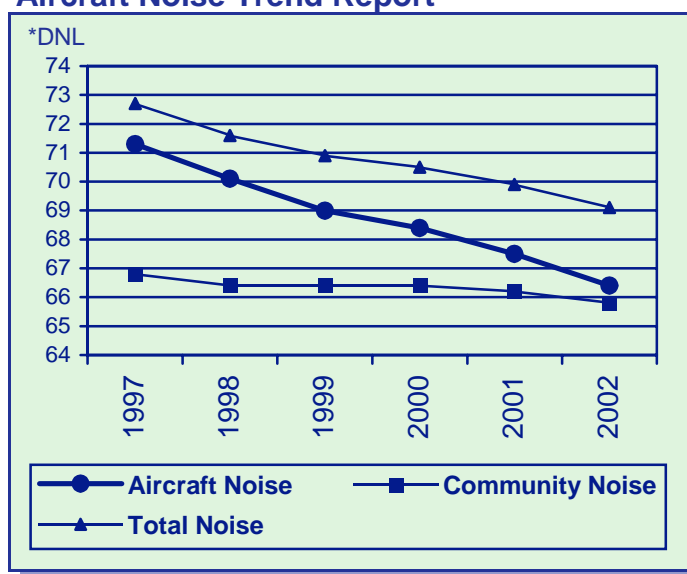
## Aircraft Noise Reduced *(Continued from page 1)*

2 dB reduction, which is considered a significant change on the widely accepted noise scale. Since 1997, there has been an overall 5 dB reduction in aircraft noise around O'Hare International Airport. An independent expert verifies the accuracy of the Airport Noise Monitoring System for the Commission.

In relation to the reduction in aircraft noise, the number of residents' complaints to the O'Hare Noise Hotline has fallen dramatically from a peak of 25,773 calls in 1998 to 5,190 calls in 2002.

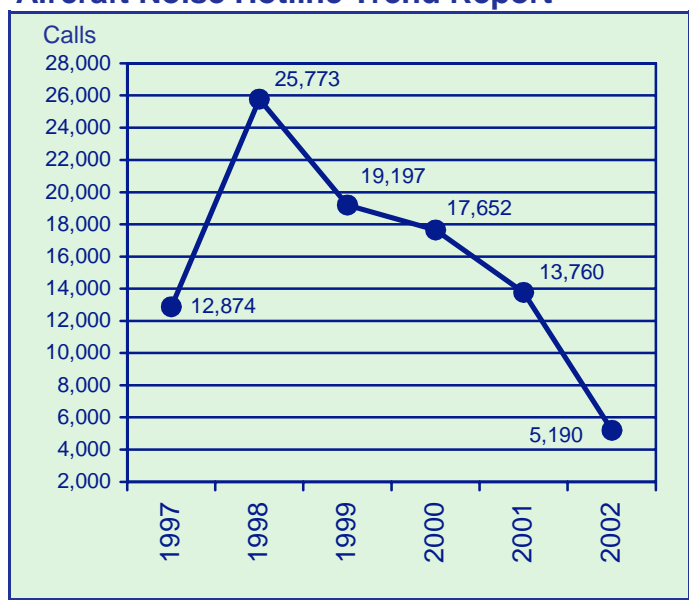
During the Annual Meeting in March, the Commission members also noted several other achievements including the Commission's strong national leadership on sound insulation programs for homes and schools with expenditures totaling \$355 million to date. During 2002, the Commission worked to further enhance the Fly Quiet Program, which controls aircraft noise at night, and the Commission submitted comments to the FAA as that agency started the process of drafting an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed O'Hare Modernization Program.

### Aircraft Noise Trend Report



\*DNL (Day-Night Average Sound Level): A 24-hour time-averaged sound exposure level with a 10 dB nighttime (10 p.m.-7 a.m.) weighting.

### Aircraft Noise Hotline Trend Report



### More Communication Urged in Land Use Planning Near Airports

Commission Chair, Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder addressed the 2003 Airport Noise Symposium sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley in March and called for greater communication between the nation's airport operators and local municipalities to achieve greater compatibility in land use.

