



Letter of Award

To: Lt. Rex Olson
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: January 19, 2018
Re: Purple Heart Medal

Captain Tom Hendren recently nominated you for the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart is awarded to department employees who sustain an injury of a serious nature capable of causing death or extended disability in the performance of their duties to such a degree that they require hospitalization or immediate care from a physician. The injury must have appeared to have been caused by the deliberate actions of another in an attempt to cause injury to the employee or some other person, thing, or property, in the attempted apprehension of said person, or in an attempt to save a human life placing oneself in immediate peril. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this award.

"On 9/5/17, Lt. Olson responded with Officers Marquez and Applewhaite to the report of a disorderly person. The individual in question is listed with physicals of a 6'4", 235 pound male. The male suspect was reported to be acting erratically in a manner where he appeared incapable of caring for himself, as well as demonstrating behavior to indicate he was a danger to others.

Officers located the male in front of the Super C convenience store. The officers determined that they needed to place the suspect into protective custody. As all three officers attempted to place him into custody, he began to resist and assault the officers. During this struggle, Lt. Olson found himself in front of the suspect's feet. He began to kick at Lt. Olson, striking him multiple times, to include one strike to the side of his head. This action caused Lt. Olson to fall and his foot caught on some curbing as he went over backwards which resulted in Lt. Olson suffering a compound fracture of his left leg/ankle.

The injury was extremely painful and rendered Lt. Olson's left leg useless during this struggle. Even after suffering this injury, Lt. Olson continued to engage and attempt to assist the other officers. In Officer Marquez's body camera video, Lt. Olson can be heard providing directions to officers as well as being observed still trying to assist with maintaining control of the suspect's arms once the suspect was taken into a prone position. It took several officers to finally gain control of the suspect.

The injury was substantial requiring reconstructive surgery and has placed Lt. Olson off duty for several months. This injury clearly meets the criteria for consideration for this award. More importantly was the action of Lt. Olson after receiving such a devastating injury. He did everything within his power to stay in the fight and ensure that officers succeeded in restraining such a dangerous individual."

Lt. Olson, you have my personal thanks for your efforts to apprehend the suspect, and the gratitude of our community and your fellow officers for your dedication to our profession. You will be presented with the Purple Heart Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2018. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police