



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

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CDA Concessions Open House Draws Business Owners Interested in Airport Concessions

On January 27, 2010, the City of Chicago held the first-ever Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Concessions Open House. More than 120 business owners, retailers, service providers, suppliers, MBE/WBE firms and assist agencies attended the event, which provided an opportunity to network and learn about the concessions process and opportunities at Chicago's airports.

"We want the restaurants and shops at our airports to reflect the rich diversity of Chicago," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "Under the leadership of Mayor Richard M. Daley, it is our goal to demystify the concessions process, simplify it and truly create opportunities for Chicago businesses."

City of Chicago aviation officials provided information and answered questions about the different phases of the application and qualification process for the CDA Concessions Program. Speakers included City of Chicago officials: Jorge Perez, CDA Deputy Commissioner of Concessions; Alfredo Camarena, Projects Administrator for the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection; and Carolyn Brown, Deputy Director for the Office of Compliance. Diana Miller, Project Manager for Unison Retail Management, was also a presenter.

The Concessions Open House attendees also had an opportunity to network with assist agencies such as the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC), Chicago Minority Business Enterprise Center, Women's Business Development Center, and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"Several local business owners told me they never knew the whole process and were grateful for the presentation," added Deputy Commissioner Perez. "The knowledge they gained today has peaked their interest in submitting proposals."

"We don't want to just increase revenue, we want a better passenger experience for the millions of visitors who travel through Chicago's airports," explained Deputy Commissioner Perez at the conclusion of the presentation.

The CDA distributed informational packets to attendees that included an overview of the concessions program, facts on upcoming Requests For Proposals (RFPs) and resource information about the concessions program and how to become certified to do business with the City of Chicago.

Another Concessions Open House will take place Thursday, February 4, 2010 at the Chicago Marriott Midway.

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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.airportgoinggreen.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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