



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Aaron Ames
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: March 1, 2023
Re: Medal of Merit Award—2022

Sgt. Jordan Ferguson 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.

“SPO. Ames has been part of the Spokane Police Department Domestic Violence Unit since 2016. Prior to that he was a well-respected patrol officer and Field Training Officer. Since joining the Domestic Violence Unit SPO. Ames has been instrumental in supporting the mission of the DV Unit. He has contacted thousands of defendants in jail as part of the focused deterrence model. When the Covid lock down came, he started reviewing every DV call for service and reaching out to the victims. With his dedication and determination in looking at every call for service, he often found victims that needed service and referred them to advocates.

After seeing defendants released from jail after probable cause was developed for a DV crime, he was inspirational in creating the PC Alert, ensuring that DV defendants would be held accountable.

When it was possible, he searched for and arrested hundreds of outstanding DV defendants. Including one that we searched for and arrested a dozen times with more than 50 DV charges. SPO Ames was instrumental in this trial, having to memorize hours of jail phone calls in order to obtain the convictions of felony order violations, witness tampering and witness intimidation. As Deputy Prosecutor Matthew Welde wrote:

“ The exceptional work done by Officer Ames was a primary reason that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office could successfully hold him accountable and have his case brought to justice.

The contents of our office’s case file depict an extensive domestic violence follow up investigation that included additional field work, court appearances, testimony preparation, and extensive screening and review of jail call recordings. Officer Ames’ follow up work proved to be pivotal because the contents of jail call recordings and evidence produced against two accomplices left the defendant with no viable defense to the charges. As a result, “the defendant” was brought to justice. It is due to such exceptional efforts that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office can achieve successes such as this in the fight against domestic violence. Therefore, I would to commend Officer Ames for his efforts and commend the Spokane Police Department for its support in our continuing fight against domestic violence.”

SPO Ames became an expert in strangulation investigation, jail phone calls, order violations, interpreting criminal histories and maintain positive working relationships with prosecutors, advocates and staff. He has been willing to instruct at our pre FTO academies for the new officers. His efforts are reflected in the 15% reduction in DV calls for service over the past few years. The Spokane Police Department’s response to Domestic Violence is nationally recognized. SPO Ames efforts have brought this credit to the Spokane Police Department.”

Officer Ames, 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 March 2023 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Craig Meidl, Chief of Police