



October 20, 2021

To: Giovanni Rocco, Giovanni.Rocco@cincinnati-oh.gov
Major Projects
Department of Community and Economic Development
Two Centennial Plaza
805 Central Ave, Suite 700
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Re: DORA application for Hyde Park Square

Dear Gio,

At its regular meeting on October 12, 2021, the Trustees of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council (“HPNC”) received an update from Paul Rudolph and Austin Heidt about Hyde Park Square Business Association’s desire to move forward with the DORA application for Hyde Park Square. In their presentation, they provided initial considerations for hours, boundaries, safety, and goals for the DORA, including “a tame, clean, and fun DORA experience.” Their presentation was based on the attached 1-page flyer sent to the HPNC on 10/12/21. The HPNC has added two comments to the flyer which we will share with Paul and Austin.

During the subsequent discussion, HPNC trustees expressed a range of perspectives. On the one hand, some trustees supported the development of a more detailed DORA application that can be presented to the community in a public meeting. Other trustees voiced concerns that they didn’t yet have enough information to properly assess this opportunity or schedule a broader community meeting since we still don’t have an application with specific details.

The majority of the trustees favored continuing to support the application process, with the expectations that:

- Additional details will be provided to HPNC and the community as an application is developed.
- HPNC and the community will be provided with updates about the application.
- HPNC and the community will have further opportunities to express their support or opposition once a formal application has been prepared.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Trustees of the HPNC passed the following motion:

“That the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council approves moving forward with the application process for a DORA for Hyde Park Square.”

Following our meeting, the trustees continued discussion of these topics. We reviewed the State of Ohio Department of Commerce’s FAQ on DORAs:

(https://com.ohio.gov/documents/LIQR_DESIGNATEDOUTDOORREFRESHMENTAREAPUBLICATION.pdf). Page 3 and 4 list specific aspects of state law that the City of Cincinnati must comply with as part of complying with state law.

As the HPNC considers its opportunities to provide continued input on a potential DORA application, can you please clarify to us in writing what the City's process consists of, including:

- Notification that an application has been received.
- Whether a public hearing will be scheduled after receipt of the application.
- What the approval process will consist of as an ordinance is considered.

At each stage of this process, please explain when and how the City will seek input from both the HPNC and the broader Hyde Park community.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Hyde Park Square Business Association in developing an application. And thank you for supporting the HPNC as we learn how the application process will work once a formal application is submitted.

Sincerely,

Scott Hassell

Scott Hassell
President, HPNC

HYDE PARK SQUARE DORA

DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA

First and foremost, the Hyde Park Square Dora (HPSD) is an opportunity to **make the Square a unique and more vibrant area**. It is an opportunity to have artful events such as Wine and Food Pairing Festivals, Co-mingling Art, Wine, and Fashion events, or celebrating Cincinnati's Historic Beer heritage.



Having very limited evening hours will allow residents of all kind to enjoy the square with a beverage of their choice, while not overlapping with after-school hours. It is important to illustrate the **goal of the HPSD is to create a tame environment for beverage enjoyment** similar to those of Milford and Wyoming. Some of the initial considerations to maintain a tame, clean and fun DORA experience entail:

- Limited Evening Hours (6p-9p Sun.-Thurs., 6p-10pm Fri. & Sat.)
- Area Primarily Around Square
- Reusable Cups to Reduce Waste

HPNC Comment: As of 10/13, HPNC has not agreed to play any regulatory role in the DORA and that may not be allowed for in the relevant laws.

HPNC Comment: Replace text with "Hyde Park Square Business Association"

Both the **HP Neighborhood Council** and **HP Business Association** will regulate hours (ranging from limited evening hours to only using DORA for events). We will be working with the Cincinnati Police Department to ensure the implementation of DORA is safe for all.

It is both the community and businesses mutual interest to maintain a vibrant atmosphere in the square. If we don't obtain DORA now, we will not be able to use it at the basic level for fun events involving beverages. It is also important to emphasize there is not a direct financial interest for the businesses in gaining a DORA for the square, it is only an **opportunity to make the Square a better destination for the entire community**.

**For more information go to www.hydeparkdora.com
You may also use this site to leave a comment or find a link to the supporting position**

