



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Officer Jenn DeRuwe
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2020
Re: Chief's Citation Award

Recently, Director Jacqui MacConnell nominated the Community Outreach Unit to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Community Outreach Unit is most deserving of this award. Included in her nomination, Dir. MacConnell wrote:

"The Community Outreach Unit has done a phenomenal job this past year working with our community to continue to build bridges, open doors, and serve our community through positive interactions with law enforcement. Sergeant Mike Carr, Officer Jenn DeRuwe and Officer Graig Butler worked extremely hard to continue current programs and to come up with new innovative programs to work with our youth and create opportunities for them to engage in positive interactions with law enforcement.

Everyone who has participated deserves recognition for the success of these programs and recognizing the Community Outreach Unit for their part in organizing and making the events possible is symbolic of recognizing all those who contributed to make the program a success. This impact could not have been successful if it wasn't for not only partnerships with other organizations, but all of the police officers who participate in making these programs successful.

- *In 2019, due to newly created partnerships, PAL served almost twice as many youth as we served in 2018; the Spokane Police Department served approximately 750 youth.*
- *PAL Boxing kicked off in the latter part of 2019. This program has only just begun and is still in the experimental phase but has the potential to positively impact numerous youth. We have officers outside the unit who are volunteering their time to box with the youth (mainly Sgt. Schneider and Officer Yen)*
- *Christmas Family Adoption program—We served more families and individuals this year than any year previously. With the partnership of the Spokane Police Foundation, Les Schwab, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Salvation Army and Wal-Mart, we served 35 families and 91 children. Through our own Spokane Police Department employees (commissioned and non-commissioned) we served 17 families and 42 children. Again, certain officers on the department played key roles in organizing the presents and sometimes, the delivery of the presents, for their "assigned" family.*

Although it could be argued that these programs are part of the Community Outreach Unit's "job", the members of the unit go above and beyond, often dedicating personal time to ensure the success of these programs."

Officer DeRuwe, I am very proud and honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. You will be recognized and your unit will be presented with a plaque at our annual awards ceremony on March 12, 2020. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police