



Letter of Award 2021 Employee of the 4th Quarter

To: Officer Chris Lesser
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: January 27, 2022
Re: 2021 Employee of the 4th Quarter Award

Sgt. Craig Hamilton nominated you for the Employee of the Quarter Award. Employee of the Quarter nominations are based on either a specific act of unusual meritorious service, a specific project of significance to the community, City, or Department, or sustained superior performance of assigned duties. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nominations, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. In his nomination, Sgt. Hamilton included:

"Ofc. Lesser has been a police officer with the Spokane Police Department since July of 2013. I had the honor of working alongside Ofc. Lesser on Swing Shift Patrol Team 8, in 2020. I was so impressed with Ofc. Lesser's leadership, professionalism, and work ethic that I asked him to come to the Downtown Precinct and work with me after my promotion to sergeant. Ofc. Lesser's oral board interview and the way he presented himself was second to none and extremely impressive. Ofc. Lesser came with an "all in" attitude and does an amazing job, exceeding all expectations.

Working in the downtown area of Spokane is challenging at times and is different than what we all have been accustomed to in patrol work; it takes a well-rounded officer to excel. Chris has demonstrated this since the beginning. He is quick to be the first to volunteer for special assignments, whether it's doing follow-up with businesses to address their issues or helping investigate crimes that our Downtown Precinct detective doesn't have to time to tackle herself. Chris was the one officer that made the connection with local services to get a homeless man out of his shelter so the man could receive medical treatment. This man had refused to move or exit his shelter for several months and no other officer or precinct had any luck, just Chris. Chris is well rounded enough that he is on a first name basis with the homeless man now and I would say that this man trusts Chris, which is exactly what we are working towards as Spokane police.

Other examples: Chris saw a call holding reference illegal activity going on near Sprague Way and Erie. Chris took lead on addressing the issue, even though it was not in the Downtown Precinct's area of responsibility. With the help of several other Downtown Precinct officers and Code Enforcement, that area was clean by the end of the day. Chris also led the NRO's with numerous arrests over Memorial Weekend, which made a drastic improvement for the quality of life in the downtown area for Spokane residents and businesses. 101 arrests were made from that Friday through Monday, most of which were referred to Community Court, with the intent of getting offenders the correct services, yet still holding them accountable.

All of the officers that I'm lucky enough to work with at the Downtown Precinct are mind-blowingly excellent at their jobs. I will be the first to talk their praises as I'm continually impressed. Ofc. Lesser's leadership and professionalism impresses me week after week and I am thankful I get to work with him."

Officer Lesser, you exemplify the best in an employee with your commitment, dedication to your profession and work ethic. The Spokane Police Department is fortunate to have such an employee, and you are worthy of this recognition. A copy of this letter will be placed in your employee file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Meidl".

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police