

No

Gwen Fisher

From: Robbie Brown <robbiebrownkw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 6:50 AM
To: Gwen Fisher; Pat Stein
Subject: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Monica Stark c/o Gwen Fisher

I love our little town and have been dedicated and supportive of our community in any way that I can. I love change but let's have change that is more than just a financial incentive. So I will just say it: I am not in favor of Dora. There are 30 "homes" that are just yards from Exchange Street Park. All the people that support Dora, the question to be asked "do you want Dora in your yard?" When we bought here there was not the idea of Dora and loud music played outdoors seven days a week during the nicest time of the year when you want to have your windows open and/or be outside. Vermilion can not control the music using laws already on the books - city, state, and Federal. How will they ever control loud drunk obnoxious people? Do we really need to complete the towns mentioned? Vermilion is not like any of them. It is hard for me to believe that "no one" is saying anything against. I haven't heard anyone say they are for it. Have you talked to all the homes surrounding the parks? For some reason people are hesitant to speak openly, including me. But here I am! I really hate the comment, "is Vermilion going to become Put in Bay".

1/10

Gwen Fisher

From: Paul Habermehl <paulmehl75@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Gwen Fisher
Cc: Steve Herron; Jim Forthofer
Subject: To Vermilion City Council, DORA program!

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing in reference to a program that I hear Vermilion in Bloom, and a few others, are proposing for our city! It appears that they don't think we have enough visitors to our city, so they want to institute a program to let visitors carry and drink, alcoholic beverages on our city streets while walking around our city streets. They feel this will bring in more people to our city, and they will spend more money with our merchants. This may bring in an extra 15 or 20 people, but you will probably have 20 or 30 local people, (including myself) stay away from the staggering drunks walking the streets. Probably the only people who will benefit, are the bar-owners, who might sell a couple extra beers.

According to an article in the Photojournal, a alcoholic drink cannot be carried into another establishment, so how would the other merchants benefit. A couple of merchants I have talked to have said that if this program is instituted, they will not stay open. They want no part of this program.

I feel this program is being forced upon our citizens, just because of a few people and organizations, think this is the in thing to do, because other cities do it. We have always been a family oriented city, but now you want to turn it into a constant party town!

I have been in charge of the Flags on Liberty program, sponsored by FOH-1837, and this is our 4th year we will be putting up the flags on Liberty & Main. If this DORA program is instituted, I will no longer be part of anything that supposedly benefits our city! I am sure someone else can carry on the program, but I cannot be part of a program in a city that is promoting alcohol, just to get a few extra people in town. I am sure Vermilion in Bloom can carry on the program!

I ask the Mayor and City Council to seriously think of all the problems this program might cause for the city and its' citizens!

DO NOT ALLOW THIS PROGRAM TO GET STARTED!

Paul Habermehl
5196 Devon Dr.
Vermilion, Ohio
44089
paulmehl75@outlook.com
440-225-9971

(I will not be able to attend a city-council meeting to protest, DORA, as I will be working in Detroit, Mich.)

8HΦ?uΦop┆┆XLΔ⊙t"äÄΦ£T-àme) 5≤Ö=⊖-!❖}┆P▼û4î↑i.┆kú-
Gwen Fisher

From: Kenneth Baughman <kbaughman42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 3:49 AM
To: Paul Habermehl
Subject: Re: To Vermilion City Council, DORA program!

No stance
in the
way

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Pau

I got your e-mail. I appreciate the effort you made to keep me in the "informational" loop. FoHT will not be taking a stand, either for or against, on this DORA issue. The Fish Festival has the beer tent and the Chamber of Commerce has several wine and chocolate walks, both of which promote alcoholic beverage consumption in the same or similar ways. To me personally, it goes against the grain to pick and choose who can and cannot drink in public, either ban it all or support it all. The DORA is nothing more than "grandstanding hype" that will do very little to impact Vermilion in one direction or another. The drunks are already walking all around Vermilion and they care little for what is and what is not legal. A drunk is always going to drink...

Kenn

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, 09:59:48 PM EDT, Paul Habermehl <paulmehl75@outlook.com> wrote:

Ken, just to let you know that if this DORA program is instituted, I will no longer be part of the Flags on Liberty!,,,,ONLY time will tell!

