



City of Bluff City
Mayor Percy J. Brown

Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue
Bluff City, Ohio

October 30, 2008

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

These are traumatic times here at Bluff City City Hall!

Or, rather, what's left of Bluff City City Hall, which is pretty much nothing!

As you are all probably aware of, city hall was completely destroyed during Hurricane Ike when a tree fell on it. I sit writing this memo in Carlo's Coffee Café with Free Internet downtown, which is serving as my temporary technical office while we try to figure out just where our emergency operations center is supposed to be located.

Of particular concern is the fact that our insurance company, Reddingfield's Independent Inexpensive Insurance, has rejected our damage claims for city hall. Reddingfield's claim agent states that the company advised us in 1999 to remove the 300 year old sycamore formerly located next to city hall, because they felt the tree was a safety hazard and that any moderate wind storm would bring it crashing down on city hall.

Bluff City City Hall's official position, under my predecessor the Honorable Mayor Clarence Barker Bentley, was to consider the sycamore a historic tree due to its local historic relevance. What historic relevance, we're not really sure, since there was no official documentation regarding the tree's significance, other than it was really big and really old. Evidently Mayor Bentley figured that any tree that managed to survive for 300 years intact around Bluff City had to have *some* historical relevance making it worth saving. I suspect the \$95,000 estimate from Tim's Tree Trimming Service to completely remove the tree also had something to do with that decision.

And then our bit of Bluff City ancient history came down and crushed city hall. Our historic tree created yet another historic event with its death, going out with a big bang. And Reddingfield's, claiming that they had adequately forewarned us about the danger, has chosen to disallow our damage claims.

So I am now working with the city attorney on a civil suit strategy to sue Reddingfield's to force them to cover our claims and rebuild city hall. And I have Mayor Bentley to thank for this mess! Had he made the right decision at the right time and removed the blasted tree, I wouldn't keep spilling Brazilian coffee all over my newspaper while forcibly sharing an internet connection with smelly vagrants trying to surf Internet porn in a local internet cafe!

Here's another potential Bluff City tag line for you to mull over:
"Bluff City – planning on planning ahead!"

Sincerely,
Percy J. Brown
Your Honorable Mayor