



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Mission Support Services
800 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20591

NOV 17 2016

Dear [REDACTED] Family:

President Obama asked me to respond to your September 19, 2016, letter concerning aircraft operations in the vicinity of your home in Palatine, Illinois.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) is a multi-year reconfiguration of the airfield to an east/west orientation. This project, pursued by the City of Chicago as the airport owner/operator and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is a comprehensive redesign of the runways, taxiways, and other associated infrastructure. Throughout the life of the project, the runway usage and air traffic patterns will adjust to accommodate operations and construction.

Additionally, based on wind and weather patterns, Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) will carry out operations in accordance with the east/west orientation. In Palatine, Illinois, during West Flow operations, you will see departing traffic turning towards the north and east, heading to east coast destinations. During East Flow operations, with traffic landing and departing towards the east, you are more likely to see planes that have departed ORD with destinations west and north of Chicago. These procedures were carefully designed and allow ORD operational airspace to function safely.

Lastly, regarding aircraft noise, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) is engaged in discussions. The ONCC represents a full spectrum of communities, school districts, and wards surrounding ORD. Each of these entities has an ONCC representative. We encourage you to contact your ONCC representative to ensure your perspective is shared and included in the ongoing discussions.

Thank you for this opportunity to answer your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Ray
Vice President, Mission Support Services
Air Traffic Organization