



## Letter of Award Purple Heart



To: Ofc. Brandon Fabian  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: March 1, 2023  
Re: Purple Heart Medal—2022

Officer Fabian,

Major Eric Olsen has nominated you for the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart is awarded to department personnel injured in the performance of their duties to such a degree that they require hospitalization or immediate care from a physician. The injury must be of a serious nature capable of causing death or extended disability. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this award. In his nomination, Major Olsen wrote:

*"Ofc. Fabian is being nominated for the Purple Heart Award stemming from an arrest attempt in October 2022. This case is still under active investigation by the Spokane Independent Investigative Response Team, so only limited details are presented.*

*The incident stemmed from a narcotics distribution investigation involving both SPD's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Members of SPD's SWAT team, as well as officers from the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) were called to assist in the apprehension of a suspect.*

*Officers learned the suspect was in a vehicle near the intersection of W 1st Ave and S Cedar St. On 10-16-22, just after 11AM, multiple police vehicles, with emergency lights activated, moved to block the suspect vehicle in order to prevent it from fleeing. The suspect immediately emerged from the car with a firearm and began shooting at officers. Officer Fabian was injured by gunfire, receiving a wound to the head. He was subsequently treated at a local hospital and released. Multiple officers discharged their weapons, striking the suspect. Officers rendered aid to the suspect who was then transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. Other occupants of the suspect vehicle were contacted by law enforcement."*

Officer Fabian, you have my personal thanks for your efforts to apprehend the suspect, and the gratitude of our community and your fellow officers for your dedication to our profession. You will be presented with the Purple Heart Medal and uniform bar at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2023. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Craig Meidl  
Chief of Police