



News Release

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Chicago Department of Aviation Discusses Airport RFP Process with Aviation Committee

Non-voting hearing is part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's pledge for additional transparency in city contract RFP process

CHICAGO – Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino and CDA senior staff today participated in an informational briefing with the Chicago City Council Aviation Committee, providing an update on four pending Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for O'Hare and Midway International Airports. The briefing was held to demonstrate the CDA's commitment to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's pledge to enhance and promote openness, transparency and competition in all airports concessions contracts.

"Getting the best deal for the City's taxpayers in an open and honest process is expected across the City, in every department and agency," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "It is through open, educational hearings such as these that taxpayers will understand how City money is being spent, how City contracts are being awarded and how our City Council can make better informed decisions when voting on critical matters such as contracts at our airports, while continuing to modernize O'Hare and Midway Airports to maintain our competitiveness."

Commissioner Andolino and her senior staff provided an overview and answered questions about the following Requests for Proposals:

- The indoor/outdoor advertising contract that would serve both airports, which was issued in August 2011;
- A major food and beverage concessions RFP for 17,000 square feet of existing food and beverage space at Midway, as well as a new food court that was issued in September 2011;
- Specialty retail at both airports that includes book stores and other shopping, which was issued September 2010; and
- An RFP for a multi-fueling station conveniently located near O'Hare that will provide several choices of environmentally-friendly fuels including compressed natural gas that is already used by several dozen taxis in Chicago as well as companies and individuals. This RFP was issued in November 2011.

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“The Chicago Department of Aviation is pleased to have the chance to educate the City Council about upcoming projects at O’Hare and Midway, which stand to significantly enhance the traveler experience at both of our airports as well as grow the more than \$100 million of annual revenue from sales taxes that go to the City,” said Commissioner Andolino. “I would like to thank Mayor Emanuel and Aviation Committee Chairman Michael Zalewski for scheduling these hearings to promote their commitment to openness, transparency and competition in airport contracts and reaffirm that we definitely share that commitment. As we make investments in our airports to maintain and amplify the world-class stature of each, we look forward to meeting regularly with the City Council and educating them and answering questions in the spirit of transparency.”

In addition to the RFPs, the Commissioner and her staff also discussed the extensive outreach efforts the CDA has made to the contractor community. Those efforts include contractor open houses; a minority business opportunity fair; topical workshops and participation in events sponsored by other City departments including the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Business Works Seminars; the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Expo; the Women’s Business Development Council Entrepreneurial Conference and the City of Chicago Treasurer’s Small Business Expo. The CDA is also growing the number of individuals receiving free Web Alerts, an online communications tool that delivers emails to more than 10,000 subscribers with announcements on bid package opportunities, upcoming events, positive news about Chicago’s airports and the Department’s activities, special programs and accomplishments. The CDA has already issued more than 150 Web Alerts in 2011.

The concessions contract RFP PowerPoint presentation discussed at City Council today is available [here](#).

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O’Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago’s airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The O’Hare Modernization Program (OMP) transforms O’Hare’s airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

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