



Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Ryan Shaw
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: August 31, 2022
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Tom Michaud recently nominated Ryan Shaw and Matthew Mathiason 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. In his nomination, Tom wrote:

"Over the past 15 years I have grown to know Ryan and Matthew as great team members and co-workers. As analysts, much of what we do for the police department goes on behind the scenes. We did not take this job for glorification, recognition, or awards. During Ryan and Matthew's over 20 years of service they have been instrumental in combating crime, providing amazing analysis, and supporting the Spokane Police Departments mission.

There are numerous examples of this dedication to service over the tenure of these individuals' careers, but I wanted to specifically mention one that demonstrated over and over the superior dedication and pursuance of data extraction and analysis excellence.

In 2016 after Patrol and Investigations had begun noticing some inadequacies of our recently purchased CAD and Records systems, it became apparent that there were vitally important areas of these systems to which officers, analysts, and detectives could not access important data. Without prompting, Ryan and Matthew jumped into action.

They first recognized a Microsoft product called PowerBI could help leverage information from CAD and RMS. While continuously digging into locating fields and information, they were able to achieve something large corporations, software companies, and others could not. They developed ways for Police to quickly access information and analysis on Stolen Property, Field Information, Incidents/Calls-For-Service, Vehicle Theft, Warrants, etc. In late 2020/early 2021, the city of Spokane began seeing a dramatic increase in drive-by shootings, 1st degree assaults, and homicides. We were requested by Major Crimes and the Regional Safe Streets Task Force to assist with identifying incidents, cases, and activity of a small group of individuals who were heavily involved in these crimes. Again, Ryan and Matthew jumped into action and within days developed the ability for analysts, officers, and detectives to quickly locate this information that was imperative to the arrest of these violent individuals. In fact, in one case, analysts were called out and within minutes of arriving were able to identify the likely vehicle involved in the shooting all because of the systems and queries they had developed."

Ryan, 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 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig N. Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police