From: Paul Habermehl <paulmehl75@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2022 9:57 PM
To: gwenfisher@vermilion.net <gwenfisher@vermilion.net>
Cc: sherron@vermilion.net <sherron@vermilion.net>; Jim Forthofer <jforthofer@vermilion.net>
Subject: To Vermilion City Council, DORA program!

No

I am writing in reference to a program that I hear Vermilion in Bloom, and a few others, are proposing for our city! It appears that they don't think we have enough visitors to our city, so they want to institute a program to let visitors carry and drink, alcoholic beverages on our city streets while walking around our city streets. They feel this will bring in more people to our city, and they will spend more money with our merchants. This may bring in an extra 15 or 20 people, but you will probably have 20 or 30 local people, (including myself) stay away from the staggering drunks walking the streets. Probably the only people who will benefit, are the bar-owners, who might sell a couple extra beers.

According to an article in the Photojournal, a alcoholic drink cannot be carried into another establishment, so how would the other merchants benefit. A couple of merchants I have talked to have said that if this program is instituted, they will not stay open. They want no part of this program.

I feel this program is being forced upon our citizens, just because of a few people and organizations, think this is the in thing to do, because other cities do it. We have always been a family oriented city, but now you want to turn it into a constant party town!

Gwen Fisher

From: Sherry Miller-Francis <smillerfrancis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 7:08 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Dora

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing in reference to the Dora program that I have been told is trying to move forward. As a life long resident & business owner in downtown I am very concerned with this for many reasons. There are many residents & businesses that are not in favor of the DORA program, however none of us get to decide Vermilion's fate but elite few. Not all of us can attend meetings at various times due to work schedules and prior commitments.

As a resident I am concerned for the safety of our local residents. Our town has always been known for it's safety. I am concerned that with the DORA program the safety of our community will be compromised. It will no longer be safe to enjoy walking around downtown with our families and elderly to enjoy. We then will have to take a risk of the overly drunk DORA the explorer on the sidewalks. I have heard from Main Street the police will patrol this but can they or should they have to? Then our lovely police officers will be tied up all the time babysitting the DORA the explorers. As a mother I know I would not be walking around with my children with alcohol all around them. This is not a good example for them to see or for Vermilion to portray that to have a good time or enjoy Vermilion alcohol is must.

I know for myself and many others that I avoid events or traveling to places that are just filled with alcohol driven enjoyment. An example: my husband and I love boating and the islands. However we have found that we stay away from Putinbay especially on weekends because it is a drunk fest, unsafe for families with many disorderly fighting etc.. so if we visit, we go during the week when quieter or go to Kelley's the less partying of the islands. I feel this will be the same for our town's future if we allow the DORA program. Tourists will find our beautiful picturesque town undesirable & unsafe to travel to because it became a party town.

We are not any other town. We are Vermilion. We take pride in our safe, quaint, historical & picturesque lakefront town. Just because other towns have DORA does not mean we need to. Are we really trying to attract people to drink alcohol or do we want people to enjoy what Vermilion has to offer.? What attractions do these other towns have? Amherst, there is no beautiful lake, Sandusky yes a lake but in their DORA area, it is mostly just bar hopping and jump on a ferry to go party at an island. Vermilion is so much more than a party town.

Tourists come year after year to visit our amazing town. I know this not only as a resident but more so as a business owner. The small town businesses flourish in the summer. We do and without the summer months many businesses wouldn't survive through the winter because Vermilion is so small. We are like squirrels, we stock away for winter months because we love our community. We not only have the best local family(yes I said family because our customers are our family) but have kept our tourists that do come to the same caliber. I am concerned as a business this will change with the DORA program!

Why? We are a small town business that thrives to be family oriented. We hire many local teenagers along with us running business as a family. I am concerned with the safety of my employees especially since many are teenagers. We have had few incidents on some of Vermilion events that bring occasional customers in that have had too much alcohol before entering our establishment. Then proceed to be disorderly in our business. This puts my employees at risk and makes them uncomfortable. So as Main Street says well put a sign out no DORA cups. Well Vermilion how about we put a sign on Vermilion no DORA cups. Put Vermilion's safety first. There are many incredible establishments in Vermilion that serve alcohol, let the ones that want to drink enjoy these establishments. They are equipped to handle it & will get more business. A DORA cup is not the answer to walk around town. They will buy one and fill up wherever that want over and over again. This is not bringing revenue to businesses it is causing an unsafe community to Vermilion. Then, once Vermilion is known as the unsafe party town the tourists, residents and small businesses will go elsewhere.

