



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

LETTER OF AWARD

To: Detective Devin Presta
From: Craig Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: October 31, 2017
RE: Distinguished Service Medal

Detective Presta,

Sgt. Kip Hollenbeck recently nominated you for an award. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). The DSM is awarded to employees who have demonstrated outstanding sustained and exemplary performance along with diligence and devotion to duty. The performance should exceed normal demands required or expected over an extended period of time.

In his nomination, Sgt. Hollenbeck gave detailed information about the Federal OCDETF investigation known as Golden Gun which had begun in 2014 but faltered in 2016 due to reassignments. On your own volition, you took over the investigation as the lead detective.

Sgt. Hollenbeck stated, *"From early 2016 to June of 2017 Det. Presta and the Safe Streets Task Force members conducted numerous controlled buys, undercover and surveillance operations. The investigation culminated on 6/15/2017 in a multi-agency operation to execute arrest and search warrants associated with the case. Fourteen residential search warrants were served at several locations including Yakima, Spokane, Spokane Valley and Post Falls Idaho. As a result of the operation, officers arrested 22 suspects and seized 22 firearms, 20 vehicles, \$720,000 in US Currency, approximately 4 kilograms of cocaine and smaller quantities of methamphetamine and heroin.*

This case was a huge logistical undertaking. Det. Presta worked with several different confidential informants; he developed new suspects; coordinated surveillance and delivery operations; collected and documented evidence; wrote countless reports; prepared arrest and search affidavits; made arrests; conducted multiple interviews; and to this day continues to work with the US Attorney's Office in Spokane preparing for trials and following up on leads gleaned from cooperating suspects. He spent countless hours away from his family while working tirelessly on this investigation.

Because of Detective Presta's efforts, the Safe Streets Task Force was able to infiltrate and take down a high level drug trafficking organization operating within our community. The impact on the criminal drug culture within the Spokane community was significant. His dedication and professionalism are a credit to our agency and all the agencies involved in the Spokane FBI Regional Safe Streets Task Force."

Det. Presta, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file and you will be recognized at the 2017 Annual Employee Award Ceremony in March 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police

