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April 12, 2017

Barry D. Cooper, Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration - Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL. 60018

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Chicago Cubs momentous 2016 World Series victory brought a lot of excitement to Lakeview and Chicago. Overall, the feedback I have received has been extremely positive. However, I hope you will help me address one of the biggest complaints my office has received: helicopter and advertising aircraft noise.

During the 2016 baseball postseason, the Lakeview community endured constant helicopter operations around the ballpark. For example, many media outlets began aerial coverage as early as 4 a.m. and maintained aerial coverage throughout the day and late into the evening. My office was inundated with noise and quality of life complaints from these operations. Many residents complained that the helicopters' frequent, lengthy and low altitude hovering negatively impacted sleep, children, pets, work and the ability to enjoy time at home. These complaints have continued as the 2017 season started this week.

Residents have requested my support seeking additional limitations for the time of day, duration and altitude in which non-emergency aircraft can begin flying and hovering over residential areas. Residents have also requested limitations on the number of aircraft that can be in an area at the same time.

With the 2017 baseball season upon us, I would appreciate your support with and attention to this issue and would value your advice on how we might address these concerns. I also welcome examples of measures other municipalities have explored with aircraft operators and how those measures were implemented.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from me or my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tunney
Alderman, 44th Ward

Cc: Congressman Mike Quigley – IL- 5th District
Commissioner Ginger Evans – Chicago Department of Aviation