



Over-the-Rhine Community Council  
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May 13, 2020

(Note: sent via email to [citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov))

Dear Members of City Council,

On May 11, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Over-the-Rhine Community Council voted to send a letter to City Council **expressing our concern about the process for considering street closures for dining and to ask you to respond to our questions about the proposal.**

The announcement for the street and lane closures came as a complete surprise to people who live in Over-the-Rhine. There was no effort to consult the Community Council or even people who live and park on the streets where the closure is proposed.

We are not necessarily opposed to street closure. In fact, we are interested in discussing street closure to allow people to adequately social distance when walking or for people riding a bike. We want to support our local businesses, but the details of the decision-making and the implementation matter.

Moreover, we are reasserting our concern about the proposal for an 'open container district', a change we have opposed in the past.

We look forward to your responses to our questions and reassert our request for public input at official city meetings of Council, the Planning Commission, and Historic Conservation Board.

- Why was this announced without any public input process involving residents?
- Where are residents who use the parking on the closed streets expected to park?
- When will those with parking permits have to move their cars? What if they aren't available to move their car?
- How are pedestrians expected to walk through the areas that will be filled with people dining?
- How will these streets be closed—with barriers? Police protection?
- How much will it cost to close the streets? Provide police protection? Who pays the cost?
- Will there be lost revenue?
- Pedestrians and people who ride bikes have been asking for closed lanes to provide space to physically distance. Will pedestrians and people who ride bikes be given the same consideration? Will the city close streets and lanes for safe transit of people who are not driving?
- How will residents who live in those blocks interact with this? Will they be allowed to sit on public sidewalks in front of the homes? Sit at the tables? Bring their own food and drink? Barbeque? Will children be permitted to play in the area, in front of their homes?
- How will disagreements be addressed?
- Will physical distancing be enforced?
- Are there plans for outdoor restrooms?
- When will the temporary program begin and when will it end?

- What criteria were used to decide whether a street would be closed or only one lane closed?
- Will there be a special permit or license for the expanded seating areas?
- Who will be responsible for daily clean up of the outside areas? Who pays for the daily clean up?
- Who will inspect the areas for daily clean up? What is the deadline for completing daily clean up?
- How will people access parking lots with entry on the closed streets?

Sincerely,



Maurice Wagoner  
President, Over-the-Rhine Community Council

c: City Council  
City Manager  
Clerk of Council  
Mayor