

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



City of Barberton  
William B. Judge  
Mayor

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### **GROWING MISSION-BASED SNACK COMPANY PARTNERS WITH CITY OF BARBERTON TO RE-PURPOSE ABANDONED BURGER KING BUILDING**

**Barberton, OH September 17, 2018** - Peaceful Fruits, a local startup that has attracted national attention, announced today a partnership with the City of Barberton to transform a former Burger King restaurant into the startup's new Headquarters. The City acquired the building for economic development and is proud to see a new, growing business come to Barberton.

Peaceful Fruits employs adults with developmental disabilities and uses sustainable fruit from the Amazon Rainforest, where Founder Evan Delahanty served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, to make natural fruit snacks. The mission-based company was named one of the "top social enterprise startups" in Ohio in 2016 and has grown rapidly after being featured as an "American Hero" on ABC's *Shark Tank*.

Partnered with local 501c3 nonprofits Hattie Larlham and the Blick Center, Peaceful Fruits employs over 25 adults with disabilities and has maxed out production capacity at its current location. The need to grow was clear and, per Delahanty, pressure to move was intense. "Moving to Cleveland or out of state would have been easier and we need to expand, but we are committed to our people and our mission here in the greater Akron area. We knew the right partner existed to let us grow our way and we wouldn't give it up."

That partner was the City of Barberton. "We are pleased to partner with Evan and Peaceful Fruits", stated Barberton Mayor William B. Judge. "We admire and share the same values as Peaceful Fruits and are excited about not only the increase of jobs, but also the opportunity to work with an innovative company with a lot of potential for future growth. This is a perfect example of the City's ongoing efforts to be business friendly, attract and retain business in town, and create employment opportunities!" The City worked in conjunction with the Summit County Land Bank and County Executive Ilene Shapiro's office to secure grant funding to update the former Burger King building and help Peaceful Fruits stay in Summit County.

Peaceful Fruits' snacks are available nationally online and in local stores such as Acme. This move will allow the company to expand into grocery stores across the country. Peaceful Fruits looks forward to growing its mission of employment and better snacking, now firmly rooted in their new home in Barberton.

Peaceful Fruits is a growing food startup that makes healthy, delicious rainforest-friendly fruit snacks and is committed to a mission of creating sustainable economic opportunity through their sourcing and local employment practices.

For more information visit [www.peacefulfruits.com](http://www.peacefulfruits.com) and follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).

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