I am asking the Vermilion Council and anyone else involved in this decision to please think twice about the DORA program. Please put Vermilion's safety first. The tourists come every year because we are a safe, family oriented, picturesque lakefront town. It is a great place to drop anchor & no alcohol DORA cups are needed. Take the \$5000 grant and invest in our community or our kids. The community pool could use the money or many other projects in Vermilion that it could assist. Be a role model to our kids that alcohol is not needed to enjoy Vermilion!

Hoping the right decision is made so as a resident and business owner I can enjoy Vermilion for many more years to come.

Thanks,
Sherry Miller-Francis
440.396.5598
Smillerfrancis@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

Gwen Fisher

NO

From: Brennan Francis <bflawncare2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:08 AM
To: Gwen Fisher; Steve Herron
Subject: Dora Concerns

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi,

I'm a vermilion resident and a manager at a local restaurant in town. I am writing this to voice my concerns over Dora. I believe that this is not a good fit for our town. Growing up here and now living here the biggest thing that has always been pushed is our Family friendly town. That to me is a selling point of anyone coming to stay in vermilion or visiting. Coming from my own view as someone who is younger and would want to start a family in Vermilion. I would not be as open to having a family and allowing them to go downtown where alcohol is allowed to be carried around for them to grab or deal with the influence of people around them who are under the influence. Keep Vermilion a family friendly town!

My second reason why I am against Dora is from a manager/business perspective. This is a huge one as well. Think of every buisness in downtown. If they decide they do not want to allow the drinks in their stores that is customers they are losing because they do not want the mess and hassle of dealing with the people drinking. Furthermore the place I manage has many highschoolers who work. Since our establishment would not allow the cups to be brought in then i have to have highschoolers ensure and enforce people not bringing cups in with them. I hope you understand the issue that this causes with highschools having to make sure people do not bring in alcohol. Every store in downtown Vermilion will have a hard decision to make if this passes because if they say no Dora cups allowed inside then it will directly cost them customers and business.

I hope you take time to read this and understand where my views our coming from.

Thank you for your time,

Brennan

ND

Gwen Fisher

From: Bill <bilheater@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:37 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Gwen ,I am not in favor of DORA, I don't feel we need to make drinking public... I like a little Bourbon occasionally but I Don't have to walk around with it to enjoy it , thanks

Sent from my iPhone

ND

Gwen Fisher

From: Fred Lunn <flunn_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 8:54 PM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

We are against the DORA outdoor drinking area and ask City Council to reject the proposal. Our concerns are as follows: increase in litter, promotes public intoxication, ruins family friendly atmosphere, creates liability issues, benefits very few businesses. If people need liquor to entice them to come to Vermilion do we really want that type of people here? We would not like to have people we don't even know drinking in our front yard.

Fred & Kellie Lunn

4664 Hollyview Dr.

Sent from my iPhone

NO

Gwen Fisher

From: Bonnie Brucker <bruckerb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:38 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council and Mayor Re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am very proud and happy that I live in Vermilion.
I live in the historical district.
I help water the flowers in our lovely town.
I am completely **NO on DORA**. I do NOT want it in our town!!!!
Bonnie Brucker
Ohio St.

C/S

Gwen Fisher

From: Mistakes On The Lake <info@mistakesonthelake.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:20 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: DORA Vermilion

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Gwen,

I wanted to email you to show my support for DORA. I own a business across town & am opening another business on Main Street in the proposed DORA district. I think DORA would be an amazing addition to our city & help local businesses & establishments. I would love to see it happen.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

425
Gwen Fisher

From: Ryan Hall <ryanhalfayce@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Teresa Mayle; Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Teresa & whom it may concern,

Please show your support to pass DORA for Vermilion and the importance of the DORA extending North on Main St to our lovely lake views. DORA will work well if it aligns with our natural pedestrian patterns - we must enjoy our one-of-a-kind sunsets and other wonderful opportunities in our new world class beach park.

I'm normally not one to reach out like this, but I believe that Vermilion failing to pass DORA would be a critical mistake in the development of our Town. Our downtown stores, restaurants, and businesses would no doubt benefit from DORA being passed. If you want an example, take downtown Sandusky for one. If we want to provide our own unique experience in Vermilion, we must at least provide a competing experience.

