

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

The “Dog Days of Summer” are upon us, with a vengeance! Called “Dog Days” because they are the hottest and most unbearable days of the summer. Daytime temperatures are well over 90 degrees, and overnight isn’t much better, with temps in the upper 80s.

So keeping cool becomes a full-time job for officers whose duties often demand that they be out in the heat, on the streets; taking information at an accident or crime scene; working to resolve an argument in someone’s backyard, or chasing a suspect who doesn’t want to be caught. Excessive heat warnings don’t change the nature of policing – it’s often hot and sweaty work with vests for protection which offer little protection from the heat.

But through it all you keep your cool – you work to deescalate – to mediate – to resolve all manner of disputes – helping people who struggle with the hot weather to calm down and cool down. You keep your cool when often the people around them have lost it, despite being tired, and short-handed, and overworked.

To all of you this hot summer day I pray, “Thanks be to God for you.” Thanks be to God for your courage and dedication and tenaciousness, for you have answered the call to protect and serve, regardless of the weather or any other circumstance. Thanks be to God for your ministry as KCPD officers. May God bless you all and may God’s holy angels keep watch over you this and every day.

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