

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MUNICIPAL  
RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT DOWNTOWN  
DINING DISTRICT LIQUOR LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Wayne has created the Municipal Riverfront Development Project, known as the Downtown Dining District, to continue the current progress in the redevelopment of downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code 7.1-3-20, authorizes the issuance of certain, non-transferable permits to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premise consumption in a restaurant located on land or in a historic river vessel within a municipal riverfront development project; and

**WHEREAS**, to be considered for a recommendation for approval of a 221-3 Riverfront License from the Indiana ATC, an applicant submit a Downtown Dining District Liquor License Application and shall enter into a formal written agreement with the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Ducky's, LLC submitted an application for a Downtown Dining District Liquor License, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and is prepared to enter into a formal written agreement with the City of Fort Wayne, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2; and

**WHEREAS**, the application and agreement meet the criteria established by Resolution R-105-15 as adopted by Common Council;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Common Council of The City of Fort Wayne, Indiana:**

**Section 1.** That the City of Fort Wayne Common Council hereby approves the "Downtown Dining District" application and agreement between The City of Fort Wayne and Ducky's, LLC and hereby provides the required local recommendation to the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission for a 221-3 Riverfront license to be issued to Ducky's, LLC; and



**CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
AGREEMENT  
WITH THE DUCKY’S, LLC  
REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR A RIVERFRONT LIQUOR LICENSE**

This Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered as of the Effective Date (as hereinafter defined) by the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana (the “City”) and, Ducky’s LLC ("Applicant") (the City and Applicant being collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”), regarding the establishment proposed at 249 Pearl Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. The Parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants, obligations and agreements set forth herein, agree as follows:

WHEREAS, Fort Wayne Common Council Ordinance R-105-15 (the “Ordinance”) provides that all applicants seeking a Riverfront liquor license as described in Ind. Code 7.1-3-20-16 shall enter into a formal agreement with the City; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this Agreement to encourage: (a) downtown revitalization; (b) expansion and strengthening of the downtown dining landscape; and (c) riverfront development; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will be investing in the development and construction of a dining establishment within the boundaries of the municipal riverfront development area;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual considerations hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Purpose of the Agreement.** The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the mutually contemplated and agreed upon requirements for initial and annual renewal recommendations for the Applicant’s Riverfront liquor license.
2. **Definitions.**
  - a. The “Application” means the Downtown Dining District Liquor License Application, dated August 7, 2024, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated hereby by reference.
  - b. "Permit" means the Applicant/Permit Holder’s type 221-3 Riverfront Liquor License as issued by the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.
  - c. “Effective Date” means the date on which the second of the Parties executes the Agreement.
3. **Term of the Agreement.** This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue until such time as the permit is lost, revoked, or not renewed.
4. **Responsibilities of Applicant.** Applicant has made certain representations and covenants to the City in the Application regarding the planned Permit premises, including the amount of private sector investment, and the type of establishment planned. Applicant represents and covenants that it will use its best efforts to continuously maintain in all material respects the following Eligibility Requirements and District Requirements:

Eligibility criteria:

- a. The focus of operation will be on a dining, entertainment or cultural experience rather than solely an alcohol consumption experience.
- b. The establishment is not and will not convert to be a private club, nightclub, or adult entertainment venue.

District Requirements:

- a. Establishments receiving permits within the Downtown Dining District are required to achieve within thirty-six (36) calendar months following the date on which applicant's business is open to the public, and thereafter maintain, an annual ratio of non-liquor sales to total sales of at least 50%.
- b. The licensed establishment will be actively open for business and fully operational a minimum of 300 (three hundred) days per year, and a minimum of 5 (five) nights per week.
- c. The Applicant shall comply with all local and ATC application and renewal procedures.
- d. The Applicant shall contribute to the Economic Improvement District for the Downtown Area of the City of Fort Wayne ("Downtown Improvement District"), annual dues in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2500.00).

