CITY OF FOUNTAINS
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KANSAS CITY
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Office of the City Auditor

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February 15, 2011

Board President Patrick McInerney and
Mayor Mark Funkhouser
Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Police Commissioners
1125 Locust
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Board President McInerney and Mayor Funkhouser:

During our January 20, 2011, presentation of the second quarter fiscal year 2011 citizen survey results to the Board of Police Commissioners, you asked whether there was any relationship or correlation between the fiscal year 2010 survey results on the question asking respondents about their overall feeling of safety in the city and questions related to the visibility of police.

To assess the relationship between citizen responses to the question "Overall feeling of safety in the city" and the eight questions related to police activities, we calculated correlation coefficients. The closer the value of the correlation coefficient is to +1 or -1, the stronger the relationship between the questions.

Statistics literature includes a number of scales for interpreting and describing the strength of the relationship. We identified eight scales, which we used in combination to determine a range for the strength of the relationship between the questions.

Overall, we found a low to moderate relationship between the question "Overall feeling of safety in the city" and the eight questions related to police activities. (See the following table.) The strongest relationship was between the questions "Overall feeling of safety in the city" and "The city's overall efforts to prevent crime."

Fiscal Year 2010 Citizen Survey – Correlation Between Overall Feeling of Safety and Questions Related to Police Activities

Question	Correlation Coefficient = *r*	Correlation Strength based on *r*	
The city's overall efforts to prevent crime	0.515	Moderate to High	Overall feeling of safety in the city
Quality of local police protection	0.437	Low to Moderate	
Overall quality of police services	0.406	Low to Moderate	
The visibility of police in retail areas	0.372	Low to Moderate	
How quickly public safety personnel respond to emergencies	0.317	Low to Moderate	
Enforcement of local traffic laws	0.316	Low to Moderate	

It should be noted that although a relationship exists between the questions, it does not imply causation as other unknown factors could be influencing the relationship.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 513-3320.

Sincerely,

Gary L. White
City Auditor

cc: Members of the Board of Police Commissioners
James Corwin, Chief of Police