She said that airport planners need to be better informed about how municipalities plan their communities. Local land use planners also need to be better informed about airport master planning. Mulder said

that too often these professionals focus only on their own areas of responsibility operating in somewhat of a vacuum. The results can be incompatible planning. For example, a new housing complex might be planned unwittingly for an area that is also a planned flight path.

Mulder cited the experience of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission as an example of how good communications can resolve many issues between airports and nearby communities.

### Commission Video Released

"Aircraft Noise Reduction: The O'Hare Story" is the title of a new video produced by the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission. It explains in detail the extensive noise mitigation work that has been done since 1996 and looks to future solutions. The video shows the work involved in sound insulating homes and schools and graphically

demonstrates some of the technology solutions to aircraft noise.

The video will soon be seen on cable television channels and DVD copies are included with the Commission's 2002 Annual Report.

## 2003 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are open to the public

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission	Residential Sound Insulation Committee	School Sound Insulation Committee	Technical Committee
All meetings begin at <b>8:00 a.m.</b>	All meetings begin at <b>12:00 p.m.</b>	All meetings begin at <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	All meetings begin at <b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>April 4, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>April 16, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>April</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>April 22, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>May 2, 2003</b> <i>*Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont</i>	<b>May 21, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>*May 20, 2003</b> <i>School District 214 2123 S. Goebbert Rd., Arlington Hts.</i>	<b>May 27, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>*June 13, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>*June</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>June</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>*June</b> <b>No Meeting</b>
<b>July</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>July</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>July</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>*July</b> <b>No Meeting</b>
<b>August</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>August 20, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>*August</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>August 26, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>September 5, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>September 17, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>September</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>September 23, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>October 3, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>October 15, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>October 8, 2003</b> <i>*School District 59 2123 S. Arlington Hts. Rd., Arlington Hts.</i>	<b>October 28, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>November 7, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>November 19, 2003</b> Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	<b>November</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>November 25, 2003</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
<b>December 5, 2003</b> Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	<b>*December</b> <b>No Meeting</b>	<b>December 10, 2003</b> <i>*School District 59 2123 S. Arlington Hts. Rd., Arlington Hts.</i>	<b>*December</b> <b>No Meeting</b>

*\*Revised information is in italic.*

Meeting schedules are subject to change. Please check [www.oharenoise.org](http://www.oharenoise.org) for updates.

### FAA Promises Thorough Environmental Study For O'Hare Modernization Program

Speaking to the February meeting of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, FAA Airports Environmental Program Manager Michael MacMullen promised a detailed and complete environmental study of the proposed O'Hare Modernization Program.

In response to questions from Commission members about a so-called "streamlined EIS," MacMullen said that the FAA will make decisions in an efficient manner but "won't cut any studies that need to be done." MacMullen, who leads the O'Hare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) team, added that the study would be objective.

"The FAA is solely responsible for the content of the EIS and we will verify all the data," MacMullen told the Commission. "For example, the FAA's contractors will run their own noise models."

MacMullen said that he would return to the ONCC for another presentation when the draft EIS is published.

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## O'Hare Monitor

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**Brian Gilligan**  
**Executive Director**

**773-686-3198**

### School Monitoring Program Continues In 2003

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission School Sound Insulation Committee has approved nine schools for aircraft noise monitoring during 2003. The schools are:

- Socrates – St. Sava Academy, Chicago
- East Leyden High School, Franklin Park
- George B. Carpenter Elementary School, Park Ridge
- George Washington Elementary, Park Ridge
- Brentwood Christian Academy, Des Plaines
- St. Andrews Lutheran, Park Ridge
- Rhodes Elementary, River Grove
- Zion Evangelical, Bensenville
- Beard Classical Elementary, Chicago

Each of the schools, which were selected based on several established criteria including proximity to the airport, will be tested during a four-day period when maximum aircraft activity is expected. Three noise monitors will be used for each school. One monitor will measure exterior noise levels, one will measure noise levels with classroom windows closed and the third will monitor noise levels with classroom windows open.

While noise monitoring is an important step in the O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program's process it is not a guarantee of selection or funding for insulation work.

The O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program is the world's largest and includes 80 schools insulated to date at a cost of approximately \$198.1 million.