



# News Release

**June 13, 2011**

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## **COPA AIRLINES TO INITIATE NEW INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TO PANAMA FROM CHICAGO O'HARE**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) announces new daily nonstop international service by Panama-based Copa Airlines between Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Panama Tocumen International Airport beginning in December of 2011.

Copa Airlines will operate from International Terminal 5 at O'Hare on a Boeing B737-700 aircraft. The new service will begin northbound (from Panama to Chicago) on December 15, 2011 and southbound (from Chicago to Panama) on December 16, 2011.

"We are pleased to welcome Copa Airlines, a leading Latin American provider of passenger and cargo air service, to O'Hare International Airport", said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "Establishing additional international air service to the Chicago market is an important part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's overall vision to spur economic growth and job development in the city and region."

Chicago will be Copa's first destination in the Midwestern United States and the new route will be the first nonstop service between Chicago and Panama City, Panama. This service is a result of the CDA's ongoing efforts to attract new domestic and international carriers to the Chicago market.

"Our daily nonstop service will facilitate access between Chicago and Panama, two major business and tourism centers, as well as increase Chicagoans' connectivity to destinations throughout Latin America," said Pedro Heilbron, CEO, Copa Airlines. "Our new Chicago flight, an important part of Copa's ambitious expansion plan, will offer the fastest and most direct way to fly from Chicago to Santiago, Chile; to Cali, Barranquilla, Medellin and Bogotá, Colombia; and to many other destinations in Latin America."

Today's announcement coincides with Copa Airlines' 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Investor Day held at the New York Stock Exchange. Additional inaugural events will also be coordinated and held on dates closer to the beginning of the service in December 2011.

The addition of Copa Airlines' passenger service is expected to bring approximately \$70 million in yearly economic activity to the Chicago region. The service reflects the steadily increasing demand for air travel between the United States and Latin America.

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Panama-based Copa Airlines is a leading Latin American provider of passenger and cargo air services. Copa provides service to 55 destinations in 27 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean with one of the most modern fleets in the airline industry. Panama City, Panama is the location of Copa's hub, known as the "Hub of the Americas." For more information about Copa Airlines, please visit: [www.copaair.com](http://www.copaair.com).

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) 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](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, and concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) Version 2.0, released in November 2010. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit [www.airportsgoinggreen.org](http://www.airportsgoinggreen.org).

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit [www.oharemodernization.org](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

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### **About Copa Holdings, S.A.**

Copa Holdings is a leading Latin American provider of passenger and cargo services. The company, through its operating subsidiaries Copa Airlines and Copa Airlines Colombia, provides service to 55 destinations in 27 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean with one of the youngest and most modern fleets in the industry, consisting of 66 aircraft: 40 Boeing 737NG aircraft and 26 Embraer-190s. From the U.S., Copa Airlines currently offers nonstop service to Panama from Miami, New York City (JFK), Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. (Dulles), and Orlando. To make reservations, check seat assignment, access OnePass frequent-flyer accounts, create a trip log, print boarding passes or pay for tickets via secure transactions in 10 currencies, visit [copaair.com](http://copaair.com). Copa recently launched its mobile website, [m.copaair.com](http://m.copaair.com), becoming the first airline in Latin America to offer travelers the ability to use electronic boarding passes. Copa Airlines will join Star Alliance in April 2012.