



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

O'Hare Modernization Program

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Statement by Rosemarie S. Andolino, OMP Executive Director, Regarding Demolitions in the Village of Bensenville

"Today the City of Chicago and Village of Bensenville agreed to an order that preserves the status quo, and also sets an expedited briefing schedule in advance of the hearing set for July 25, 2007. This order allows the Court an opportunity to review the pleadings as well as afford the City an opportunity to file a written response.

This agreement was reached after the Village of Bensenville filed a complaint seeking a Declaratory Judgment that the Village of Bensenville's demolition ordinance applies to airport property owned by the City of Chicago, as well as a motion for a Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction.

The OMP has acquired or settled on 475 of the 611 parcels of property in the Village of Bensenville needed for the completion of the program. 370 of those parcels are already vacant and the previous owners have relocated.

The instances of break-ins, vandalism, theft of City-owned property and fly dumping continues to increase as more properties become vacant. The longer these properties remain, the harder it becomes to keep them safe and secure.

Therefore, it is necessary that demolition starts as soon as possible in order to remove those structures that continue to attract illegal activities and provide an unsafe environment.

The City of Chicago believes it has received all of the necessary approvals, through existing state and federal laws, to proceed with demolition. We are confident that once the Court has had an opportunity to review the facts and issue a ruling, these demolitions can commence."

(more)



About the O'Hare Modernization Program

The O'Hare Modernization Program, approved by the federal government in September 2005, will reconfigure O'Hare's outdated intersecting runway configuration into a modern parallel configuration, substantially reducing delays and increasing capacity. The OMP will create up to 195,000 new jobs and add an additional \$18 billion in annual economic activity to the region, on top of the 450,000 jobs and \$38 billion O'Hare generates today, without the use of any state or local taxpayer dollars.

Construction activities for the OMP are underway on a number of North and South Airfield projects. To date, contractors have moved more than 6.3 million cubic yards of dirt and placed 42,000 square yards of concrete for the extension of a taxiway. The OMP has awarded more than \$740 million in construction contracts thus far. In the next year, the OMP will advertise up to another \$720 million in construction bid packages. New Runway 9L/27R, the extension of Runway 10L/28R and the new North Air Traffic Control Tower will be commissioned in November 2008.

Land acquisition activities are also moving forward. In fact, the OMP has also acquired or settled 475 of the 611 parcels needed in the Village of Bensenville.

For more information, please visit www.OhareModernization.org.

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