**5. Reporting Obligations of Applicant.**

- a. The Applicant shall submit to the City documentation of compliance including the following reports:
  - i. A revenue report indicating the total annual non-liquor and liquor sales.
  - ii. A report indicating the total number of days open during the last year, along with a schedule of current operating hours.
  - iii. Proof of payment to the Downtown Improvement District for the annual Downtown Dining Association dues.
- b. Annual compliance reports will be submitted to the City during the term of the agreement, no later than 90 days prior to the annual renewal date of the establishment's permit.
- c. Applicant agrees to provide supplemental and/or clarifying information and data which the City may request in writing after reviewing the information submitted by Applicant pursuant to sub paragraph a. of this Section 5, within fifteen (15) days following City's request.

Applicant shall certify under oath the accuracy of all information submitted to the City under this Section 5.

**6. Non-Compliance:** If the City determines in its sole discretion that the Applicant is not in compliance with the requirements of this Agreement in any material respect, the City may, following thirty (30) days written notice to Applicant which shall provide the Applicant an opportunity to explain the reasons for the noncompliance and the opportunity to cure, take any action the City deems appropriate, including the following steps:

- a. Termination of this Agreement

- b. Notice to the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission of non-compliance with the agreement, including a request for non-renewal of the Applicant's permit.
- c. A copy of the notice in Section 6 item b., above provided to the local ATC board and Excise office, requesting a recommendation to the state ATC office for non-renewal of the Applicant's permit.

Applicant hereby forever releases the City and the Downtown Improvement District, their directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, departments and divisions, from any and all claims, demands, liabilities or causes of action of every kind and nature, whether now existing or hereafter arising, both known and unknown, which Applicant has or may have against the City or the Downtown Improvement District which is in any manner related to the termination of this Agreement by the City or the Applicant for any reason.

7. **Notice to Parties.** Any notice, statement or other communications sent to the City or the Applicant shall be sent to the following addresses, unless otherwise specifically advised.

To the City of Fort Wayne:

Malak Heiny – City of Fort Wayne  
200 East Berry St., Suite 430  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
PH: (260) 427-1124  
e-mail: [Malak.Heiny@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Malak.Heiny@cityoffortwayne.org)

To Ducky's LLC:

Johnny Perez  
Ducky's LLC  
249 Pearl Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
PH: 530-863-3228  
e-mail: [Johnny@Mercadofw.com](mailto:Johnny@Mercadofw.com)

8. **Authority to Bind.** Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the signatory for the Applicant represents that he/she has been duly authorized by the Applicant to execute this Agreement and to bind the Applicant to each of the representations, covenants, and obligations of Applicant contained herein.

9. **Amendment of this Agreement.** This Agreement or any portion hereof may only be amended by a writing executed by the Parties.

10. **Assignability.** The Applicant shall not assign this Agreement or any portion thereof without the prior written consent of the City, which consent may be withheld at the City's discretion.

11. **Remedies not impaired.** No delay or omission of any party in exercising any right or remedy available under this Agreement shall impair any such right or remedy, or constitute a waiver of any default or acquiescence thereto.

12. **Compliance with Laws.** The Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances and all provisions required thereby, whether now existing or hereafter enacted, which are included and incorporated by reference herein, in Applicant's performance under this Agreement.

Pursuant to I.C. 22-9-1-10 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Applicant shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of this Agreement, with respect to the hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of such person's race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, handicap or ancestry. Breach of this covenant may be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement.

The Applicant affirms under the penalties of perjury that the Applicant does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien. The Applicant affirms under the penalties of perjury that the Applicant has enrolled and is participating in the E-Verify program as defined in IC 22-5-1.7-3. The Applicant agrees to provide documentation to the State of Indiana that the Applicant has enrolled and is participating in the E-Verify program. Additionally, the Applicant is not required to participate if the Applicant is self-employed and does not employ any employees. The City may terminate for default if the Applicant fails to cure a breach of this provision no later than thirty (30) days after being notified by the City.

13. **Governing Laws.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Indiana, notwithstanding its choice of law rules to the contrary or any other state's choice of law rules. Suit, if any, shall be brought in a court of applicable jurisdiction situated in Allen County, Indiana.

14. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, entered into of even date herewith, and any attachments hereto, contain the entire understanding of the Parties and this Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, oral or written, with respect to the subject matter enclosed herein and contemplated hereby.

15. **Indemnification and Release.** The Applicant shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City and the Downtown Improvement District and their divisions, department, directors, officers, employees, representatives and agents (collectively, the "Indemnitees") from and against all claims, demands, charges, lawsuits, costs and expenses (including legal costs and attorney's fees) caused by or associated with any act or omission of the Applicant and/or any of its contractors, subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, employees, representatives, licensees, invitees and/or authorized agents in connection with (a) the design, development, construction, operation, management and control of the Facility and (b) any and all activities of every kind and nature which occur in, on or about the Facility. Neither the City nor the Downtown Improvement District shall provide any indemnification hereunder to the Applicant. The Applicant hereby forever releases Indemnitees and each of them from any and all claims, demands

and charges, of every kind and nature, both known and unknown, whether now existing or hereafter arising, that Applicant has or may at any time in the future have against Indemnitees, or any of them, under this Agreement. In no event shall the City or the Downtown Improvement District be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential or punitive damages, costs or expenses arising from any act or omission to act by any party relating in any manner to this Agreement, the Application "as amended" or the activities described herein or therein or contemplated hereby or thereby. The covenants contained in this Section 18 shall survive the expiration or termination of the Agreement for any reason.

16. **Severability.** The invalidity of any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, or provisions of this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties, by their respective duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement on the dates entered below.

**The City of Fort Wayne**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Tucker - Mayor

**Ducky's LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Johnny Perez  
Owner



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

*Engage • Innovate • Perform*

City of Fort Wayne  
Community Development  
200 East Berry Street, Suite 320  
Fort Wayne IN 46802  
260.427.1127

**Thomas C. Henry, Mayor**

[www.fwcommunitydevelopment.org](http://www.fwcommunitydevelopment.org)

### Downtown Dining District Liquor License Application

Business Entity Making this Application: Duckys LLC

Applicant's Name:

Johnny Perez Applicant's

Address: 3051 Laurel Springs Dr. City: Fort Wayne State: IN Zip: 46802 Applicant's

Phone (daytime): 260-431-3001 Email: John@equipaccounting.com Please

include a thorough narrative for each of the items below:

1. Provide description (including renderings) of plans you have to improve the facility in which you will operate
2. The expected timetable for work and business commencement
3. Explain the overall concept and unique features of the proposed establishment
4. Describe the level of control and participation the owners will have in the day-to-day operation of the business.
5. Explain how your operation plans to focus on a dining, entertainment or cultural experience rather than an alcohol consumption experience
6. Describe how your venue/operation will draw people to Downtown Fort Wayne
7. Provide information regarding the proposed permit holder's related experience

**Permits are not transferable and any renewal is subject to compliance with the terms of the agreement with the City of Fort Wayne. The permits shall not be pledged as collateral or subject to any lien judgment, property settlement agreement, or third party claim.**

## **Downtown Dining District - Liquor License Application Eligibility Requirements and Evaluation Criteria**

*The Downtown Dining District is a project district where 3-way liquor licenses are made available to eligible dining, entertainment, and cultural establishments as a way to encourage dining in Downtown Fort Wayne. This District was made possible via state legislation and an Ordinance passed by the City of Fort Wayne Council that designated the District and adopted eligibility requirements.*


### **Eligibility Requirements:**

In addition to complying with all building, health, zoning laws, ordinances and all rules and regulations of the Indiana State Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC), and local, state, and federal government's applicants must also meet the following local requirements annually in order to be eligible to apply or renew:

1. Applicant's establishment must be located within the Downtown Dining District boundaries.
2. The focus of operation must be on a dining, entertainment or cultural experience rather than solely an alcohol consumption experience.
3. The establishment cannot be a private club, nightclub, or adult entertainment venue.
4. Fees: Applicant must submit a \$1,000 non-refundable application fee with application.

