



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

November 16, 2009

Eve Rodriguez

(773) 462-7365

everodriguez@cityofchicago.org

News Release

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION AND VILLAGE OF BENSENVILLE REACH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

CHICAGO – Today, Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino and Village of Bensenville President Frank Soto announced that a settlement has been reached on issues that have been the subject of litigation.

The settlement allows the CDA to acquire properties as well as to initiate demolition of the structures on City-owned properties in the Village of Bensenville.

“This settlement is a significant accomplishment, allowing the City to continue its efforts to improve efficiency and add capacity at O’Hare, as well as the National Aviation System,” said Commissioner Andolino. “Now that litigation is complete, we can continue to advance the O’Hare Modernization Program (OMP), Mayor Richard M. Daley’s vision to build an airport for the 21st Century. This agreement ensures that O’Hare remains the economic engine of our region and state by adding over 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion a year in economic activity.”

Under the agreement, the City of Chicago will acquire the remaining Village of Bensenville-owned properties and rights-of-way, and the Village will dismiss the pending demolition court cases. It will also drop its court objections to City acquisitions of property. A portion of the acquisition area will be de-annexed from Bensenville and annexed to the City. In exchange, the airport will pay Bensenville \$16 million.

“Today is a victory for the residents of the Village of Bensenville and I want to thank Mayor Richard M. Daley and Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino for their efforts to cooperate with Bensenville and to understand our needs,” said Bensenville Village President Frank Soto. “Working with the City we have ensured that the Village has a strong voice in the City’s demolition plans, and in future development in the Village of Bensenville.”

The CDA will partner with the Village of Bensenville on future development on the Western perimeter of the airport. Additionally, the CDA will provide enhancements to the Village by designing, installing and maintaining landscaping on select City-owned properties.

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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 new Sustainable Airports Manual (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.



Photo caption – Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino and Village of Bensenville President Frank Soto shake hands after announcing that a settlement has been reached on issues that have been the subject of litigation. Under the agreement, the City of Chicago will acquire the remaining Village of Bensenville-owned properties and rights-of-way, and the Village will dismiss the pending demolition court cases. This agreement clears the way for forward movement for the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). The announcement was made at a news conference in Chicago on Nov. 16, 2009.

Photo – Chicago Department of Aviation