

Phil The Fire is making a comeback – new restaurant scheduled to open late July

Heart and soul **Phil Davis** is reintroducing comfort food for the soul after a seven-year absence.

“It’s been nonstop for the last seven years — ‘When are you coming back?’” Mr. Davis said of his customers, who have been eager for the re-emergence of soul food restaurant **Phil The Fire**, which was forced to shutter in 2004 after three years of operation both in downtown and at Shaker Square. The late **Kirk Wright**, who then was a Phil The Fire investor, [bilked](#) Mr. Davis and other investors out of about \$150 million. He was convicted in 2008 of 47 counts of fraud and money laundering.

Now, “the timing is right. The brand still has equity,” Mr. Davis said.

Phil The Fire will reopen in late July in an 8,600-square-foot space at 3750 Orange Place in Beachwood’s **Fairfield Inn**.

Mr. Davis now has the financial support of an individual he has known and trusted for 30 years, he said.

The restaurant will seat 280 souls, with the additional capacity for 40 more, and will employ about 70.

The menu will consist of such Southern specialties as catfish, grits, black-eyed peas, candied yams, chicken and waffles, sauteed spinach, mac-and-cheese and double butter peach cobbler.

“We only use fresh ingredients, and everything will be prepared from scratch,” Mr. Davis said.

Two of Phil The Fire’s original chefs, **Gregory Williams** and **Jerron Nickens**, again will be at the kitchen’s helm.