

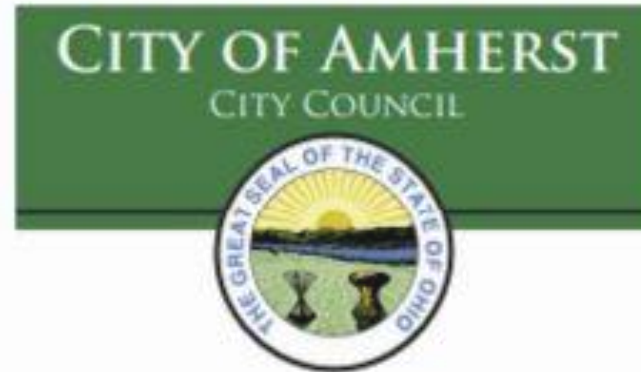
Public Meeting

May 8, 2023

In Person, Amherst City Hall

Virtual using City Live Stream Service

## AMHERST DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA



PLEASE TEXT QUESTIONS TO **216-232-5342**

Welcome to Our DORA Public Meeting

# DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA)

AMHERST OHIO  
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
May 8, 2023  
6:30 pm

PLEASE TEXT QUESTIONS TO 216-232-5342

# Welcome to Our DORA Public Meeting

## AGENDA

- Ground Rules and How to Participate
- DORA Background
- Proposed Hours, Boundaries & Timeline
- Safety & Security
- FAQ
- Q & A (If time permits)

PLEASE TEXT QUESTIONS TO **216-232-5342**

# Ground Rules and How to Participate

## Ground Rules

- This is a recorded meeting, all comments are public record
- Questions will be answered at end of presentation
- Some questions may require research and will be answered on the City Webpage or Council Committee meeting.
- If time runs short, we will schedule a follow-up meeting.
- **Purpose of the meeting is information sharing.**
- The existing application can be amended at the City Council Committee meeting

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## Submitting Questions

Text 216-232-5342

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## Event Hosts

### **Main Street Amherst**

- Teresa Gilles, Executive Director

### **City Law Department**

- Patrick Ward, Assistant Law Director

### **Amherst Police Department**

- Mark Cawthon, Amherst Police Chief

### **City Council**

- Chuck Winiarski, Council-at-Large

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# DORA Info.

- Established in 2015 by State of Ohio
- Program is controlled by Ohio Dept of Commerce / Liquor Control division
- The creation of a DORA is meant to serve as an economic tool to attract patrons to downtown Amherst and highlight the area as a destination for dining and entertainment
- How many DORAs can we have?

Population 50k or less	Maximum #	Maximum size	Minimum Qualified Permit holders in zone
50,000 or less	3	Up to 320 contiguous acres	Two, or more

- City Council approves days, hours and boundaries.
- Mayor and Police can stop a DORA event if needed

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## Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)

**Ohio has 123 DORA locations.**

- Milan
- Sandusky
- Norwalk
- Lorain

Some are special events only; some prohibit DORA during special events. Hours and Days are tailored by each city

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# DORA, Big Picture

- Proposed by Main Street Amherst in 2022
- DORA conditionally modifies open container laws
  - ✓ ORC 4301.62
  - ✓ Adults 21+
  - ✓ Alcoholic beverages served by a participating bar/restaurant in area
  - ✓ Within a designated area & participating business
  - ✓ During designated times
  - ✓ First to last sip of beverage must be drank outside

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DORA, Safety and Security

Police Chief Mark Cawthon

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## DORA, recent local events

- First discussed at City Council summer of 2022 and killed after two readings
- Notion was revisited with local bar owners & MSA in December 2022.
- Later discussed with City Administration, Police and Fire Officials, other DORA cities and interested/impacted local business

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# DORA, recent events

- Decision made to reintroduce the DORA legislation
  - As a test
  - During Downtown events
  - Limited area, within the area that is blocked off during the special events.
- Future of the DORA should be owned by the business it is intended to help
  - Input of the community and city safety forces.
  - Changes to DORA approved by City Council, three public readings is required.
  - **It is NOT Dancing on Mainstreet**

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## DORA, quick rules

- Beverages must be sold in designated cups
- Beverages must be drunk within designated area
- Alcohol must be sold by one of the permitted 'bars'
- 'BYOB' is not permitted...Nuff said!
- Beverages can be taken into retail establishments if allowed by owner
- Beverages cannot be taken from one 'bar' to another 'bar'
  - First sip to last must be drunk outside or participating retail establishment

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DORA, Local Business

Main Street Amherst

Teresa Gilles, Executive Director

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# DORA – Proposed Pilot Project

## Special Events Only

- Summer of 2023
- Store fronts and street of blocked off streets
- Not allowed in Parking Lots
- Safety Service Director is custodian of dates
- Must be reviewed, renewed, modified by City Council within the first year, but can be modified prior to that date
- Public Safety is priority, police and mayor have power to react to issues.
- MSA Director

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# Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)



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# Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)



May charge extra  
for cup

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# Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)



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# DORA – Timeline

## Anticipated Timeline

<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Report to Council</b>	
<b>Formal Application to City Council</b>	
<b>Councils Approval</b> <b>(2 weeks of advertised notices required between application/resolution)</b>	
<b>Implementation, (exact date tbd, based on state issuing to ‘bars’)</b>	
<b>Council review of success of pilot</b>	<b>October</b>

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DORA, Amherst Law Dept

Assistant Law Director  
Patrick Ward

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Closing 'I should mention' ???

Chief Cawthon

Director Gilles

Asst. Law Director Ward

Before questions, comment from Mayor Costilow

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Questions (time permitting)

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