



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

May 4, 2021

Julia A. Cedillo
Village Manager
Village of La Grange Park
447 N. Catherine Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526

Dear Ms. Cedillo:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding your constituents' concerns about noise originating from Chicago Midway Airport. You inquired about whether flights landing and taking off from runway 13C/31C are potentially causing noise disturbances over La Grange Park, IL. You noted that you had reached out to the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), who told you that the noise was attributable to aircraft taking off and landing into the wind. We appreciate you taking time to share your concerns with our office.

The CDA is correct, aircraft almost always take-off and land into the wind. This increases the speed of the air flowing over an aircraft's wings as it takes off and lands, which helps to increase the margin of safety in case of an engine failure or other such problems. A prevailing wind from the southeast would normally result in aircraft landing into the wind on Midway runway 13C and a prevailing wind from the northwest, would result in aircraft departing on Midway runway 31C. Both configurations place aircraft over La Grange Park. Because of La Grange Park's proximity and the orientation of the runways at Midway Airport, options to change flight paths are limited.

At Midway Airport during calm wind conditions there is more latitude to select the landing/departing runways. The Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Control Tower management at Midway Airport determines primary arriving and departing runways in collaboration with Chicago Approach Control which is responsible for airspace that overlies Midway Airport. In order to handle air traffic demands, the FAA's Air Traffic Control (ATC) organization uses different runway configurations based on runway selection criteria. ATC considers several factors in deciding which runway to use, wind, weather, operational efficiency, and noise considerations. In addition, runway availability plays a large factor, as airports will often close one or more runways for construction, maintenance or safety inspections, occasionally limiting the availability of runways at the airport.

I trust this information is helpful. If you require further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (847) 294-7294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca B. MacPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rebecca B. MacPherson
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region

cc: Washington Office