



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

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O'Hare Noise Monitor Data Speaks Volumes: FAiR Wants You to Have a Good Night's Sleep

During the period from June 4 to June 19 2014 the Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition collected data from a noise monitor placed at a northwest side Chicago home on the 5800 block of North Drake Avenue, a whopping 10 miles away from O'Hare and positioned below the flight path for 27L/9R (Thorndale/Bryn Mawr). The home was equipped with an official regulation-grade, portable noise monitor supplied by the City of Chicago to assess the volume and noise from flights to and from O'Hare Airport. The monitor was requested by FAiR member Judie Simpson. Ms. Simpson waited nearly six months for the monitor after requesting one through official channels.

During the two week period and using the official data collected by the noise monitor, the noise level was an average of 73dB during the evening. Using the Day and Night Level (DNL) for this noise monitor reading, this home would be eligible for sound proofing because it is above the 65 DNL set by the FAA. However, because it is located outside of the computer-generated noise contour map, it does not qualify for sound proofing. In fact, based on the recent FAA decision to not complete a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), it will be at least 11 years, 2025, before the noise contours would be redrawn regardless of how much noise citizens are now receiving even when verified by noise monitors. Jim Argionis, FAiR Coalition Leadership Team member, said "This situation is ridiculous. Using official noise monitors, FAiR will prove the noise contour map is wrong but it will not cause a change in the (noise contour) map. What's the point of collecting data that will not cause something to change? FAiR does not accept this scenario."

In addition, the noise monitor data showed that:

- 100% of the night flights (10pm-7am) over the house were 65 dBs or louder.
- Almost 20% were 75 dBs or louder
- 7% were 85 dBs or louder.

FAiR is a coalition of community organizations dedicated to the equitable distribution of O'Hare aircraft traffic

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- The loudest flight recorded during the period registered at 94.9 dBs. This sound level is louder than a next door neighbor using a jackhammer 50 feet from the person's pillow.

The level of noise and its frequency are a direct result of the changes made in October 2013 to the runway takeoff and landing patterns at O'Hare as part of the O'Hare Modernization Plan. These changes have severely impacted the quality of life and health of citizens on the northwest side of the city and the northwest suburbs. In everyday terms, the level of noise makes it often difficult to sleep, at times impossible to have conversation both inside and outside, and takes away the tranquility of being outside with family and neighbors.

According to Ms. Simpson, "I cannot even enjoy the basic simple pleasures of sleeping in quiet with my windows open, having an uninterrupted conversation in my yard or watching a movie without needed to turn the sound way up. "

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The Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition is a rapidly growing movement of citizens and civics on Chicago's Northwest side and the near Northwest suburbs. 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 engine that is O'Hare 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 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.

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