



City of Bluff City  
Mayor Percy J. Brown

## Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue  
Bluff City, Ohio

February 26, 2010

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

It's almost March, my fellow Bluff City citizens! Christmas was over two months ago. It's time to take down your Christmas Lights! In fact, it's against the law for them to still be up!

In case anyone forgot, allow me to remind you all of the ordinance YOUR city council members passed in 2005 (Ordinance # 183-2005) outlawing the flagrant display of Christmas decorations past January 31<sup>st</sup>. While I don't necessarily disagree with the ordinance, it was definitely shoved down all of our collective throats by YOUR city council members.

As stated in the ordinance, "It shall be deemed illegal and immoral to openly and flagrantly display Christmas and/or mid-winter holiday festive decorations after the following January 31<sup>st</sup>. After the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, violators of this ordinance shall be cited with a 5-day notice to remove the offending decorations. If the offending decorations are not removed within the five day notice period, violators will be fined \$50 per month the offending decorations are displayed. After six months, the violators will be arrested and their assets seized."

Please remember this ordinance has been in effect since 2005 and that the city has received 10,984 complaints since then and issued 4,779 citations. We have seized approximately 244 properties and imprisoned 192 offenders. This law has even allowed us to completely fund three police officer positions for the sole purpose of finding and punishing breakers of this law! I personally consider this law a valuable tool for law enforcement and city funding!

Despite vocal local criticism of this law, you must all remember that YOUR city council members call this law a "quality of life issue. When the displays are left up indefinitely it gives the message that our citizens just don't care about their neighborhoods or our fine city, that Bluff City citizens are fat and lazy. We don't want Bluff City to be considered as such."

I know you're not fat and lazy. I know you love your Christmas decorations well into May, some even all year. I know the future of my three law enforcement positions ultimately ride on how many citations this ordinance issues every year. So I must say this, as your mayor: Please comply with ordinance# 183-2005 immediately! The beauty of our fair city depends on it!

My three Decoration Law Enforcement officers, however, appreciate your festive-ness. As do our city coffers!

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