



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

May 4, 2017

Ms. Arlene Juracek  
Chair, O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission  
10510 W. Zemke Road  
Chicago, IL 60666

Dear Ms. Juracek:

Airports are the economic engines for the communities they serve. At the same time, airports strive to maximize economic benefits derived from airport operations. Subsequently, it is important that airports take the time to promote neighborly relationships with surrounding communities.

In 1997, the city of Chicago established a community-based organization called the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC). The establishment of the ONCC promotes constructive dialogue on aircraft noise issues and ensures communities surrounding O'Hare have an active role in shaping the noise mitigation activities. Since its inception, the ONCC has grown significantly and now includes 42 municipalities and city of Chicago wards, Cook County, and 16 school districts near O'Hare.

In the past 20 years, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has collaborated with the City of Chicago and ONCC to execute one of the largest and most comprehensive residential and school sound-insulation programs in the world. Through this effort, the ONCC has been a strong advocate for the program, and tens of thousands of O'Hare-area residents have benefitted directly from ONCC's leadership in the prioritization and distribution of monies toward residential and school sound insulation. The total spending on these programs since they began is approximately \$550 million, providing sound insulation for 124 O'Hare-area schools and over 10,000 homes.

Additionally, the ONCC has been actively engaged in FAA's noise-mitigation research activities over the years. For instance, ONCC representatives have served as members of advisory boards for the Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction and the Aviation Sustainability Center Centers of Excellence, providing an invaluable real-world perspective on FAA's research programs.

Over the past 20 years, the FAA has watched the ONCC grow and evolve into a model community-based advocacy program. Whether serving as a forum for information sharing and exchange of ideas, conducting outreach and education, participating in national research, administering world-class noise mitigation programs, or creatively exploring new ways to address community noise concerns, the ONCC has served as a voice for its member communities and an exceptional example for other cities to follow.

On this 20th anniversary of the founding of the ONCC, the FAA is pleased to recognize the important role played by the ONCC in our nation's efforts to address airport noise impacts fairly and effectively. The FAA wishes to offer the ONCC our sincere appreciation and our congratulations on reaching this 20-year milestone of sustained contributions and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Huerta", with a large circular flourish at the end.

Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator