

CITY OF FOUNTAINS  
HEART OF THE NATION



KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI

Office of the City Auditor

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2006

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Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Police Commissioners  
1125 Locust Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Commissioners:

In our audit of case clearance, we planned to compare Kansas City's clearance rate to those of other cities. We did not do the comparisons, however, because Kansas City's data was flawed. Commissioner Mark Thompson asked for a list of cities we planned to use in our comparisons. The cities included:

Arlington, TX  
Dallas, TX  
Denver, CO  
Des Moines, IA  
Fort Worth, TX

Houston, TX  
Indianapolis, IN  
Minneapolis, MN  
Oklahoma City, OK

San Antonio, TX  
St Louis, MO  
Tulsa, OK  
Wichita, KS

We chose these cities because we use them for comparative purposes in our Citizen Survey Report. We planned to compare Kansas City's clearance rates to the average and median clearances of the other cities, rather than city to city comparisons. The FBI cautions data users against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units such as cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and states.<sup>1</sup> The FBI states that individual rankings of cities make simplistic and incomplete comparisons because many variables influence crime in a particular area or region.

The FBI provides average clearances of property crimes and violent crimes of 31 cities with populations of 250,000 to 499,999. This would provide KCPD additional benchmarks.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Gary L. White  
City Auditor

cc: James Corwin, Chief of Police  
Members of the City Council

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Caution Against Ranking, Variables Affecting Crime", *Crime in the United States, 2006*, September 2007.