Sincerely,
Ryan Hall

Gwen Fisher

NO

From: cgencore@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 10:31 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Gwen, fellow council members

As a business in Vermilion's downtown area, I am adamantly opposed to the DORA project concept. I will not list all the reasons because my fellow business owners have given quite a list already. I will say that it will certainly destroy the family-friendly, small-town feel that so many people love. I have had encounters with people drinking on Third Thursday events, in fact, one such person dumped a gin concoction on several wedding gowns before I could get her to leave. The cost and smell were both awful.

I also am also totally against the city paying half of this project for Main Street Vermilion! The city should not be responsible financially for something that is not for the people of the city.

I hope that our thoughts and concerns will be put forth to the council before a vote is taken.

respectfully,
Charl Gabel
Encore Consignment Shoppe
5487 Liberty Ave
(440) 967-6972

Gwen Fisher

405

From: Matthew R Gould <mrgould@bgsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:25 PM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Dora in Vermilion

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Gwen,


As a long time resident of Vermilion, as well as a 2003 graduate of VHS; I fully support this initiative given its immense track record of success in neighboring towns. This would benefit both the businesses of downtown Vermilion as well as provide yet another incentive for tourists to come and visit this wonderful city. This would additionally modernize our town in a way that we would not have been able to do before. I know myself and many members of the community support this initiative, let's do the right thing and make this a part of our "small town on a Great Lake".

Thank you!
Matt Gould

Gwen Fisher

From: John Waggoner <waggonj55@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 8:12 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council and Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I really don't oppose DORA so I won't mind either decision, but 2 thoughts: 

1. I don't see it helping produce revenue for the shop owners or restaurants. It just doesn't sound like a reason I would say, let's go to Vermilion because we can drink in the streets.
2. Having been at the May 9 Council meeting, I found some irony in that first Transient Rentals were discussed with a desire to control them as the City apparently had 2 instances of noise or disturbances to neighbors...likely due to excessive drinking. Then Council discussed and seemed favorable toward allowing drinking on the streets in Vermilion. It seems that those who want to drink on City streets could also cause noise and disturbance in the streets of Historic Vermilion.

So on the one hand we want to control it and on the other hand we are opening the option to create it...noise and disturbance.

Just a thought!

Gwen Fisher

From: Thomas Zeck <tfzeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Why would the City of Vermilion want to promote alcohol use in its downtown area?

It seems that the new Main Street Beach Project will definitely attract and bring more visitors to Vermilion. The new project is described as "a world-class destination".

Why then do we need to encourage alcohol use to bring visitors when Vermilion already has and will have so many entities that bring individuals to our beautiful city?

Sincerely,
Thomas Zeck

Sent from my iPad

Gwen Fisher

From: Amy Hoffman <amy@mainstreetvermilion.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 10:55 AM
To: Monica Stark; Steve Herron; Pat Stein; Greg Drew; Teresa Mayle; Barb Brady; Brian Holmes; Gwen Fisher; Jim Forthofer
Subject: DORA in Vermilion - Open for Business

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Amy Hoffman and I live in Vermilion (Township) and run the Cottages at the Water's Edge, I also work at Main Street Vermilion, I serve on the board at Shores & Islands Ohio (formerly Lake Erie Shores & Islands), I am a member of North Coast Young Professionals, and my family eats, shops, and goes to events in the downtown Vermilion area.

I have heard a few, as you have, ask Why DORA?

Here is my "why"...

DORA will be great for tourism, but when I say this I mean it will be great for those who come to Vermilion year after year, to be able to enjoy all that we have to offer and not just the inside of a restaurant. We have 16 cottages here just 4 miles from Main Street, and about 80% of our guests come for the same week year after year because they love our small town. When our committee refers to visitors or tourists of Vermilion, sometimes that means people who come from across the country and sometimes that means someone that came to Vermilion from Avon, Berlin Heights, Milan, etc. They love to be outside, watch sunsets, spend time with family, shop and eat at our special local places in town. The "tourists" of Vermilion we see are not a bunch of partiers, but they do like to have an occasional drink while enjoying what we have to offer. Often that means, they go to town to eat dinner and come right back to the cottages to sit outside and soak up the outdoors.

DORA will be great for restaurants regarding summer tourism, because it helps the restaurants focus on seating guests in the restaurant for a meal and allowing those who aren't planning to eat to grab one drink and go enjoy our shops and parks.

