

For Immediate Release
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Friday, March 10, 2006 Statement by Rosemarie S. Andolino Regarding Village of Bensenville Demolition Moratorium

"Although the O'Hare Modernization Act and other legal authority make it clear that implementation of the OMP, including demolition activities, is not subject to regulation by units of local government, including the Village of Bensenville, we share the Village's desire to work in a collaborative effort. In fact, we have committed to making resources and experts available for discussions with relevant Village officials to ensure that all public health and safety concerns are appropriately addressed.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) is interested in moving forward with demolitions in an expeditious manner. As with all of the previously demolished properties for the OMP, the City of Chicago is committed to following the necessary procedures and guidelines to ensure the public's health and safety. Therefore, we look forward to meeting with the Village of Bensenville so that both parties can determine precisely the information that will be needed in order to develop a demolition plan.

The OMP continues to move forward. The Program received federal approval, has funding in hand, and construction is underway. In fact, contractors have moved more than 198,000 cubic yards of dirt and poured nearly 5,200 cubic yards of concrete for site preparation of new Runway 9L-27R, O'Hare's first new runway since 1971. We have acquired and cleared all of the property needed for construction of new Runway 9L-27R. In addition, a total of 75 properties have been acquired in Bensenville to date.

The sooner we complete construction, the sooner we will realize the tremendous benefits of a modernized O'Hare."

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