### **District Requirements:**

**Applicants will enter into a formal written agreement with the City of Fort Wayne committing to ongoing compliance with the following district requirements, including annual reporting, and verification of compliance.**

1. Establishments receiving Riverfront liquor licenses within the Downtown Dining District are required to maintain an annual ratio of non-liquor sales to total sales of at least 50%.
- 

2. The licensed establishment will be actively open for business and fully operational during a minimum of three hundred (300) days per year, and a minimum of five evenings (5) per week.
3. The Applicant shall comply with all local and ATC application and renewal procedures.
4. Annual dues in the amount of \$2500 must be paid for membership in the *Downtown Dining Association*, payable through the Downtown Improvement District.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

The recommendation to support the state permit application will be based on how strongly the applicant meets the following criteria:

1. Granting of the license will benefit the purposes of the district, i.e. to become a cultural and dining destination in Downtown Fort Wayne.
2. Granting of the license and the business activity will not be detrimental to the property values and business interest of others in the district.

The above criteria will be evaluated on the following:

1. The Physical Location
2. The Business Plan
3. Reputation/Experience of Ownership

**Attachments to include:**

1. A copy of your completed Indiana State form entitled "Application for New or Transfer Permit" along with any attachments. (Please redact any personal Social Security numbers)
2. A signed copy of this Application, including the Applicant's Certification
3. A copy of your business plan
4. A check made payable to the City of Fort Wayne in the amount of \$1,000.

Submit this form and all attachments to: City of Fort Wayne – Community Development, Attention: Development Finance - Downtown Dining District, 200 E. Berry Street - Suite 320, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.




**APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that all information in this application and all information furnished in support of this application are true and complete to the best of the Applicant's knowledge and belief.

I understand that the project described in this Application may **not** receive a Downtown Liquor License.

**I certify that I have read and understand and agree to the above eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria. I further understand and agree to enter into a formal written agreement regarding the aforementioned district requirements, to be approved by the City of Fort Wayne Common Council and the Mayor.**

I hereby release and discharge the City of Fort Wayne, together with their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, agents, directors and other related parties, from any and all rights and obligations, duties, claims, debts, actions, causes of action or liabilities arising out of, or relating to, the seeking or receipt of a Downtown Dining District Liquor License pursuant to this Project Application and related documents.

Applicant's Signature:  Date: 8-7-24

Printed Name: Johnny Perez Title: President



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the noncompliance and the opportunity to cure, take any action the City deems appropriate, including the following steps:

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e-mail: [Malak.Heiny@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Malak.Heiny@cityoffortwayne.org)

To Ducky's LLC:

Johnny Perez  
Ducky's LLC  
249 Pearl Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
PH: 530-863-3228  
e-mail: [Johnny@Mercadofw.com](mailto:Johnny@Mercadofw.com)

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9. **Amendment of this Agreement.** This Agreement or any portion hereof may only be amended by a writing executed by the Parties.

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12. **Compliance with Laws**. The Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances and all provisions required thereby, whether now existing or hereafter enacted, which are included and incorporated by reference herein, in Applicant's performance under this Agreement.

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The Applicant affirms under the penalties of perjury that the Applicant does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien. The Applicant affirms under the penalties of perjury that the Applicant has enrolled and is participating in the E-Verify program as defined in IC 22-5-1.7-3. The Applicant agrees to provide documentation to the State of Indiana that the Applicant has enrolled and is participating in the E-Verify program. Additionally, the Applicant is not required to participate if the Applicant is self-employed and does not employ any employees. The City may terminate for default if the Applicant fails to cure a breach of this provision no later than thirty (30) days after being notified by the City.

13. **Governing Laws**. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Indiana, notwithstanding its choice of law rules to the contrary or any other state's choice of law rules. Suit, if any, shall be brought in a court of applicable jurisdiction situated in Allen County, Indiana.

14. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement, entered into of even date herewith, and any attachments hereto, contain the entire understanding of the Parties and this Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, oral or written, with respect to the subject matter enclosed herein and contemplated hereby.

