



CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS
FIRE DEPARTMENT

815 N. 6TH STREET

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

September 9, 2009

Mr. Murray Rhodes, Project Surveyor
BHC Rhodes-Surveyors
901 North 8th Street Ste 100
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Murray:

As Chief of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, I want to express the sincere appreciation of the Fire Department for your help in making the fiftieth anniversary memorial service of the Southwest Boulevard fire something we can all be proud of. The Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department has a rich history of honorable service to the community and you are a part of that history by your efforts and support.

Without the selfless and determined hard work of so many (under a very tight timeline), we would not have been able to honor our fellow brothers in a manner consistent with the importance of this event. On August 18, 1959, a terrible tragedy did occur, but a new era in the fire service was born out of a renewed spirit of cooperation with the combined efforts of the Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri Fire Departments in fighting this horrific fire. You reflect that same spirit of cooperation as we worked together to make this event take place.

Those family members who lost loved ones in this tragedy were extremely thankful that we were able to conduct this memorial service. Those firefighters who survived the fire were honored to be present at this fiftieth anniversary memorial ceremony on August 18, 2009. The family members of all of the heroic firefighters on the scene that day on August 18, 1959, were profoundly affected by this tragedy and those who were able to attend the recent ceremony did so with a proud but heavy heart.

The values that the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department hold dear are those of Honor, Duty, Integrity, and Courage. I know that those who assisted us in putting together this event did so with these values in mind. You should be very proud of your efforts in the spirit of teamwork and community, and I am personally grateful for your efforts because it is important for our past, present, and future firefighters to know that you support them.

I wish you the best as we go forward together, and may God bless you always.

Sincerely,

John Paul Jones
Fire Chief