A HISTORY-MAKING PERFORMANCE

With the Democratic National Convention over and the delegates and other visitors preparing to leave Chicago, our Department is earning high praise for the manner in which this year's Convention was conducted. Make no mistake about it — the accolades and commendations belong to each of you.

Whether you were assigned directly to the Convention ... or whether you worked behind the scenes to ensure that our field personnel had the equipment, the information and the other resources they needed ... or whether you worked your regular assignment protecting our neighborhoods — you contributed to the success of the Convention. You were part of a remarkable, history-making performance.

Only time will tell whether the news media will finally file away the footage of the 1968 Convention and stop discussing today's Chicago Police Department in the context of those images. One thing the media cannot ignore, however, is that the 1996 Convention is now part of history, and the law enforcement professionalism and excellence you displayed throughout Convention week are forever part of that history as well.

The Convention raised tremendous expectations of us individually and as an organization. You met — and then exceeded —those expectations. Now, you can anticipate that the residents we serve, day-in and day-out, to have no fewer expectations with respect to the courtesy and concern we extended to Convention visitors. The community has every right to expect this of us, and I am confident that you will continue to deliver, as you have so well in the past.

On behalf of the entire Command Staff of the Department, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to each and every one of you.

Matt L. Rodriguez
Superintendent of Police