



City of Chicago



R2014-703

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 10/8/2014

Sponsor(s): Burke (14)
Cochran (20)

Type: Resolution

Title: Committee on Aviation request for hearings regarding fire incident at Federal Aviation Administration's Aurora, IL air traffic control radar facility

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Aviation

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on Friday, September 26, 2014, a mentally disturbed contract employee at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aurora, IL air traffic control radar facility intentionally started a fire in the control center; and

WHEREAS, the fire targeted critical telecommunication cables and computers causing all flights at both O'Hare International Airport and Midway International Airport to be halted; and

WHEREAS, few flights departed from O'Hare after the fire on Friday the 26th while no flights departed from Midway; and

WHEREAS, the effects of these delays currently continue disrupting thousands of flights that have already been canceled; and

WHEREAS, delays were so extensive that they prevented the President of the United States from landing at O'Hare Airport nearly a week after the initial incident; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Travel Association estimate that the delays will have a total negative economic impact of over \$123 million dollars in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago area experienced additional delays on October 6, 2014 due to equipment malfunction; and

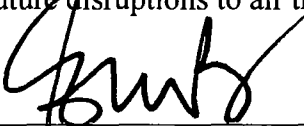
WHEREAS, as recently as May of 2014, the area experienced extensive delays and cancellations due to a fire in a regional radar facility in Elgin, IL; and

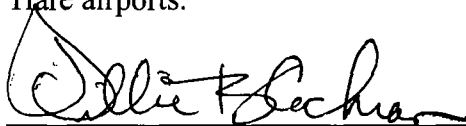
WHEREAS, currently, there are no backup systems in place requiring the flight-plan information to be entered by hand; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator of the FAA, Michael Huerta, stated that a new system is at least two years away from introduction and may take a decade to be fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an immediate backup system to prevent similar disruptions, cancellations and economic harm in the future and causing millions of dollars in economic impact; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Aviation hereby requests the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or his delegate, and the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation to appear before the aforementioned Committee to testify regarding the situation in Aurora, IL and to divulge contingency plans to prevent future disruptions to air traffic at Midway and O'Hare airports.


Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14th Ward


Willie B. Cochran, Alderman, 20th Ward

