City of Dublin

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Memo

To: Members of Dublin City Council

From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager

Date: May 18, 2021

Initiated By: Alison LeRoy, Community Events Director

Re: Downtown Dublin DORA Extension for Dublin Irish Days

Background

Due to the continuing restrictions associated with to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has reimagined the Dublin Irish Festival in order to spread out attendees while still providing a celebration of all things Irish. A big component of the Dublin Irish Days presented by the Dublin Irish Festival is the activities that will be happening in and around Downtown Dublin.

Staff has worked with Visit Dublin staff to create a version of a former program where local businesses in Downtown Dublin can receive funding to pay for approved Irish entertainments throughout the Dublin Irish Days. In addition, there will be hotel packages, special drink programs, a new Irish Fairy Door Trail and pop-up entertainers throughout both sides of the river. The Darby parking lot will be filled with Irish Festival merchandise vendors, nearly half of those that would normally be found at the Festival.

In order to help further activate the area, staff is requesting permission to extend the DORA hours for the weekend of the Dublin Irish Days. Hours are shown below:

	Typical Hours	Proposed Extended Hours
Thursday 8/5:	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	5 p.m. – 10 p.m. (no change)
Friday 8/6:	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	5 p.m. - Midnight
Saturday 8/7:	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	9 a.m. – Midnight (to coincide with the start of the farmer's market)
Sunday 8/8:	none currently	Noon – 8 p.m.

This is the first request to extend the DORA beyond the normal operating hours. In order to implement this extension, it is within Council authority to approve and no other action is required. Staff will work closely with the Police and maintenance staff to ensure that safety and cleanliness are enforced throughout the weekend.

Recommendation

Staff is recommending approval to extend the DORA hours for the weekend of the Dublin Irish Days presented by the Dublin Irish Festival to the hours listed above.