



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Captain Dave Richards
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: August 9, 2017
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Captain Richards,

Officer Tim Ottmar recently nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the Spokane Police Department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

While assigned to the South Precinct, Captain Richards took on a project that went beyond the normal duties of a precinct captain. He proposed the East Sprague Lighting Project. The idea began when Captain Richards, while attending a community meeting, heard concerns from the citizens that they were nervous to leave their houses during the hours of darkness. They expressed how dark it was near the East Sprague corridor. Captain Richards took it upon himself to develop an idea and respond with a solution.

Captain Richards began by creating a control area and program area; each was of similar size and crime statistics. He went out at midnight, took photos, and clearly showed how dark the area was; giving the citizens a poor perception of safety. There was clearly a lack of street lighting in the East Sprague neighborhood.

Captain Richards contacted Avista to research the cost of adding new LED street lights on existing poles that did not have lights. He was able to find a funding source that would not directly impact individual citizens. He was able to convince Avista to replace older, less effective, sodium lights with new LED lights.

Because of Captain Richards' diligent efforts, Avista added 45 new LED lights to the program area and 81 sodium lights upgraded to LED lights. The photographs he took after the completed project showed the well-lit neighborhood created.

As a result of the lighting project, the area saw a 16.67% reduction in crime from 01/01/2016 – 12/31/2016. This outcome displays the accomplishment of such a difficult task and provided community confidence in its police department. This exceptional project took approximately two and a half years to complete which included presentations to community groups.

Captain Richards, you have certainly distinguished yourself in the area of meritorious achievement and I am proud to recognize you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2018 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police