

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

While Argentina and England are still housed and practicing here, most of the World Cup activities have drawn to a close in Kansas City. Gone is Fan Fest, gone are the matches and marches, the rallies, and most of the international visitors. For well over a month you have made many personal sacrifices to ensure safety for everyone who participated in soccer mania. Kansas Citians and visitors from all corners of the United States and from an estimated 178 countries joyously celebrated, danced, marched, and cheered, thanks to you, without concern for their well-being.

I know you are exhausted. You worked long hours day after day, often having only a few hours to rest or sleep between your regular KCPD assignment and your FIFA duties. Most days were brutally hot and often you worked in a spot with very little shade. Please take time now to get well-deserved and much-needed rest.

Your loved ones didn't see much of you during FIFA. Some of you had to miss important family events. Please make time now to spend quality time with your family and friends.

Despite the challenge of protecting and serving huge crowds you served with professionalism and good humor. You made Kansas City very proud. Countless guests from near and far commented on how helpful and friendly you were. I hope some of them told you how much you were appreciated.

Many journalists and sports commentators are saying that Kansas City was the premier host city and that we're now the Soccer Capital of the World. Certainly many, many organizations, corporations, and individuals contributed to KC's success, but never forget that KCPD's careful, thorough preparation and the skillful execution of the plans were a defining factor.

In the Beatitudes, found in the 5th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, we read in the 9th verse, "Blessed are the peacemakers" Peacemakers are not only those who avoid conflict but also *the men and women who actively work to create peace*. You are Kansas City's leading peacemakers. You are blessed. Thank you for the outstanding work you do day in and day out and the excellent work you did during FIFA. You are appreciated. You are valued. You are respected. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Chaplain Susan McCann, KCPD Lead Chaplain

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