15. **Indemnification and Release**. The Applicant shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City and the Downtown Improvement District and their divisions, department, directors, officers, employees, representatives and agents (collectively, the "Indemnitees") from and against all claims, demands, charges, lawsuits, costs and expenses (including legal costs and attorney's fees) caused by or associated with any act or omission of the Applicant and/or any of its contractors, subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, employees, representatives, licensees, invitees and/or authorized agents in connection with (a) the design, development, construction, operation, management and control of the Facility and (b) any and all activities of every kind and nature which occur in, on or about the Facility. Neither the City nor the Downtown Improvement District shall provide any indemnification hereunder to the Applicant. The Applicant hereby forever releases Indemnitees and each of them from any and all claims, demands and charges, of every kind and nature, both known and unknown, whether now existing or hereafter arising,

that Applicant has or may at any time in the future have against Indemnitees, or any of them, under this Agreement. In no event shall the City or the Downtown Improvement District be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential or punitive damages, costs or expenses arising from any act or omission to act by any party relating in any manner to this Agreement, the Application "as amended" or the activities described herein or therein or contemplated hereby or thereby. The covenants contained in this Section 18 shall survive the expiration or termination of the Agreement for any reason.

16. **Severability**. The invalidity of any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, or provisions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their respective duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement on the dates entered below.

**The City of Fort Wayne**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_  
Sharon Tucker - Mayor

**Ducky's LLC**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: September 4th, 2024  
Johnny Perez  
Owner

**BILL NO. R-24-09-04**

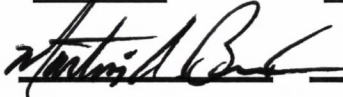



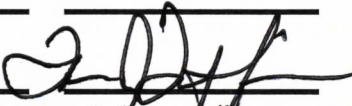



**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS  
September 24, 2024**

**Scott Myers Chair  
Michelle Chambers Co-Chair  
All Council Members**

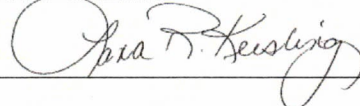
A Resolution approving the Municipal Riverfront Development Downtown Dining District Liquor License

*Ducky's, LLC*

COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS HAVE HAD SAID Ordinance under consideration and beg leave to report back to the Common Council that said Ordinance

<u>COUNCIL MEMBER</u>	<u>DO PASS</u>	<u>DO NOT PASS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
<u>BENDER</u>			
<u>BOOKER</u>			
<u>CHAMBERS</u>			
<u>ENSLEY</u>			
<u>FREISTROFFER</u>			
<u>HARTMAN</u>			
<u>JEHL</u>			
<u>MYERS</u>			
<u>PADDOCK</u>			

**LANA R. KEESLING  
CITY CLERK**



Public Hearing Date: N/A

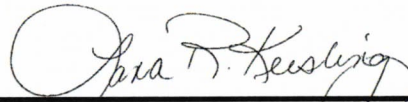
Read the first time in full and on motion by Councilperson Myers.

Read the second time by title and referred to the Regulations Committee.

Read the third time in full and on motion by Councilperson Myers, placed on passage by the following vote:

<u>TOTAL VOTES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAINED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
BENDER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHAMBERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENSLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FREISTROFFER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HARTMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEHL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MYERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PADDOCK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DATED: September 24, 2024

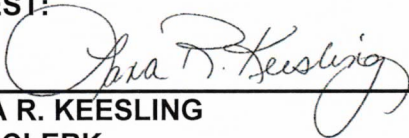


LANA R. KEESLING, CITY CLERK

Passed and adopted by the Common Council of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as

Resolution No. R-24-09-04 on the 24th day of September, 2024

ATTEST:



LANA R. KEESLING  
CITY CLERK



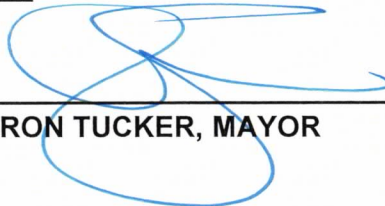
PRESIDING OFFICER

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the 25th of September 2024, at the hour of 10:20 o'clock A.M. E.S.T.



LANA R. KEESLING, CITY CLERK

Approved and signed by me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024, at the hour of 3:30 o'clock PM E.S.T.



SHARON TUCKER, MAYOR

