



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Sgt. Michael Schneider
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: September 20, 2017
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Sgt. Schneider,

Sgt. Mike McNab 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.

Detective Schneider was assigned to the Special Victims Unit in February 2016. Despite being new to the unit, Detective Schneider quickly distinguished himself as a talented and devoted investigator.

During Detective Schneider's short 15 months in SVU, he investigated nearly 60 cases of child abuse, child exploitation, and sexual assaults. Due to many reasons, these cases are extremely difficult to solve yet, 22 of his cases have resulted in arrests or charges being forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office.

Detective Schneider has been able to solve several cases by obtaining confessions from suspects. Without his talent for interviewing, these cases would have otherwise been unsolvable leaving the victim without justice and the predator without accountability.

On one case in particular, Detective Schneider was assigned a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that an internet user was dealing in child pornography. After a series of search warrants Detective Schneider was led to a residence in Spokane. A search warrant was served on the residence. During the service of the warrant a guest of the home was interviewed by Detective Schneider. He quickly determined the guest was the suspect using the home's internet for dealing in child pornography. After the suspect was arrested Detective Schneider learned the suspect was possibly abusing an intellectually disabled child in the home. A second interview was done and the suspect confessed to abusing the child.

The evidence obtained from this case was as extensive as it was disturbing. Detective Schneider not only built a strong case from a single tip, he more importantly rescued a vulnerable child from an abusive situation.

These accomplishments would be impressive for a seasoned detective let alone one in his first 15 months. His accomplishments during his time with SVU have brought great credit upon this department.

Sgt. Schneider, 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 that reads "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police