DORA is also great for those who live, work, and visit here in the off season. Our weather is unpredictable here and you all know as well as I do, we get some truly beautiful weather even when the town isn't full of summer visitors. These days you can't plan for would also be great days to have this program.

Our DORA committee has spent all of this year and some of last year researching this program. We started by looking at how it works in other communities, asking questions about potential issues (they aren't coming to fruition in other communities), having conversations with Vermilion parks, city officials, restaurant and bar owners, and local citizens. The proposal that was presented at City Council and again at the Legislative Committee earlier this month came from months and months of talking about how to make this a program that is right for Vermilion. We proposed 7 days a week so that all of the businesses wanting to participate have a fair chance. We know they are not all open the same days of the week, but if their doors are open they should be able to participate. We also wanted to make sure that in introducing this program, it is easy to understand by all. That includes Vermilion residents, visitors, and business participants. If we limit the program to "the weekend, Festival of the Fish, Ice A Fair, and Third Thursdays", what do we

Gwen Fisher

From: Candice Pettigrew <pettigrewcandice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:14 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Support for DORA

yes

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello, I live at 724 Washington Street in Vermilion and am a huge supporter of Main Street Vermilion and their initiatives to bring people to the businesses in downtown via events and promotions.

"DORA's are seen as providing untapped potential to stir economic development and exposure for communities and businesses alike. These outdoor drinking zones are used to draw patrons, revitalize downtown areas, ease outdoor dining restrictions, and increase retail and restaurant development." Taken from <https://www.isaacwiles.com/article/exploring-the-dora-a-growing-economic-development-tool-in-ohio-communities/>

Another report indicates the economic develop DORA has provided for their community. "Indirect investment through sales tax and increased shopping is not the only financial benefit the city is enjoying. Marietta's DORA program is set up to not only sustain itself financially from the small business side, but also give back and support future good work downtown, said Thomas.

"Through the sale of DORA cups and the \$1.00 DORA fee rolled onto the consumer, the DORA program covers all expenses for a business to participate and allows for reinvestment in downtown development," she said.

In June alone, \$1,808.99 was generated to support downtown – or, about \$.38 per cup." <https://clutchmov.com/the-dollars-and-sense-of-dora/>

In addition, many if not most of the surrounding downtowns now have a DORA ordinance. Vermilion should consider this as a decision factor when guests are deciding which downtown to visit for events.

I support a DORA ordinance for downtown Vermilion and believe the city should as well.

Thank you,

Candice Pettigrew
567-219-0185
pettigrewcandice@gmail.com

Gwen Fisher

no

From: Karen Howell <kjhowell46@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 8:38 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am not in favor of DORA for the following reasons: I enjoy spending time in downtown Vermilion, eating at restaurants, shopping, and enjoying the family atmosphere. I often have young and/or teenage grandchildren with me. I don't think having people drinking alcoholic beverages as they walk around the downtown area is appropriate. Sincerely, Karen Howell, 892 Decatur St.

Gwen Fisher

From: Margaret Wakefield Worcester <margaretww@centurytel.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 6:28 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council & Mayor,

We are NOT in favor of a DORA in our historic district especially to the Main Street Beach and Park. . Adding 28 more signs to our historic district is not in keeping with the quaintness and charm of our area. Potential littering of DORA cups would be hazardous to our river and lake. The residential area north of Liberty Avenue is already suffering with the overwhelming traffic and noise. We do not need to be another Put-in-Bay to be a successful tourist town.

Vote NO to DORA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Margaret Wakefield Worcester
Chuck Worcester
5679 Huron Street
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-967-2495

Gwen Fisher

From: Lois Mason <LoisMas@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Cc: Lois Mason
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I vote NO on DORA. For the record, I no longer drink alcohol by my choice. I don't feel that the city council and police are able to patrol Vermilion city and township as well as could be done. Giving them the extra duty of checking the tags on plastic cups and their contents seems a waste of talent. Who is actually benefiting from DORA if it costs the residents more in taxes? If a person can't spend a few hours without a drink in his/her hand while enjoying the activities in Vermilion, then don't come, or stay in the bar or restaurant.

Thanks for asking for my opinion.

