



Letter of Award Lifesaving Medal



To: Officer Lee Barker
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: July 23, 2021
Re: Lifesaving Medal Award

Sergeant Yamada recently nominated you and Officer Dylan Pavlischak for the Lifesaving Award. The Spokane Police Department Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed your nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

"On 6/18/2021, Ofc. Pavlischak and Ofc. Barker responded to a welfare check after a neighbor had called stating he had not seen his neighbor for a while. After calling the last resident on file who stated she was fine and not living there anymore, they arrived on-scene and contacted the neighbor who directed them to unit 3, an upstairs unit in the complex.

After making numerous phone calls, looking into the window at the front door and checking the resident's mailbox (which was empty), they were nearly out of options and preparing to clear the scene as there was no exigency. Ofc. Pavlischak stated that they could get a fire truck to bring a ladder and look into the upstairs window. When Fire arrived, a 64-year-old female was seen laying inside the residence. When she was called to, there was only slight movement. Entry was made via the window and the woman was tended to medically. She was extremely weak, barely conscious, and had a thready pulse. Initially, medical personnel was concerned moving her may cause the woman to decompensate further medically. She was eventually removed from the residence and transported to Sacred Heart via AMR for treatment.

AMR paramedic, Benjamin Ruckman (AMR116) stated the woman had a host of medical issues, the worst they could find on scene was her extremely high blood-sugar levels; they were so elevated, he estimated she had 12 hours or less to live. If her neighbor had not called in and the officers had not been so persistent, she would have fallen into a coma and expired. Firefighter, Jarad Contabile (Station 2, Tower 2), stated similarly, that if not located when she was, she would have expired without immediate medical assistance.

This was the type of call we are frequently sent to and clear without contact, as there was very little to show there was a medical issue or distress for this woman. Due to the officers persistence through all of the road blocks they faced, and thinking outside the box for a solution, this woman's life was saved."

Officer Barker, you and Ofc. Pavlischak will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the next Employee Awards Ceremony and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

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

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police