



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Dan Lesser
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: August 8, 2018
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Sergeant Sean Wheeler recently nominated you and Officer Craig Hamilton 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, Sergeant Wheeler wrote:

"As their supervisor, I have had the honor and privilege to work alongside these two K-9 officers over the period of time in which they both dedicated their lives to the building of a new K-9 kennel facility, located at the Spokane Police Department Training Center. This facility was begun in 2016 with the combined vision of Ofcs. Lesser and Hamilton, and has been built from the ground up. The facility is not only a functional, comfortable place where the dogs can be housed, but truly symbolizes the professionalism and excellence which the SPD K-9 Unit has modeled for the past 30 years, and will continue to model in the foreseeable future.

I have seen both men on countless occasions working at the kennels on their days off, using their own tools and at times purchasing materials with their own money. I am overwhelmed by the selflessness and dedication both officers have poured into this project, which will greatly benefit both the Spokane Police Department and the K-9 Unit for generations to come.

The new facility benefits all surrounding agencies with K-9 units who travel on a regular basis to Spokane to train with our unit. The building and grounds have the ability to house up to 14 dogs with a kennel system provided by SCRAPS.

Ofcs. Hamilton and Lesser not only donated their own time building the facility, but also went out into the Spokane community and built relationships with local businesses to help out in any way possible to ensure that the dogs had a quality facility in which to stay. There have been numerous occasions where local media has run stories on the kennel facility's progress, and an overwhelming amount of community support.

Craig and Dan started this project to improve and update the living conditions of all of the K-9's, and in turn it has brought an immense amount of positive attention to the department. These two officers invested their lives into seeing the facility complete for over two years, with all of the benefit and credit directed back to the Spokane Police Department. In conclusion, I believe K-9 Officers Dan Lesser and Craig Hamilton are outstanding ambassadors for the SPD K-9 Unit, and the Spokane Police Department as a whole.

Officer Lesser, 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.

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police