Lois Mason
Township resident

Colleen M Rini
5637 Ferry Street
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

May 20, 2022

Vermilion City Hall
5511 Liberty Avenue
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

Dear Mayor Forthofer and City Council,

I am writing to you with concerns about the proposed Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area that Mainstreet Vermilion is promoting. I first learned of Mainstreet's idea of DORA and getting more "foot traffic" in Vermilion at a Parks and Recreation meeting. I was there to get approval for an event to support and celebrate the students and children of Vermilion and Mainstreet Vermilion was there to get approval of DORA to encourage more visitors to come to Vermilion because they would be able to walk through our town and parks while drinking all day. Needless to say, I am strongly opposed to this for several reasons.

Harbor Town is also a residential area. The proposed area is my home and yard that is often full of children and activities. Yes, I moved here knowing it is also a business district and I support, welcome, and adjust for major town events. I do not support 365 days a year, 12 hours a day of people walking around drinking. Hanover Square Park is home to outdoor reading lessons and activities that the library hosts and a quiet safe place for eating ice cream, swinging, and enjoying this family friendly environment.

The hours of DORA is another concern. How many of our businesses are open during the proposed DORA hours and 7 days a week? DORA on special events like Third Thursday's, Ice Affair, Chocolate Walk, etc. could be a nice addition with additional police patrolling, closing off street sections, and crowd control.

Enforcing of DORA boundaries and rules. I read that the residents could help with this! I am a person that believes in the see something say something to help keep all of us safe as well as volunteering to help with in our community. I feel bad when the police must deal with unruly drunks. Dora patrol is not something I care to add to my list of responsibilities, nor do I think it is safe for any resident to do.

When discussing other cities that have DORA, they often refer to downtown Lorain and Sandusky. Harbor Town is not those places. Vermilion has a public beach, homes, parks, families, children, full and occupied store fronts. Can we continue to promote growth and tourism with the beauty and class that this town already has?

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns when voting on the
Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area.

Sincerely,

Colleen M Rini

no

Gwen Fisher

From: Christy Schisler <christy.schisler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:16 PM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Council and Mayor,

Allowing people to walk around with alcoholic beverages will be a big mistake. Not only adults, but children as well, will be subjected to inebriated pedestrians and their most likely rude behavior, drunken antics. We have seen, in other cities where this was allowed, drinkers urinating in public and passed out on people's lawns. Out of control drinkers could go into shops and break items, or disrupt the browsing of other shoppers, with their boozey behavior. In addition, there will be more discarded trash on the sidewalks, parks and lawns. I think Main Street Vermilion has an overly optimistic view of what they hope will be "good" for our small town.

I can tell you that my family will not come to downtown to shop and eat, if DORA gets through city council. BAD IDEA!

Thank you,
Christy Schisler
Vermilion Resident

Gwen Fisher

From: Ted Wakefield <tdwepw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Gwen Fisher
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Our names are Ted and Betsy Wakefield, and we live at 5626 Huron Street, Vermilion, just south of the newly established municipal park (formerly the home of the Great Lakes Historical Society). Our home is one of approximately ten homes that border the park system that extends to Wakefield Park. In addition to these residences along the parks, there are also eight homes along the north Main Street route to the beach.

Our understanding of DORA is that its focus is to develop the economy in the downtown regions of cities by allowing shoppers to have an open container drink in a DORA cup while shopping. Stores, bars and restaurants that wish to participate in DORA have signage on their doors to indicate if they are DORA friendly.

Of the 938 incorporated cities and villages in Ohio, approximately 100 have established DORA programs. The maps of the cities in Ohio that have DORA established indicate that DORA is focused on the shopping/dining districts, specifically AVOIDING residential neighborhoods.

We don't believe that the DORA program is going to enhance or increase economic development in our downtown businesses. That is a subjective decision for Council to make with input from our existing businesses in the Historic District.

However, we oppose extending the DORA district down Main Street to the beach areas. Our residential neighborhood is already packed with tourists and noise during the busy summer months and adding DORA to the park and beach defeats its real focus on economic development in the downtown.

Let's keep DORA in the district and people that it is intended to serve....the downtown merchants of Vermilion.

Ted and Betsy Wakefield
5626 Huron street
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
440-967-3459

Gwen Fisher

From: Dana Hall <dana.freem@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Gwen Fisher
Cc: Teresa Mayle
Subject: Council & Mayor re: DORA

Caution: This Email is from an **EXTERNAL** source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dana Hall. My husband and I live on Timberview Dr. with our two dogs, Dennis & Charlie. My husband moved to Vermilion somewhat on a whim in 2016 because his lease was up in Lakewood and he wanted to be closer to me (isn't that sweet!) in Bellevue, OH. He had friends that lived in Vermilion in his younger years and always thought it was a nice town. The more I came up to visit the more I started to love Vermilion. It's beachfront. It's downtown. Most importantly, it's people! After all, it *is* a great place to drop anchor!

