

# SUBURBAN O'HARE COMMISSION

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Craig B. Johnson  
Chairman

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Secretary-Treasurer

**Addison, Bensenville, DuPage County, Elk Grove Village, Elk Grove Township,  
Elmhurst, Hanover Park, Itasca, Roselle, Wood Dale, Schiller Park**

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For Release: February 26, 2015

## **SOC HAS HIRED TALENTED TEAMS OF AIRCRAFT NOISE EXPERTS: SEEKS METHODS TO WORK WITH O'HARE/CHICAGO/FAA TO REDUCE NOISE**

The Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC) is announcing that it has hired aviation experts to address the topic of O'Hare Noise.

Elk Grove Mayor and SOC Chairman Craig B. Johnson stated:

*"The fight concerning O'Hare Expansion is long over. However, communities are still being impacted by the reconfigured runways at O'Hare Airport. Today, we are joining together to hire talented teams of aviation experts. These highly experienced teams will provide us with technical data and advocacy assistance to explore methods of mitigating aircraft noise to benefit our residents.*

*Ultimately, we understand that O'Hare Airport provides many benefits; however, we need O'Hare Airport to be a good neighbor. Our goal is to work together to achieve quieter skies for residents surrounding O'Hare Airport."*

These talented teams of aviation experts include JDA Aviation Solutions, a Washington DC based firm that specializes in airport operations and aircraft safety; and LGN Aviation, a Washington DC and Minneapolis based aircraft advocacy group. Their responsibilities will be described in further detail below.

The JDA team of experts provides unparalleled technical expertise. Moreover, the firm provides technical consultation to the FAA. The JDA team will be exploring:

- The impact of aircraft noise on residential homes, even those homes that the FAA deems as not being impacted by aircraft noise.
- Validate actual noise contours of aircraft utilizing O'Hare airport under today's interim airport conditions; and,
- Identify operational changes that can be made to O'Hare Airport that reduce noise while maintaining aircraft safety.

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The JDA team is lead by Joseph M. Del Balzo, President and CEO. Several noteworthy members of the JDA team include:

Joe Del Balzo previously served as the highest ranking official at the FAA (including serving as Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration). Mr. Del Balzo is an aviation engineer who served his entire career in the FAA prior to forming JDA.

Dr. Sanford Fidell is an acoustic scientist with a national reputation for his pioneering work on the relationship of aircraft noise and adverse community impact. Dr. Fidell has published over 80 books, papers, and reports on aircraft noise and the impact of aircraft noise on residential communities.

Dr. Antonio Trani, Airport Environmental Noise Expert, is an expert in the field of aircraft noise models and Dr. Trani is the Co-Director of the FAA's National Center of Excellence. He brings considerable experience to the team regarding FAA noise contours and computer noise simulations.

Also joining the team as Air Traffic Control experts are Robert Voss and Craig Burzych. Mr. Voss has extensive air traffic control expertise on the topic of closely packed airspace. He has served both the FAA and NASA. Mr. Burzych has 23 years of air traffic control experience at O'Hare Airport and additional experience with the FAA.

In addition to JDA, SOC is proud to announce that Lockridge Grindal Nauen Aviation (LGN) will be assisting the Suburban O'Hare Commission. LGN is both a Washington DC and Minneapolis based team of aviation advocates with extensive experience on community aircraft noise concerns.

LGN will create an advocacy and educational program for local, state and federal stakeholders on the noise concerns at O'Hare. Action items will include:

- Investigating tools included in a new Part 150 Airport Operations Overview and Noise Compatibility Plan update that would benefit the community;
- Developing a case for the implementation of a new Part 150 Airport Operations Overview and Noise Compatibility Plan update;
- Advise SOC on airport noise program "best practices" that were implemented internationally, and identify noise reduction programs that may assist neighborhoods around O'Hare.

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- Review agreements associated with O'Hare Modernization to identify gaps/opportunities for changes in flight operations and noise exposure.
- Using information developed by JDA to advise Congress, FAA, and Chicago Department of Aviation.

The LGN team includes the following among others:

Dennis McGrann chaired the FAA Noise and Emissions Center of Excellence Advisory Board. He assists the President of NOISE – a national aircraft noise abatement policy group, and he brings over 40 years of experience in Washington DC.

Emily Trainter serves task groups that report to the FAA's Next Gen Advisory Committee. She has served on numerous community teams providing recommendations to the FAA and Congress on community noise impacts.

Jason Schwartz has over 20 years of airport management experience including operations, noise, and stakeholder collaboration. Mr. Schwartz has managed many Part 150 studies, and developed multiple "fly quiet" programs.

Ron Seymour is a member of Chicago based Avion Consultants. He managed over 25 aviation noise studies, Part 150 studies, and changes due to Next Gen technology. He is an expert in noise and airport operation systems and how to apply those systems for noise abatement purposes.

Following the meeting, Bensenville Village President and SOC Vice-Chairman, Frank Soto, stated:

*"Our goal is to find solutions and do what it takes to implement those solutions. The issues are very complex and involve implementing operational enhancements focused to mitigate noise for the communities around the airport which some can be done at the local level but some need to be done at the state and federal level.*

*We must work with the city of Chicago and our regional FAA stakeholders to identify the local opportunities and implement those operational improvements and work with our State legislatures, in Springfield, to pass the new CNEL noise standard for Illinois. We must also work with our federal Legislators and FAA in Washington.*

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*There is no simple solution. If there was, these issues would have been addressed. The issues are far more complex and require a collective effort to come up with reasonable solutions at various levels. Bringing this group of talent together, for this purpose, has never been done before but it must be done to improve the quality of life of those living around our airports. We are all committed to this goal. ”*

SOC will soon be reaching out to the FAiR Group, State officials, and other local municipalities such as Norridge, Park Ridge, and Schaumburg to introduce the team of experts as they begin their work on our behalf.

The Suburban O'Hare Commission is a group of 11 local governments representing over 1 million people. SOC has been in existence since the early 1980s and has worked on numerous intergovernmental programs to benefit the region. The members of SOC include: Addison, Bensenville, DuPage County, Elk Grove Village, Elk Grove Township, Elmhurst, Hanover Park, Itasca, Roselle, Wood Dale, and Schiller Park.

## Questions about this Press Release:

Contact Elk Grove Mayor and SOC Chairman, Craig B. Johnson, at 847-357-4030.

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