



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION  
CITY OF CHICAGO

January 10, 2018

«FIRSTNAME» «LASTNAME» or Current Resident  
«ADDRESS»  
«CITY\_STATE\_ZIPCODE»

Subject: Notice of Results  
First Phase of Odorous Windows Testing  
Midway Residential Sound Insulation Program

Dear Homeowner:

As a follow-up to our October 2017 letter, we are writing to inform you of the findings from the first phase of testing of odorous windows. As you know, in September, the City of Chicago (“City”) began a thorough, independent environmental testing program to determine any potential health impacts associated with odors emitted from some vinyl windows installed as part of the Residential Sound Insulation Program (“RSIP”).

While we were unable to identify the exact cause of the odor, **we are pleased to inform you that the results of phase one testing indicate that the windows do not have any significant impact on indoor air quality or related health concerns.** As promised, a full report of the findings by the certified industrial hygiene consulting firm, Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (“Amec”), will be made available to you and the community on the Chicago Department of Aviation (“CDA”) website this week.

The Amec report contains findings from the in-home indoor air quality and laboratory testing performed, which screened for more than 200,000 compounds in the home environment. The term “indoor air quality” generally means the quality of air inside and around homes and buildings, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of the home and building occupants. The report findings are compared to indoor air quality guidelines, and are summarized below:

- There is no evidence that RSIP windows have any significant impact on air quality inside the nine homes;
- Based on the difference between test results from pre- and post-window replacement, indoor air quality in all nine homes tested below the Illinois Department of Public Health and/or the State of California relevant guidelines, with the exception of formaldehyde<sup>1</sup>

detected in one home, which the report indicates is most likely from sources in the home other than the windows.

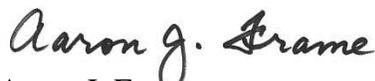
The Chicago Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) has reviewed the testing results in detail, as well as the methodology employed throughout the first phase of testing, and determined that the methodology was credible. Based on these findings, CDPH believes that it is highly unlikely that the RSIP windows, nor the levels of formaldehyde detected, have any significant impact on indoor air quality, and has committed to future review of results in the second round of testing this year.

Because further testing is recommended by the testing experts to develop further information regarding window off-gassing and the sources of the odors, the City will again partner with Amec on a second round of testing this spring and summer. This will provide a better understanding of the window off-gassing issue with inclusion of data during the warmer months of the year, and will ultimately inform our recommendations for a solution to mitigate the odors.

To view the full report on phase one of testing, please be advised that it will be posted to our CDA website on Friday at 10:00 a.m. The link where the report can be downloaded is <http://www.flychicago.com/community/MDWnoise/SoundInsulation/pages/default.aspx>. If you do not have Internet access to be able to review the report online and would like a copy, please call the Program office at (773) 838-5632 and our staff will send the report to you.

The CDA will continue to keep you and your fellow residents apprised of additional testing results as well as any other new developments on the issue of odorous windows. We thank you for your patience during this testing period and encourage you to reach out with any additional sound insulation questions you may have to our RSIP team.

Sincerely,



Aaron J. Frame

Deputy Commissioner of Environment

<sup>1</sup> According to the USEPA, formaldehyde is a common compound found in everyday life, and is emitted from many household items such as wood flooring, wooden cabinetry finishes, curtains and drapes, glues, paints, pesticides, cigarettes, and gas stoves, among many others. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that some formaldehyde is common in contemporary American homes.