FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2024 **City Council Approves Establishment of Three Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas**

The Muncie City Council has officially approved the creation of three new designated outdoor refreshment areas (DORAs) within the city limits, a move aimed at enhancing local tourism, supporting small businesses, and promoting a vibrant, social atmosphere in key districts.

The new outdoor refreshment areas will allow patrons to legally carry and consume alcoholic beverages in certain outdoor public spaces, as they explore the local area. The decision comes after months of research, collaboration, and planning.

"We’re excited to offer a new way for residents and visitors to experience our city, while also supporting local businesses, restaurants, and breweries,” said Mayor Dan Ridenour, Mayor of Muncie. “These designated areas provide an opportunity to enhance outdoor dining and entertainment options, helping our city continue to grow as a vibrant, welcoming destination."

The designated outdoor refreshment areas will be located in the following key areas:

* Downtown Muncie
* Ball State University Village
* McKinley

Each area will be clearly marked with signage, and will adhere to regulations regarding hours of operation, permitted beverage types, and other guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone. In addition, the City Council has worked closely with local business owners, law enforcement, and community leaders to ensure the initiative’s success and minimize any potential public safety concerns.

The new ordinance permits individuals to carry alcoholic beverages purchased at licensed establishments within the designated zones, encouraging visitors to explore a variety of local businesses, from restaurants and bars to outdoor vendors and food trucks.

“This is a great step forward in making our city a more dynamic and enjoyable place to live, work, and play” said Ro Selvey, a member of the City Council. “We’re creating a sense of community by bringing people together with initiatives such as this.”

Before these DORA’s can become fully operational, plans must be approved by the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. As we await the completion of that process the city will continue to monitor and assess the impact of the program, with the potential for expansion based on its success.