



For Immediate Release:

May 12, 2020

City Assisting Restaurants with Re-Opening

DELAWARE – This is a busy week for our local restaurant scene as it re-opens for outdoor dining. We want it to be as successful as possible and are assisting in several ways:

- The City has waived the requirement that the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area - DORA - district be tied to a special event. The DORA zone, along Sandusky Street, from Spring Street to Central Avenue, and along William and Winter streets, from Franklin Street to Union Street, will be in place Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 10 pm each day. Beer and wine (no spirituous liquor) purchased from participating restaurants and bars can legally be consumed in the zone.
- This expanded DORA scope provides more space to spread out and enjoy downtown now that the state is permitting restaurants to open outdoor seating Friday, and then re-open with limited indoor seating May 21. If this proves successful, additional DORA days are being discussed by city staff and its Business Recovery Task Force, which has been meeting for two weeks.
- The Task Force is working with Main Street and the local health district on expanding outdoor seating in the downtown.
- The City is allowing restaurants and bars to expand current sidewalk cafes utilizing a no-cost temporary permit with permission from their neighboring business/building owners.
- The City of Delaware Planning Department has made it easier for about two dozen downtown businesses to get their outdoor patio and sidewalk use renewals approved entirely on-line.

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