



## Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



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

The Chief's Citation 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 Hostage Negotiation Team is most deserving of this award.

*In 2019, the Hostage Negotiation Team took on the task of hosting the 33rd Western States Hostage Negotiation Association annual conference. The conference was hosted at the Davenport Hotel from April 7th – 10th. The primary themes during the conference were Motivational Interviewing, De-escalation, Resiliency and Case Studies. The event was attended by over 300 Negotiators from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Canada. There was also a competition on April 7th hosted at Lewis and Clark High School. The team partnered with numerous businesses in and around Spokane to put on what was described by the WSHNA board as "the best conference in years". While hosting the event, the team members worked on their primary department duties as well as those that came with the conference. On the last night of the conference several team members assisted patrol in responding to a barricade subject in a vehicle on Sunset Blvd.*

*Throughout the year the team has responded to numerous calls as a team or partial team, depending on the need. Some of these calls included:*

- Barricaded DV/Suicidal subject with 2 children—Several team members responded and were able to convince the subject to release the children and eventually surrender peacefully*
- Barricaded DVOPV subject in a vehicle holding a knife—Several team members responded to assist patrol. Subject exited the vehicle after a chemical agent was introduced into the vehicle*
- 2nd Degree Assault suspect threatening to jump off the Sunset bridge—Team members convinced the subject to walk to the end of the bridge where he was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit.*
- Barricaded subject wanted on 3 counts of DVOPV—Subject peacefully surrendered after about an hour of negotiations with on duty team members*
- Suicidal subject on the Monroe St Bridge—On duty Negotiators were able to get the subject to peacefully surrender after about 40 minutes*
- Barricaded subject wanted for 1st Assault—Subject was in a locked upstairs room. Negotiators convinced the subject to surrender peacefully*
- Barricaded subject wanted for PCS and DV—Subject surrendered after 45 minutes of conversation with Negotiators*
- Barricaded 2nd Assault DV subject—Subject was taken into custody without incident*

*This is not a complete list of the incidents that the team has responded to in 2019 while on or off duty. There were also multiple times an on-duty negotiator was utilized to resolve incidents that reduced the number of team call-outs. Team members also assisted SWAT on several warrant services."*

Officer O'Brien, 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