



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



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

Recently, Lt. Steve Braun nominated the Downtown Precinct 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 members of the Downtown Precinct are most deserving of this award. Included in his nomination, Lt. Braun wrote:

"Since 2018, the individuals assigned to the Downtown Precinct have distinguished themselves through their hard work and dedication to improve the quality of life for those who work and live throughout Downtown. As a group, they routinely developed and shared actionable intelligence via Smartforce, targeted chronic offenders, conducted thorough investigations, and worked effectively as a team on enforcement specials.

All the members of the team also placed a high level of importance on creating positive relationships with businesses, service providers, and residents of Downtown through their daily contacts as well as various outreach such as YPI at Crosswalk. Some of the feedback that I have received from our Downtown partners includes: The managers of the Downtown Starbucks locations stating that they notice a drop in criminal activity and their employees feel safer when the NRO's are working; staff at Crosswalk have stated that they have seen an improvement in the behavior and attitude of their clients that have attended YPI; and many Downtown outreach providers have stated that they appreciate how well the NRO's interact with their clients and the efforts the officers make in improving their quality of life.

In 2018, there were a total of 1118 felony drug arrests made by the Spokane Police Department. Members of the Downtown Precinct accounted for 277 (25%) of those arrests. As of mid-December 2019 there were a total of 1281 felony drug arrests made by the Spokane Police Department with 431 (34%) made by members of the Downtown Precinct. These numbers not only reflect the strong work ethic of the officers assigned to the Downtown Precinct but also highlight the importance they all place on targeting those that prey on some of our more vulnerable citizens.

The hard work done by the officers assigned to the Downtown Precinct has resulted in a 16.5% drop in violent crime for 2019 and a 14.5% drop in property crime for a total drop in Part 1 Crime of 14%. I routinely receive compliments from businesses, service providers, and residents about the hard work and compassion of the officers assigned to the Downtown Precinct.

All of the individuals assigned to the Downtown Precinct show up to work on a daily basis with a great attitude and a strong work ethic. Because they have all embraced working as a team, utilizing the concepts of community oriented policing and community outreach they have been effective in making Downtown Spokane safer and more enjoyable. I feel that all of those nominated are more than deserving of receiving the Chief's Citation and it has been my pleasure to work with all of them."

Harbert, 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