


May 30, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager 

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Application for the Modification of the College Hill Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area**

202401476

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

APPROVING an application to expand an existing designated outdoor refreshment area in the College Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati, established under Ordinance No. 183-2022, known as the “College Hill DORA,” pursuant to Chapter 838 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code, “Outdoor Refreshment Areas”; and **AMENDING** Ordinance No. 183-2022 to modify the specific boundaries of the existing College Hill DORA.

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

Ohio Revised Code (“R.C”) 4301.82, initially enacted in 2015, allows the executive officer of a municipal corporation to submit an application to its legislative authority for the establishment of a designated outdoor refreshment area (“DORA”). In 2015, City Council enacted Chapter 838 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code (“CMC”), “Outdoor Refreshment Areas,” to provide for the creation of DORAs within the City of Cincinnati.

On June 23, 2022, City Council passed Ordinance No. 183-2022 approving an application for the creation of a DORA in the College Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati.

This submitted legislation contains an application for the modification of a DORA in the College Hill neighborhood covering the expanded area depicted in Attachment A.

MODIFIED APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

The application for the modification of a DORA amends the existing boundary depicted in the original application. Specifically, the proposed modification expands the boundary south of Cedar Avenue in the College Hill neighborhood, adding approximately 1.78 acres to the DORA boundary. No other modifications to the original application have been made.

APPROVAL PROCESS, PUBLIC NOTICE, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Under State law, the Administration published public notice of this application prior to consideration of this legislation by City Council. City Council must then act on the proposed application no less than thirty days and no more than sixty days from publication of notice. The Administration has been deeply engaged with stakeholders in the College Hill neighborhood in assembling the proposed application and will continue that engagement process with community groups and stakeholders throughout the continued administration of the College Hill DORA.

MODIFIED APPLICATION RATIONALE

The goal of the proposed modification is to allow more qualified license holders and businesses within the College Hill Neighborhood Business District to utilize the DORA. College Hill has seen recent success with their DORA, as approximately more than 4,405 people attended organized events like “The Avenue Experience” within the DORA in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends approval of this Emergency Ordinance. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to allow the qualified license holders and businesses to prepare for the new operational needs of the College Hill DORA.

Attachment: A. Proposed Expanded College Hill DORA Boundary

Copy: Markiea L. Carter, Director, Department of Community & Economic Development