



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

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CIRCUIT COURT RULING DENIES CHURCH'S CHALLENGES TO O'HARE MODERNIZATION

Ruling Allows City to Acquire Cemetery

In a decision today, the Circuit Court in DuPage County denied challenges to the City's acquisition of St. Johannes Cemetery, which is needed to complete construction on a runway as part of the O'Hare Modernization Program. The Court ruled that the City could proceed with its suit to condemn the cemetery owned by St. John's United Church of Christ. The ruling was one of the last procedural steps prior to the City acquiring the cemetery.

"We are pleased with today's ruling allowing us to move forward with the acquisition of St. Johannes Cemetery," said Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "We realize this is a very sensitive matter and we are committed to working closely with the families, as well as the officials from St. John's United Church of Christ. We will continue to proceed with respect and dignity in dealing with the relatives of those interred at St. Johannes Cemetery."

The Church had challenged the City of Chicago's authority under the Constitution to acquire St. Johannes Cemetery on religious and other grounds. Today's ruling, together with prior rulings in the case, will allow the court to proceed expeditiously to determine the amount of money to be paid for the cemetery, after which the relocation process can begin.

While the OMP has made every attempt to minimize the impact to neighboring communities, St. Johannes Cemetery must be acquired because it lies within the footprint of Runway 10C-28C, which is now under construction.

In order to continue to move forward, the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) has developed a cemetery relocation plan and family assistance program in consideration for the deceased and their relatives. The CDA will pay necessary and reasonable costs associated with the cemetery relocation process.

For more information concerning the relocation process, the relatives of those interred at St. Johannes Cemetery are asked to contact the CDA's Cemetery relocation and family assistance office at (773) 686-5136.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

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