



Letter of Award

To: Kathy Armstrong
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: August 24, 2022
Re: Chief's Citation Award

Kathy Armstrong and Captain Dave Richards have been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This 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 you are most deserving of this award.

The Spokane Police Department was last accredited in 2018. Ms. Armstrong and Cpt. Richards managed the 2018 accreditation process and the preparation for our 2022 accreditation began about a month after we completed our 2018 accreditation. To successfully pass accreditation, departments need to "live" the accreditation standards throughout the year and during the accreditation review, meet the 143 standards put forth by WASPC for Accreditation. The work done to put together the proofs for each standard cannot be understated. In managing the 2022 accreditation process, Ms. Armstrong and Cpt. Richards continually kept an eye on the accreditation standards and prepared proofs over the last several years, finalizing those proofs over the last 8 months or so. Our WASPC accreditation evaluators for 2022 made the comment that they could see that the Spokane Police Department "lives" their accreditation and that we are the "gold standard" for accreditation.

Approximately 12 to 18 months ago, these two kicked it into high gear and began to relentlessly work on updating the proofs they had already put together and compiled documents for the remaining proofs. Ms. Armstrong easily put in over 1000 hours in the last 12 to 18 months on accreditation tasks and preparation. Cpt. Richards worked with Ms. Armstrong ensuring that certain accreditation standards were met, such as ensuring that all expired ballistic vests were replaced and ensuring that all PARs were completed on time; he made countless phone calls and sent countless follow-up e-mails, as well as reviewed the proofs prepared by Ms. Armstrong. Cpt. Richards personally put in hundreds of hours to ensure accreditation standards were met. Ms. Armstrong said that she could not have done what she did for accreditation without the support and assistance of Cpt. Richards.

They worked tirelessly and with great attitudes to ensure our success. Our head evaluator commented that this accreditation is "one of the best jobs I have seen for re-accreditation." During his accreditation visit, he was again very complimentary and said that we are the "gold standard" for accreditation. On July 12th, we received our final accreditation documents and Mike Painter, WASPC Director of Professional Services, said "Congratulations on a great re-accreditation effort and kudos to your entire accreditation team." Mr. Painter believes our agency is in compliance with all WASPC standards but the final decision will be made by the Accreditation Commission in November.

During the time of preparing for our own accreditation process, Ms. Armstrong and Cpt. Richards were mentors and evaluators for 3 other agencies going through accreditation. They are both relied upon heavily by WASPC in these roles and I have personally heard numerous times how valuable they are to WASPC.

Kathy, I am proud to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. You will be recognized at our annual awards ceremony and a copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

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

Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police

