

IMPORTANT MEDIA ALERT

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From: The Office of the Mayor
CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS



Country Club Hills Mayor Charges Blagojevich with Trying to Shift Airport Power from Black Proponents to White Opponents ***City Contributes \$20,000 check to ALNAC for PR Blitz***

Country Club Hills today contributed \$20,000 for a public relations effort aimed at persuading Governor Blagojevich to lease state land to the Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission and to "stop playing racial politics with airport opponents."

"Country Club Hills supported Governor Blagojevich four years ago because he said he supported the south suburban airport. He - and he alone - now has the power and authority to make it happen. We expect nothing less from him," Mayor Dwight Welch said today.

"For two years the Governor has been playing racial politics with certain Will County officials who do nothing but obstruct the airport. The Governor seems to support shifting control of the airport from a coalition of mostly minority communities, who have done all the work, to a handful of mostly white communities who have historically opposed the airport," said Welch.

"It's time for the Governor to stop placating white officials who oppose the airport and start rewarding black communities who support it," said Welch, who is white and has been mayor of mostly black Country Club Hills for twenty years.

To that end, the City of Country Club Hills today delivered a \$20,000 check to ALNAC to begin financing a public relations effort announced last week by ALNAC's Board.

"Let's be honest. ALNAC has done all the work to build the airport. ALNAC created an open commission. ALNAC drafted a plan that the state has adopted. And ALNAC found private money to pay for the airport without cost or risk to taxpayers. All ALNAC needs is the state-owned land, and the Governor has the power to lease that land to ALNAC right now," he said.

ALNAC on Friday launched a drive to raise \$250,000 for an advertising campaign to push Blagojevich to enter into a long-term lease with ALNAC. Several communities have already pledged to give at least \$10,000. The Country Club Hills City Council last night was the first to take action by approving and had delivering a \$20,000 contribution this morning.