One thing I noticed about Vermilion right away is that there were dogs everywhere! You can't hardly drive down Liberty without seeing someone out for a stroll with their four-legged friend. Another thing we love about Vermilion is all of the great community engagement events that we have! While the dogs love having their own event (Hot Diggity Dog Day...) we do like to take them wherever possible! Now here is where we run into some issues...

Unfortunately, we have left Third Thursday on more than one occasion because there were too many people. Even if we didn't have the dogs with us, it's very difficult to get a table, or even a barstool anywhere on those days, and some of the other events we have attended (or attempted to) are the same way. We invite musicians to play (for tips only, as far as I know!) throughout the city to provide 'free' entertainment to crowds and hopefully draw visitors and residents alike out to support local businesses. Musicians would probably earn more tip money if patrons weren't corralled indoors for a cold drink. I want to watch, listen, and support our community. Even if I can't get a seat for dinner, it would be nice to purchase a beverage to walk around or sit in the park to enjoy while waiting to pick up a to-go order.

I know one of the issues people may have with a DORA for Vermilion is the idea that suddenly our streets will be unsafe, full of drunk drivers and spontaneous unpredictable pedestrians. The thing is, our demographic is not going to change just because there is a DORA. Residents aren't suddenly going to start drinking more alcohol. Our personalities aren't suddenly going to change to allow for reckless behavior and bad decision making. I believe we'll see the same people, families out just as we do now... they'll just have the ability to spend a little extra money at our local businesses.

I hope I am not writing too late for my voice to be heard at the Q&A tonight. I do think it's worth trying DORA for the remainder of the year and reevaluating for 2023.

Thank you,
Dana

HD

Gwen Fisher

From: Read Wakefield <readwakefield@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gwen Fisher; Jim Forthofer
Cc: Lynda Wakefield
Subject: Vermilion DORA District (REVISED)

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members and Mayor,
We wish to share our opinions regarding your consideration of establishing a DORA district in Vermilion:

1. We are not convinced of the economic benefit of the downtown businesses of Vermilion.
2. We are absolutely opposed to including the Main Street Beach parks in the DORA district. Trash and litter are already problem.
3. Should you decide to establish a DORA district, it should only include properties on the north side of Liberty Avenue from Fiesta Cancun to Washington Street and north of the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks.
4. Include a periodic study of the benefits and costs of the DORA district and a district sunset provision.

Thank you for thoughtfully considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,
Read and Lynda Wakefield
5570 Huron Street
Vermilion, OH 44089
readwakefield@gmail.com
llw.vermilion@gmail.com
(Cell) 440-213-0834

Homer S. Taft
3972 Edgewater Drive
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-333-1333

Re: DORA

Dear Council Members,

I generally support the concept of a DORA declaration for Vermilion, but think it requires limits both as to times and as to area more restrictive than have been proposed.

While DORA to the Water Works docks and Chez/Touche make sense, including anything north of Huron Street, and probably anything west of Main Street from Ferry Street north. While the City can and should allow alcohol service by permission and permit in City parks for special events, allowing anyone to wander Main Street Beach, Metroparks property, or residential areas west of Main Street with alcohol seems excessive.

Similarly, the southerly boundary of the DORA west of West River should be the railroad tracks, not South Street. Explicitly, Village Green and Veterans Park should be excluded from the DORA. While I've heard argument that the Ballet or others might want to have folks come there with alcoholic beverages, that could be accomplished by specific permissions and permits for the service of alcohol, or only for timed events, but we should not have daily open alcohol in those.

As to time limits, the DORA should be permitted from April 30 or no earlier than April 1 to Nov. 1. It should be only during daylight hours or not later than 9 PM. Since most permit establishments are closed on Monday anyway, it probably should extend Tuesday or Wednesday to Sunday except on legal holidays. A suggestion I heard was that Ice Affair in the winter would want the DORA. If so, perhaps that should be handled by special permit authorization to the Mayor for festival events.

Respectfully

Homer S. Taft