



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS ON IMPACT OF NEW FLIGHT PATTERNS AT O'HARE & MIDWAY AIRPORTS ON POPULATED AREAS

WHEREAS, Concern citizens whose residences and businesses are located in and around the City of Chicago's two airports have united to petition this legislative body to address the serious environmental and safety issues caused by expanded runways and new flight patterns at these major aviation facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune reported that noise complaints increased more than 500 percent soon after the opening of O'Hare's Runway 10C-28C on October, 2013 that instigated a major shift in flight patterns. The Chicago Sun-Times recently reported that, since last February, a new flight path for aircraft arriving on Midway's Runway 22L extends over a great number of the densely populated South Side and Southwest Side of this city including portions of the Bridgeport, Armour Square and Douglas neighborhoods as well as portions of McKinley Park community; and

WHEREAS, Under the aegis of the Fair Allocation in Runways Coalition, these citizens have formed a united front with a common goal to seek immediate redress of these unsafe and conditions that contribute to the lowering of property values and the denial of residents rights to their "quiet enjoyment"; and

WHEREAS, This coalition urges the following:

- The immediately halt of the October, 2013 takeoff and landing plan at O'Hare and devise, instead, a neighborhood-based plan for O'Hare airport, working with community groups, businesses, and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission for fair allocation of air traffic between existing and new runways and day and night air traffic.
- Devise a similar neighborhood-based plan for Midway airport working with Midway Noise Compatibility Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration, to reduce the residential impact of Midway's new arrival path 22L by following the procedures in accordance with the "Fly Quiet" Program that was adopted by the FAA in June of 1997.
- Support the City of Park Ridge's request that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) be conducted to verify what the actual environmental impact has been as a result of the O'Hare plan's implementation Continue to utilize all existing and new runways,
- Expand noise monitoring and abatement programs to ensure specific communities are not unduly burdened, and
- Make "Fly Quiet" the official mandatory policy for both O'Hare and Midway Airports; and

WHEREAS, It behooves this body to hold public hearings in order to take testimony from these citizens and others who can provide relevant information concerning the resolution of these serious issues; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered here this, 10th Day of December, 2014 AD, do hereby urge the Committee on Aviation to expeditiously convene a public hearing concerning the aforementioned issues of serious and vital concern to the health and safety of the citizens of this city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the City of Chicago Commissioner of Aviation, Danielle Ririsler, Assistant Manager of the Federal Aviation Administration Department of Environmental Planning, and the Honorable Michael R. Zalewski, Chair of the Committee on Aviation