



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Shawna Ernst
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: July 23, 2020
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Ofc. Ryan Snider and Ofc. Erin Raleigh recently nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the 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 her first year with SPD, Shawna she has made strides in getting SPD somewhat caught up in the technology field that was very long overdue. Her knowledge in IT was much needed and her communication skills to get things done have been proven.

Being a civilian, she has turned the Technical Assistance Response Unit upside down, in a good way. She is open to any ideas. She is open to any new technology and learning. She is trusting to those in her unit and they trust her. Shawna has afforded TARU to become the trained unit it has become and always looks to the future to be better. She has the duty to budget for future spending for the entire department for technology and does her best to accommodate those that need new equipment. Her drive in TARU is what helps push us along every single day, she will find a way to get what people need.

During the protests in May and June, Shawna dropped what she was doing and added more to her plate to accomplish a goal at the command post to get everyone what they needed by allowing TARU to get things done. With the assistance of other agencies and her overall knowledge of systems and technology, she was able to make a command post out of nothing and the administration of many departments had zero complaints.

She also wrote a coding to assist in identifying bias's through our contacts with the public at the request of the Chief. She was able to accomplish this in one day, a skill that not many have and can write so quickly.

Shawna was able to identify many issues with the current body camera contract, items that were not being used, but were being paid for. SPD had currently been paying for CAD integration. This integration is for the labeling of body cameras automatically by use of our current CAD system and Evidence.com. The cost involved was almost \$100,000. She was able to code to fit the algorithm for AXONs need and get them to reallocate the spent money to the current AB3 Officers Safety Plan we are currently using. This new plan and saved money allowed the purchase of new Taser 7's. It is this type of thinking that has allowed this department to not only save some big money, but put our officers in today's world with today's smart weapon technology.

Shawna cares about our police officers and all she interacts with. She works tirelessly and almost effortlessly to assist SPD in every aspect and unit in the department. Shawna works on her weekends, her nights and of course her scheduled paid work days. Her continued dedication to her job and especially to SPD is why we chose to nominate her for this award. TARU is very grateful for a leader like Shawna Ernst and her ongoing mission to keep SPD moving toward the future in technology in policing."

Shawna, I am proud to present you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police