

News Release

Source: Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare

Contact: Tim Millar, (847) 705-0877

Chicago: "Not in my backyard"

Arlington Heights, March 28, 2001—The City of Chicago increases its top commodity to the Northwest Suburbs, O'Hare Airport noise and pollution.

In cities such as Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, Palatine, Inverness, and Barrington noise, as well as toxic pollution levels, have been rising along with tempers.

O'Hare seems to have shifted the bulk of its flights to runway 14R/32L, by far the busiest runway, which is pointed northwest from O'Hare and away from Chicago even when winds dictate other runways are more appropriate. The shift is even most notable at night when the utilization of runway 14R/32L is yet greater. Additionally, lowering landings below the 3% standard glide slope has further increased noise. This is being done to enable flights taking-off or landing on other runways to pass over the arrival flight path, which adds more noise and pollution to an already intolerable situation.

Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, Palatine are members of Chicago's O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission with the mayors of Arlington Heights and Palatine serving as Commission Chairperson and Technical Director respectively. Apparently being a member of Chicago's group certainly has not benefited the towns they represent. According to the noise level reports put out by the Chicago Noise Commission, noise levels from Northwest suburban noise monitors have increased since 1997's modeled data while other areas have seen significant noise decreases by as much as 50% (a 10 decibel increase in noise is perceived as a doubling of the sound).

The big winners in the noise reduction have been Rosemont and Chicago. Very few flights, especially takeoffs (less than 2% for some months) fly over Chicago even though the opposite end of the same runway used most often 14L/32R, points also to Chicago. Chicago has turned it into a one-way street. Members in most communities that belong to SOC (Suburban O'Hare Commission, an O'Hare no-runway opposition group) have also seen the noise levels decrease.

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Tim Millar, a Palatine resident and a director for the Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare points out, "It appears that belonging to the City of Chicago's O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission means more noise and pollution. Many of the mayors of the Northwest Suburbs defend membership in this group. They believe it is best to "sit at the table" with the City of Chicago. Unfortunately so far, we are only picking up the check."

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(ed. Note: The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (AReCO) is a not-for-profit organization of individuals and families, living in 28 communities including the city of Chicago that are affected by O'Hare Airport operations. It is based in Arlington Heights, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. AReCO is committed to find a balance between public health and the economy and protecting the environment and safety of all our citizens.

For more information see: www.areco.org)