MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

October 5, 2026

Ordinance No. 41-2023

An ordinance creating a designed outdoor refreshment area known as the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, enacting regulations, and declaring an emergency.

On the 5th of October, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. EST, public hearings were called to order and conducted regarding Ordinance 41-2023 dealing with amending specific sections of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Ms.Carrie Snyder, Deputy Director of Community Development, reported that this was the third annual DORA review since its approval in spring 2023. Although Ohio law requires a formal review every five years, the City conducts an annual review each October. The DORA is separate from the Community Entertainment District, which provides additional liquor licenses for economic development.

The Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership, established in 2018, supports downtown businesses, events, and community connections. Since the DORA began in June 2023, it has generated $80,735 in net revenue:

- **2023:** $14,581
- **2024:** $32,237
- **2025:** $24,960
- **2026:** $11,732 as of the hearing

In 2026, approximately $6,704 was spent on cups, event sponsorships, safety, and sanitation. Revenue has declined, reflecting broader decreases in alcohol sales. The Partnership relies on DORA revenue as event costs rise and other funding sources decrease.

The DORA continues to support cooperation among downtown businesses, provide funding for events, and attract interest from other communities considering similar programs.

Slightly more than 15 businesses currently participate in the DORA. As the downtown area includes more food-and-beverage businesses and fewer retailers, participation may increase.

Approximately $17,000 was reinvested in 2025. In 2026, about $20,000 in revenue was reported, with approximately $6,700 spent on signage, cups, event resources, sponsorships, police services, and sanitation.

The North Front Street closure for the St. Patrick's Day crawl was considered successful and may serve as a model for future events. The Partnership also created a sponsorship agreement with Bar Hopping to help cover costs related to police permits, sanitation, and road closures.

Event cleanup is shared by the Partnership, participating businesses, volunteers, Bar Hopin, and staff assigned through the permit process. Businesses are encouraged, but not required, to clean their areas. Volunteers provide much of the cleanup for larger events, including Nightmare on Front Street. Council members emphasized that businesses should contribute meaningfully while recognizing community volunteers.

The DORA supports interaction between food-and-beverage businesses and other downtown establishments through activities such as "sip and shop" events. The Partnership estimated that 80 to 85 percent of retail businesses allow DORA cups inside. Businesses that do not typically have child-focused operations, specialized merchandise, or other environment-related concerns.

Certification

The undersigned, Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Cuyahoga Falls City Council, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the public hearing held by the Council of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026.

Dated: October 12, 2026

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Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio City Council