Good evening. Thank you Mayor Riggle and the Delaware City Council for giving me the opportunity to comment today. My name is Ben Kaster, I'm a senior at Hayes High School, a business management student at Marion Technical College through the college credit plus program, and an upcoming political science student at Ohio Wesleyan University. I am here to discuss my support of City Ordinance 25-05, due to the beneficial impact it will have on our city. The construction of the proposed racetrack on US 42 and Section Line Road will be a great addition to Delaware's employment, as according to Resolute Motorsports Club, the initial job impact will give Delaware or the surrounding area's residents 21 jobs to start, and will likely reach a ceiling of 85 once the development is completed.

I'd also like to discuss the impact this will have on teens my age. While I can't speak for all Delaware students, I know that many in my age group share a passion for cars. However, some students take this excitement to neighborhood streets and parking lots, engaging in risky driving behaviors. I'll admit, as a car enthusiast I've done a donut or two myself in parking lots. However, building this racetrack would provide a safe and controlled environment for teens to channel their love for fun driving. Having a nearby go-karting option would help keep reckless driving off public roads, especially since the closest facility before this project was Buckeye Raceway in Columbus. Although the raceway will primarily focus on membership racing, the inclusion of go-karting tracks will offer an exciting experience for many high school students and beyond.

On the topic of student benefit, I would also like to bring up the point that this facility is planning to offer an "educational component" to the development, for aspiring car technicians. I believe this would be a great way to attract more interest from Delaware students in the automotive industry. Not only could it be a possible extension of DACC's vehicle mechanics program, but it could spark interest in students interested in working on more high-performing vehicles.

With that being said, I hope my comment brought in some perspective that wasn't previously affirmed, and I hope you all will take my testimony into consideration. Thank you for your time!

Ben Kaster statement
2/24/25