



City of Bluff City  
Mayor Percy J. Brown

## Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue  
Bluff City

November 30, 2006

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

No Doubt many of you read the recent Bluff City Squealer article describing what was termed a “Year-End Spending Frenzy” by Bluff City departments. I want to take this opportunity to (again) correct false information published in the Squealer and to reassure you, the citizens of Bluff City, that your government is NOT mishandling the funds you’ve entrusted to us.

While it is true that a cappuccino machine was purchased with city funds by a city department that will remain unnamed, rest assured that the cappuccino machine has been returned and the money returned to the city’s general fund. I personally talked to the city manager that purchased the cappuccino machine and I believe he meant no wrong in making the purchase. He was merely trying to boost employee morale in a way that could reach the widest number of employees. Everyone loves coffee. Some love tea, but we don’t care about them.

I must admit that the cappuccino machine was quite popular with city employees for the two weeks it was in use and it appears to have made a very positive difference in city operations. While I have no hard data to support this observation, I personally believe that city worker productivity was at its highest level in years and I’m fairly sure that many city construction projects were completed well ahead of schedule. It’s simply amazing what carefully applied high levels of caffeine can do for society.

Regardless of the benefit, the cappuccino machine was purchased with city money and, as demonstrated by the public poll in the Squealer article, many citizens deemed the purchase “inappropriate.” With that sentiment in mind, I have officially reprimanded the manager who approved the purchase and placed him on administrative leave for three days. The cappuccino machine was returned for a partial refund (it was heavily used) and the money is back in the city’s general fund, ready to be used for snow removal and downtown improvements.

I still believe that the manager responsible for this purchase was on to something when it comes to motivating people; he just executed his idea in the wrong manner. With that in mind, I am personally researching similar motivational techniques to apply in Bluff City government. I firmly believe that high levels of caffeine can positively impact society and foster progressive social change

Just look at what Starbuck’s did for Seattle!

Sincerely,  
**Percy J. Brown**  
Your Honorable Mayor