



City of Bluff City
Mayor Percy J. Brown

Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue
Bluff City, Ohio

December 1, 2009

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

My, my, my, what a memorable Thanksgiving we experienced here at Bluff City city hall this year! This one will surely be a tale passed down through the ages! And I, Percival J. Brown, will be immortalized as the best mayor this city has ever known for my great ideas and service to the great people of the great city of Bluff City! For those of you unfortunate enough to miss the blessed event, allow me to recap.

Thanksgiving is a giving time of year, as noted by the word "Giving" in the word "Thanksgiving". It was in this spirit of giving that I came up with an idea several years ago of having a live turkey hunt on the city hall grounds, as a way of giving turkeys to the poor. As you all recall, the ASPCA won an injunction last year against our use of live turkeys for the traditional hunt, so this year we changed the tradition to properly abide with the court order.

This year, instead of using shotguns to actually *kill* the turkeys, we gave paintball guns to four families who were chosen at random to participate in the turkey hunt. My thanks to the Police department for allowing us to use their paintball training guns for the occasion. And under this new tradition, the families were each supposed to "mark" their turkey with a unique color paintball chosen for their family. All family members were thusly armed.

Following tradition, the farm-raised turkeys were released on the city hall grounds at 6 AM, with the hunt commencing at 6:30. It took a lot of coaxing, but we finally managed to get the birds to leave their enclosure whereby they promptly walked up to the front door of city hall, evidently mistaking it for their turkey coop. Grouped on the city hall steps, the turkeys began to scratch against the door and gobble in an attempt to be let in, like they do on the farm. With all the ruckus those birds raised, it didn't take the hunters long to locate the birds.

At 6:40AM the first shot was fired. While paintballs might sting badly, they're not supposed to be lethal. At least not to people. The Anderson family appeared to tag the first bird, Mr. Anderson being something of an avid turkey hunter. His paintball marker appeared to hit the largest bird in the head, knocking it off the city hall steps. However, at almost the same time Mr. Smith of the Smith family also shot at the flock of birds bunched on the city hall steps. And, as luck would have it, Mr. Smith's marker also appeared to hit the largest bird in the head.

Since it was still rather dark it was hard for me, the ceremonial hunting judge, to make a definitive ruling on who actually shot the first bird, which now lay motionless on the ground. Making the event even more exciting was the fact that the remaining birds, alarmed at the shooting and their motionless companion, scattered towards the crowd of cheering onlookers. The other two families participating in the hunt finally caught up and saw the birds fleeing.

It's truly fortunate that everyone was only using paintball guns because once the Barnes and the Noble families saw the birds they opened fire. By this time both the Smith and Anderson families were also shooting at the remaining birds, which were now in the midst of the scattering crowd of onlookers, men and women and children and turkeys running every which way as hundreds of paintballs rained violently down upon them!

Oh, it was truly exciting, a palpable electricity running through this year's event that I'm sure everyone felt, whether hunter or hunted! And unlike past pre-ASPCA-injunction years, there were no fatalities at the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Hunt! Oh sure, there were a hundred and eight minor injuries from the onslaught of paintballs that peppered the crowd and a few dozen serious injuries as the crowd stampeded and trampled several small adults and children, but nothing fatal. And that, my friends, is the sign of a successful Bluff City event!

Sincerely,
Percy J. Brown
Your Honorable Mayor