



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

September 20, 2010

City of Chicago Regains Title and Possession of St. Johannes Cemetery

In a unanimous decision on Friday, Sept. 17, the Illinois Appellate Court for the Second District affirmed the trial court's decision granting the City of Chicago title and possession of St. Johannes Cemetery. As required under state law, the City filed the case to condemn the cemetery, which is needed to complete construction on Runway 10C/28C as part of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

"We are pleased with the court's ruling allowing us to move forward with the acquisition and relocation 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 to continue the relocation process. We will continue to proceed with respect and dignity while working with the relatives of those interred at St. Johannes Cemetery."

This appeal stems from a February 8, 2010 ruling made by the Circuit Court in DuPage County that granted the City title and possession of St. Johannes Cemetery pursuant to the City's quick take authority under the Eminent Domain Act. On Feb. 9, 2010 the City paid \$630,000 for the cemetery, which was the court's finding of preliminary just compensation. After payment of the preliminary just compensation award, the City was able to take title and possession of the cemetery. However, on February 18, 2010, the Appellate Court entered a temporary stay preventing the City from taking title and possession to St. Johannes Cemetery pending the appeal.

This ruling by the Appellate Court confirms the circuit court's decision to enter a quick take order allowing the City to take title and possession of the cemetery. The ruling also paves the way for the City to regain possession of the cemetery and become the owner.

The City continues to work with next of kin to relocate their relatives. To date, 30 deceased have been voluntarily relocated from St. Johannes Cemetery to nearby cemeteries with the assistance of the Cemetery Relocation and Family Assistance Program of the City's Department of Aviation (CDA).

The CDA's Cemetery Relocation and Family Assistance program was developed to provide the utmost care and respect for the deceased and their surviving relatives, consistent with the City's compelling need to acquire the cemetery. The CDA will pay necessary and reasonable costs associated with the cemetery relocation process.

For more information concerning the relocation process, please contact the CDA's Cemetery Relocation and Family Assistance Office at (773) 686-5136 or visit www.stjohnsfamilyassistance.com.

To view the full release, go to <http://flychicago.com/PDF/News/9-20-2010SJCemeteryRulingNewsRelease.pdf>

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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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