



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068-4182
TEL: 847/ 318-5200
FAX: 847/ 318-5300
TDD: 847/ 318-5252
www.parkridge.us

January 17, 2014

Alderman Mary O'Connor, 41st Ward
6107 N. Northwest Highway
Chicago, IL 60631

Ald. Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward
4404 W. Lawrence
Chicago, IL 60630

Dear Alderman O'Connor and Alderman Laurino,

On behalf of the residents of the City of Park Ridge who have been impacted by the effects of the O'Hare Modernization Program ("OMP") for many years, I am writing to express our support for the resolution you introduced at the January 15 Chicago City Council meeting.

Many residents in Park Ridge have experienced for years the pain and disruption in quality of life that your constituents are just now beginning to experience themselves. We share your desire to find a solution to these problems and are ready and willing to work with you cooperatively towards that effort.

During your discussion with City of Chicago Aviation Department personnel and FAA representatives, be sure to press for answers as to why those bodies refuse to re-assess the noise contour map that was created many years ago utilizing then-existing technology and mere projections of noise impact based on a construction plan and timetable which has since been dramatically altered. Additionally, since then, there have been advances in technology and several studies dealing with the harmful effects of noise on school children and people in general. There have also been a number of environmental studies conducted on the effects of jet fuel emissions. None of these studies have been taken into consideration by the Aviation Department or the FAA. Instead, they steadfastly stand by their antiquated methods which they apply to an outdated construction plan. Meanwhile, our residents, and now yours, suffer terribly from the effects of un-mitigated aircraft noise and pollution.

You should also press for an answer as to why the Fly Quiet Program which was designed to reduce late night noise is voluntary, not mandatory. With respect to this issue, be careful not to fall for the excuses of the Aviation Department, the FAA and even the airlines who say that it is not under their control. It may very well be that it will take a change in federal law at the Congressional level to make the Program mandatory. If so, we stand ready to join you in pressuring our respective federal elected officials, including Congressmen Schakowsky and Quigley, to push, hard, for such a change in federal law.

Finally, you should press for an answer as to why the Aviation Department insists on decommissioning the two runways running from the southeast to the northwest. Leaving these runways in place could help alleviate at least some of the harmful effects of jet traffic over our communities by providing alternative departure and landing opportunities for air traffic.

Thank you again for stepping up on behalf of your constituents. We look forward to working with you for our common good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David F. Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Mayor David F. Schmidt
City of Park Ridge

cc: Congressman Jan Schakowsky
Congressman Michael Quigley
Aldermen of the City of Park Ridge
O'Hare Airport Commission Chairman Jim Argionis

Dear Resident:

At yesterday's meeting of the City Council, Alderman Margaret Laurino and I introduced a resolution calling for hearings with the Chicago Department of Aviation, the Federal Aviation Agency, and representatives from the various airlines operating out of O'Hare International Airport to discuss the O'Hare Modernization Plan and gather information about the airline industry's efforts to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on the surrounding population.

I cosponsored this resolution because I feel it's important to keep the conversation going about these changes that have taken place at O'Hare Airport.

I certainly recognize and respect the important role that this airport plays in boosting the economy of the entire region, but as your elected representative in the City Council and Vice-Chair of the Aviation Committee, I have a responsibility to use every available resource when it comes to preserving a quality of life in our communities.

It is my goal to maintain a dialogue on these issues and work with stakeholders on striking a balance that fosters economic growth for the region while still respecting the concerns of residents on the far northwest side of the City.

I will share additional information with residents as soon as a hearing date is set. As always, please contact my ward office at ward41@cityofchicago.org or call (773) 594-8341 with any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Mary O'Connor
Alderman 41st Ward



City of Chicago



R2014-4

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/15/2014
Sponsor(s):	Laurino (39) O'Connor (41)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Call for hearing(s) determining flight paths and reducing the impact of aircraft noise on the surrounding population at Chicago O'Hare International Airport
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Aviation

Aviation

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chicago- O'Hare International Airport is one of the busiest commercial airports in the world, annually handling hundreds of thousands of aircraft operations involving tens of millions of passenger enplanements; and

WHEREAS, Chicago-O'Hare International Airport is a vital economic engine for the City of Chicago and the Chicago region, responsible for thousands of jobs across many sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, Chicago-O'Hare International Airport has been undergoing an expansive capital program known as the O'Hare Modernization Plan (OMP), a multi-billion dollar, intergovernmental effort to make airport operations safer and more efficient, while spurring considerable economic growth throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the O'Hare Modernization Plan calls for the creation of additional runways and a complete transition of the entire airfield to a parallel runway configuration; and

WHEREAS, a new runway, 10C/28C, recently commissioned as part of the O'Hare Modernization Plan, has led to a significant increase in the number of evening arrivals on runway 27 Left, which has greatly impacted the quality of life in communities situated east of Chicago-O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Aviation and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission are tasked with implementing the Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP), a federally funded program to sound insulate qualifying residential homes and schools; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3650 (Silent Skies Act), a bill recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, would further limit the impact of the O'Hare Modernization Plan on the affected communities by amending title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the operation of certain aircraft not complying with the stage 4 noise standard, an internationally recognized certification aimed at reducing aircraft noise; and

WHEREAS, since 1997 the Chicago Department of Aviation has operated the Fly Quiet Program, which relies on the voluntary efforts of airlines to use designated noise abatement flight procedures to reduce the impact of aircraft noise resulting from operations at Chicago-O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing modernization of Chicago-O'Hare International Airport, its impact on nearby residents and the anticipated growth in airport usage all indicate the need to enact more stringent regulations and review long existing standards for the measurement, reduction and abatement of airport noise.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation, and such members of her staff as are knowledgeable about the O'Hare Modernization Program and noise abatement shall appear before the City Council Committee on Aviation to detail the department's efforts to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on the surrounding population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the City Council Committee on Aviation is requested to invite representatives of the Federal Aviation Agency to explain their role in determining flight paths and reducing airport noise and its impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the City Council Committee on Aviation may also invite representatives from the various airlines using Chicago-O'Hare International Airport to attend the hearing and discuss the aviation industry's ability to comply with the proposed regulations put forth in H.R. 3650 (Silent Skies Act) and their own efforts to reduce aircraft noise and its impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the City Council Committee on Aviation may also invite representatives of non-airline, non-governmental groups and agencies interested in the reduction of airport noise and its impact.



MARGARET LAURINO
Alderman, 39th Ward



MARY E. O'CONNOR
Alderman, 41st Ward