



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 655-1522

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Jena Stasik, Community Relations Manager
CC: Thomas Sheridan, City Manager, Brian Griffith, Assistant City Manager, Greg Hannan, Community Development Director
Date: May 19, 2024
Subject: Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) – Five Year Review

Background

On June 7, 2020, Hudson City Council formally adopted Resolution 20-69 creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) in accordance with ORC 4301.82. The DORA creation allowed restaurant patrons to legally walk through an established contiguous area with an alcoholic beverage served by a properly licensed facility. The current boundaries of the DORA include 32.5 acres with 11 qualified permit holders. Within the original application, the City identified the following areas to ensure public health and safety:

- Law Enforcement Duties
- Fire/EMS Responsibilities
- Required Cups
- Special Event Requirements
- Outdoor Dining and/or Events on Properties in the DORA
- Signage
- Sanitation
- Hours of Operation

In addition to components of public health and safety, the specific boundaries of the area, including street addresses and nature of the businesses within the DORA were also identified. City staff collaboratively reviewed the above components within the Five-Year Review to provide final recommendations to Council.

Five-Year Review

As a requirement of ORC 4301.82, every five years the legislative authority of the municipality that created the DORA shall review the operation of the area, by ordinance or resolution, and either approve the continued operation of the area or dissolve it as long as the DORA is operational. Prior to adopting the ordinance or resolution, the legislative authority shall give notice of its proposed action by publication in one newspaper of general circulation of the municipal corporation as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code.

Proposed Timeline

June 10, 2025	City Council Workshop Discussion for Introduction to Five Year Review of the DORA
June 17, 2025	City Council First Reading
June 22, 2025 June 29, 2025	Public notice of the <u>application and Public Hearing</u> advertised on two consecutive weeks in the Hudson Hub Times (see attachment)
July 8, 2025	City Council Second Reading and Public Hearing
July 22, 2025	City Council Workshop Session to further review the application and testimony received at Public Hearing
July 27, 2025 August 3, 2025	Public notice of the <u>proposed action</u> advertised on two consecutive weeks in the Hudson Hub Times (see attachment)
August 5, 2025	City Council Third reading and possible action (action must occur between 30-60 days from the June 22 initial publication of notice)

The timeline outlined above begins the Five-Year Review discussion and process five years after the originally passed Resolution 20-69 creating the DORA as required by the Ohio Division of State Liquor Control.

Legislative History

Resolution No. 20-69, Creation of DORA and establishment of Codified Ordinance 1207.20, passed 7/7/2020.
 Resolution No. 20-100, Amending Hours of Operation of DORA, passed 9/1/2020.
 Resolution 20-168 – Approval of Continued Operation of the DORA, passed 1/19/21

2024 Comprehensive Plan

On October 1, 2024, Council approved the 2024 Comprehensive Plan which includes objectives to enhance the downtown area. Specifically, Staff considered Objective 1.4.1 “Expand the DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) boundary to include additional downtown properties within the state allowances.” in the Five Year Review.

Staff reviewed the businesses surrounding the DORA boundary and noted that expansion to the east side of North Main or east side of East Main would not include any businesses that currently sell alcohol and therefore was deemed unnecessary at this time. As there are several restaurants south of State Route 303 (W Streetsboro Street), Staff held discussions with Hudson Police and Fire Departments to review the safety of extending the DORA border further south. Both Chiefs were aligned that the increased pedestrian crossings over major roadways and the intersection at State Route 303 and State Route 91 not desirable from a safety perspective. An expansion to some properties south of State Route 303 would also make it difficult for officers and citizens to identify the boundary to the DORA. As a result of the discussions, Staff does not recommend an expansion to the DORA boundary as part of the Five Year Review.

Recommendation

Staff recommends continued operation of the DORA as previously approved in Resolution No. 20-69 and amended for hours of operation in Resolution No. 20-100 and Resolution 20-168.