

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Nuria I. Fernandez, Commissioner



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MIDWAY AIRPORT CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY

CHICAGO – The Department of Aviation celebrates the 80th birthday of Midway International Airport today with a giant birthday card and cake served to passengers traveling through the terminal.

“The continuous development and enhancement of Midway throughout its 80 year history reflects the City’s commitment to provide the very best service to air travelers,” said Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. “Today, Midway is recognized as the nation’s premiere point-to-point airport offering value fares.”

On December 12, 1927, Chicago Mayor William Thompson officially named the flying field at 63rd Street and Cicero Avenue “Chicago Municipal Field”. That year a total of 800 arrivals and departures, with aircraft primarily hauling airmail and express cargo rather than passengers, were logged at the airport. The airport was re-named Midway Airport in 1949 in honor of the Battle of Midway during World War II and re-named again to Midway International Airport in 2002.

Today, seven airlines provide nearly 300 daily flights to 55 destinations from Midway. In 2006, the airport handled nearly 299,000 flights and more than 18.8 million passengers.

Midway International Airport creates 90,000 jobs for the region and contributes an estimated \$7 billion a year in economic activity. The airport complex covers just over one square mile on the southwest side of Chicago.

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The Chicago Airport System 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 Airport System.

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