



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2014

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE CREATING ADDITIONAL CHICAGO REPRESENTATION ON THE O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION

City Council today approved a measure introduced by Mayor Emanuel and Alderman Pat O'Connor that will allow for a representative from Chicago's 40th Ward to serve on the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission ("ONCC"). The addition of Chicago's 40th Ward, pending a vote by the ONCC, will bring the total number of ONCC members to 54 and will be the 6th representative from the City of Chicago.

"As the O'Hare Modernization Program moves forward, it is important that the makeup of the commission reflect all residents potentially affected by aircraft noise," said Mayor Emanuel.

"Some of our residents in the 40th Ward are struggling with aircraft noise," said Alderman Pat O'Connor. "I hear those concerns, and that is why I will continue working with my colleagues in the City Council, the Department of Aviation and the ONCC to identify the scope of these issues and balance the quality of life of residents in the 40th Ward with O'Hare's economic importance for our region."

The mission of the ONCC, an internationally recognized policymaking organization established by City Council in July 1996, is to reduce the impact of aircraft noise in surrounding neighborhoods through residential and school sound insulation and to advocate for technological advances for quieter aircraft.

The ONCC oversees the Chicago Department of Aviation's noise programs for O'Hare International Airport ("O'Hare"), including its noise monitoring system of permanent noise monitors, noise abatement efforts, and noise mitigation programs for homes and schools, as well as provides substantial outreach about airport operations and aircraft noise impacts to interested local governments, elected officials, citizens, and various aviation stakeholders. The original membership consisted of 27 members and has grown to the current 53 members including the City of Chicago, Cook County, 30 suburban communities, 16 school districts, and five Chicago wards.

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) manages robust noise management programs for O'Hare and Midway International Airports. Over the past 30 years, the CDA has sound-insulated 121 schools and over 10,000 homes near O'Hare, as well as installed, operated, and maintained a network of permanent noise monitors to record aircraft noise levels in the surrounding communities. Since 1997, the CDA has also operated a voluntary nighttime noise abatement program, called the Fly Quiet Program, in order to minimize the impacts of aircraft noise in the surrounding communities during nighttime hours.

The CDA continues its work on balancing the quality of life for its residents in surrounding communities with O'Hare's economic importance for the region. The CDA plans to procure and install eight new permanent noise monitors around O'Hare to further understand the impact of aircraft noise in these areas.

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