



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Tim Schwering
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 15, 2019
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Recently, Sergeant Nate Spiering 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. In his nomination, Sgt. Spiering wrote:

"At the start of 2018, Ofc. Schwering proposed a specific project to me: use his skillset and knowledge to proactively work fraud cases that could not be worked by the Investigations Bureau. Being a patrol officer, this required specific guidelines- Patrol calls and response come first, investigations are worked on available proactive time only, no overtime will be used for case work or associated paperwork, and the Investigations Bureau has to be unable to work the case. Ofc. Schwering took it upon himself to learn the case management system to check case status, develop a close working relationship with the Prosecutors Office, and opened easy lines of communication with local financial institutions. He re-contacted victims and witnesses, gathering additional information to include statements, surveillance footage, suspect identification and financial records when available for each case. This often involved applying for search warrants for bank records and account information. Each case was then documented in reports and charging documents before being filed with the court.

At the conclusion of one year, Ofc. Schwering has pro-actively completed 102 Fraud investigations resulting in the following charges either by arrest or forwarded to the prosecutor for charging: 159 counts Forgery; 103 counts Money Laundering; 139 counts Identity Theft; 57 counts 3rd Theft; 37 counts 2nd Theft.

Ofc. Schwering has also used his knowledge of and proficiency in navigating financial and social media institutions to assist other officers and department entities in obtaining needed information on cases outside of this fraud project. Oftentimes, this is in the form of writing or guiding others in the application for search warrants or subpoenas. Warrants for social media or digital device account information often lead to sub or parent entities, requiring second and third warrants which Ofc. Schwering sees through to solidify cases. His work in both Fraud and digital evidence over this year has been recognized both internally and externally as thorough, efficient and exemplary. In October, 2018 he was selected to the Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force where he is able to further collaborate and assist private sector fraud investigators throughout the region and has received numerous accolades internally and externally this year as a result of his work.

Ofc. Schwering used his spare time in 2018 to bring resolution to the cases of over 100 victims of financial fraud crimes all while working as a patrol officer and maintaining a high level of patrol productivity. His idea of and work on this project exemplifies his commitment to serving this community."

Officer Schwering, 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 2019 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Handwritten signature of Craig N. Meidl.

Craig Meidl, Chief of Police