



FAiR Solutions:
Neighborhood-based air traffic plan
Mandatory "Fly Quiet"
Noise monitoring and abatement
Environmental Impact Statement
Use all runways

FAiR gathers democratically as a citizen led initiative to build community

CONTACT:
Jac Charlier
(773) 266-1420
jac.charlier@gmail.com

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**CDA Handling of Noise Monitor Data Not to Be Trusted:
FAiR Takes FOIA Violations to Illinois Attorney General for Investigation**

While studying data released by the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) for noise monitor site 5 on Chicago's Northwest side, the Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition discovered flaws with the process by which noise monitor data is released. The serious gaps between the raw data and how and what is released to the public have led FAiR's Executive Leadership Team to declare that citizens cannot trust the CDA. "Yet again, FAiR has uncovered that what citizens are told about what is actually going on at O'Hare with regard to the massive increase in planes, noise and pollution is either suspect or just wrong. This is another example of failed leadership at the highest levels of the CDA and only adds to the total lack of trust citizens already have in how things are run at our airports." said Jac Charlier, FAiR Co-Founder.

The preliminary investigation by FAiR's Data Team has so far revealed that:

- CDA releases incomplete data sets generated by noise monitors;
- CDA removes noise monitor data at its own discretion but does not inform the public of its removal;
- CDA maintains no standardized, transparent criteria for determining what noise data to remove.

FAiR's Data Team submitted a total of seven FOIA requests to the CDA specifically for site 5. At one point in conversation with a CDA official, FAiR was told to "kindly not file several potential FOIA requests." To

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date, CDA has provided only four of seven FOIA-requested data reports, forcing FAiR to escalate the matter to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. 'Recently the Illinois Attorney General's office successfully obtained one of the four data reports, after CDA initially redacted data for over 400 noise events' noted Ed Phillips, a FAiR Data Team member. The noise monitors capture the real, live noise experiences of the people on the ground. Citizens are entitled to un-redacted information.

FAiR's review also revealed that CDA's published monthly noise reports omit information from the data sets captured by the monitors. . Responding to questions from FAiR, the CDA admitted that its process and criteria for excluding noise data from the agency's published reports has not been shared with the public. Further, CDA was unable to recommend how to request which noise data was rejected and why.

As a result of what has been uncovered and CDA's attempts to withhold data from the public, FAiR's Leadership is calling for an investigation into the missing data and the comments made by the senior CDA official to the FAiR Data Team. "It's not clear why the CDA would want to prevent this information from being known. What is very clear is that they are more concerned with making the process so difficult that citizens will just give up on learning the truth about the noise they live with daily. What does CDA have to hide? The situation demands an investigation of the CDA and the validity of its information."

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The Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition is a rapidly growing movement of citizens and civics in the Chicago area. FAiR is the leading voice for both city and suburban residents negatively impacted by the new runway takeoff and landing patterns. FAiR supports the economic engines of O'Hare and Midway while also seeking a real role in when and where those engines fly over the residents, homes, parks and schools of impacted communities. FAiR recognizes that two more runways are yet to be completed at O'Hare and the problems posed by yet more massive increases in airplane traffic will only become worse if citizens do not have a voice in the process.

FAiR requests residents report airplane noise complaints online throughout the day at www.fairchicago.org or 800-435-9569. Citizens and civic organizations are invited to learn more about and join FAiR at www.fairchicago.org. FAiR is also on Facebook and Twitter @fairchicago.

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