



Proposed Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) Expansion
Testimony
Dayton City Commission
Amanda Byers
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
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Good evening Mayor Mims, City Manager Dickstein and members of the City Commission, my name is Amanda Byers, and I am the Director of Talent & Policy for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. As the largest regional business advocate in the greater Dayton region, the Dayton Area Chamber serves as the most trusted voice of business for nearly 2,200 businesses and organizations in southwest Ohio in a fourteen county region. Many of these members are located in downtown Dayton and it is on behalf of these members that I am here today to support the expansion of the Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, also referred to as DORA.

The Dayton Area Chamber has been a supporter of the DORA since it was introduced in 2020 and with the expansion to cover all of downtown we believe it would allow for more visibility for businesses because visitors are encouraged to get out and walk around downtown. When visitors are walking as opposed to biking/driving they will be more likely to visit multiple businesses they may have missed while driving through.

An expanded DORA would allow visitors to patronize more downtown businesses and amenities previously not within the DORA boundary, allowing dozens more businesses to benefit in the expanded territory. The primary goal is to strengthen all downtown Dayton businesses, creating more vibrancy and activity downtown, enliven downtown streets and create more of a sense of place. The expansion would also include courthouse square, where dollars are currently being invested for improvement. This is just one tool in the toolbox for attracting businesses and visitors to downtown Dayton.

When considering other Ohio cities which have expanded their DORA boundaries successfully, none have reported any DORA-related problems or safety concerns. Several of the 120 plus DORAs across the state of Ohio have found success in their expanded boundaries in the last two years, including the City of Troy's expansion earlier this year. The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is in support of the expansion of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, and I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.