



## City of Barberton

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William B. Judge  
Mayor

### NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **City of Barberton Addresses Babcock & Wilcox Announcement, Vows Economic Development Efforts Will Continue**

City of Barberton officials expressed disappointment at the news that Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) would be relocating its power generation facility on S. Van Buren Avenue to the former Goodyear headquarters in Akron – while also promising to build on recent successful economic development initiatives.

Mayor William B. Judge said that he has held several meetings with B&W officials over the past few years to discuss incentive packages and other help that the city could provide to keep the power generation plant.

“We have talked about how B&W is in the midst of a challenging transition,” Mayor Judge said. “We wanted Barberton to be part of the solution and we presented a strong and competitive incentive package that also met our obligation to spend public dollars in the most responsible way possible. So, this is obviously not the decision that anyone in Barberton had hoped for.”

Mayor Judge added, “I don’t fault B&W for doing what it believes is best for its business and bottom line. Now, we’ll move on with our business of doing what’s best for the city of Barberton.”

B&W said it plans to make the move in the fall of 2019 from its current 600,000-square-foot facility in Barberton to a 175,000-square-foot building in Akron. Mayor Judge said discussions have already begun with the commercial property group that is buying B&W’s Barberton property about a plan to use the buildings and create jobs.

Under the Summit County Job Creation and Retention and Revenue Sharing Agreement, Barberton will receive a percentage of income tax revenue generated by the relocation to Akron for five years.

Mayor Judge further said, “I look forward to, and expect, the same level of concerted efforts that the City of Akron received from the County Executive’s office, Jobs Ohio, the Development

Finance Authority, and the Greater Akron Chamber as we look to re-populate B&W's current facility in Barberton."

"In addition to the revenue sharing agreement, the county and its partners are committed to assisting Barberton with repurposing the current B&W facility and bringing new job opportunities to that community," said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

Mayor Judge also added that Barberton is primed to take advantage of those opportunities.

"Since becoming mayor, our community has had numerous economic development 'wins,' including the attraction, creation or retention of more than 2,000 jobs," Mayor Judge said. Those developments include:

- Akron Rubber Development Laboratories (ARDL) moving 100 new jobs into the city, with average annual wages of \$55,000, while also making a \$7 million investment in its Barberton building.
- Peaceful Fruits, an innovative start-up company uses employees from the Blick Clinic, moving from Akron into a city of Barberton-owned facility.
- BWX Technologies considering an \$82-million property expansion in Barberton, including a minimum of 88 new jobs with an average annual wage of \$75,000.

"B&W meant something to generations of families in Barberton," Mayor Judge said. "B&W has been a large employer in the city for 100-some years. We don't take this news lightly, and we won't pretend it's easy to accept. At the same time, there's a reason that B&W succeeded here for decades. Barberton is a good place to do business. And Barberton has a proud history of coming together during challenging times. I look forward to working with both our people and the corporate community as we create Barberton's next successful chapter."

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