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OMP PUBLIC HEARING

FEB 1 2 2005

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Rosemarie S. Andolino
Executive Director

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Thank you for attending the OMP Public Hearing. If you would like to submit written comments on the O'Hare Modernization Program or the Federal Aviation Administration's Final Environmental Impact Statement, you may use this form. Should your comments exceed the space allotted, you may attach additional pages.

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Comment:

* SEE ATTACHMENT *

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The FAA document purporting to be an environmental impact statement is inadequate in regard to its consideration of the St. Johannes and Resthaven Cemeteries. It lacks any detail on the proposed removal of bodies to other cemeteries. The only alternate runway configurations considered are deemed too short and no alternate provides for runways of an appropriate length but a different location. It does not consider any impacts of its plans for the cemeteries.

The proposal cites removal of bodies from cemeteries in Canada, which has laws different from the United States and also removal of bodies from United States cemeteries some 150 years ago, when the laws were different from they are today.

The proposal does not have adequate detail about the removal of the bodies, but rather sounds as if bodies will be relocated to other cemeteries in some random order as space is available. No suggestion of the location of the proposed new resting place for those buried in the cemeteries is made, nor is there any suggestion of the accessibility of the new location or its proximity to the churches whose land would be taken by the airport.

A number of other questions come to mind regarding moving bodies and graves, to wit:

- would each grave be moved separately with some semblance of the same order as in the current cemetery and with the same headstones as are currently in use?
- what of graves which have no headstones? would these also be moved?
- would the removal of bodies be done with some dignity and reverence and also with notification to the relatives of the deceased so that they could observe?
- would the positioning of new graves provide ownership of empty plots adjacent to these graves as they are in the existing cemeteries, so that families could be buried near their deceased loved ones?

Alternate runway configurations proposed are discarded because they would result in runways too short or with an inappropriate orientation to the prevailing winds. However, no alternate proposal considers moving the runways to the east to allow for the needed length without taking the land now owned by the cemeteries. The proposals consider only moving runways to the south or shortening them.

It seems as if the proposals try to avoid taking people's houses, which are much more replaceable than are the older graves in which bodies have decayed and cannot be responsibly moved, only dug up and dumped somewhere else.

The FAA proposal does not really consider the **impact** of moving the cemeteries; it just argues against previous statements of the people who don't want them moved. Where is the statement of the impact of digging up older graves? Where is the statement of the impact on caskets which were buried without vaults? Where is the statement of the impact on headstones which are currently in place? Where is the statement of the impact on the survivors? Where is the statement of the impact on those who plan to be buried in these cemeteries? Where is the statement of the impact on the churches who own the cemeteries? Where is the statement of impact on people of the statements when O'Hare and its predecessor were built that the cemetery land was inviolate?