



## Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Deanna Storch  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: October 28, 2020  
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Captain Mark Griffiths 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. Capt. Griffiths included:

*"Ofc. Storch is assigned to the North Precinct as an NRO focused on the Neva-Wood area. Ofc. Storch has done exceptional work with north side retail locations in theft reduction, theft investigation and enforcement. She has worked closely with North Town Mall security and management, creating a much safer environment for our community to enjoy. She has worked closely with business management on CPTED concerns and unlawful camping behavior around North Point, but one incident truly stands out.*

*While working as an NRO enforcing illegal camping, Deanna routinely came in contact with a woman named Desiree. Utilizing outreach links and community court process linked to enforcement, Desiree began to cycle in and out of drug treatment, medical treatment and jail for more than a year. Desiree was drug addicted, but more importantly, suffered from a very serious medical condition that was not being treated. Ofc. Storch noticed that in each contact with Desiree, Desiree was thinner and becoming more ill. Ofc. Storch recognized that Desiree was extremely vulnerable and would die if something did not change soon.*

*Ofc. Storch and Lt. Kendall worked with community court and outreach providers in attempts to get Desiree the help she desperately needed. These interventions, outreach, inpatient treatment efforts all fell short due to her lack of cooperation. It became very clear that Desiree did not possess the capacity to adhere to changing her behavior and saving her own life. Desiree was not capable of caring for herself and needed to be placed into protective custody.*

*Ofc. Storch contacted Desiree's mother in Texas who agreed to provide her housing and a drug free environment. Ofc. Storch and Lt. Kendall made arrangements with Community Court staff to hold Desiree in jail for over a week on an illegal camping charge. During that time, Desiree was treated at an area hospital to address her immediate medical needs and stable enough to travel. This time in jail also gave Desiree time to consider drug treatment options. Ofc. Storch visited Desiree in jail and presented her with the option of housing with her mother and drug treatment in Texas. After a week in jail, Desiree agreed to travel to Texas and attend drug treatment. Ofc. Storch then coordinated with airport staff to have Desiree authorized to fly despite not having identification. Ofc. Storch responded to the jail on her day off where Desiree was released from custody. At that point, Ofc. Storch gave her a courtesy ride to the airport, presented Desiree to TSA with a booking photo to allow her to fly and stood by as Desiree left for Texas.*

*Today, Ofc. Storch is still in touch with Desiree and her mother. As of the latest report, Desiree is stable, in drug treatment and they are expecting her to be employed soon. This will be a tough road for Desiree, but without the extreme concern of Officer Storch and the great assistance of Lt. Kendall, I am sure Desiree would have perished. This is work above and beyond that expected of our officers and one that deserves department recognition.*

Ofc. Storch, 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 in 2021 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig Meidl  
Chief of Police