



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Scott Lesser
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: March 1, 2023
Re: Silver Star Award

Sergeant Steve Anderson nominated you and Officer J. Siegel for the Silver Star Award. The Silver Star is awarded to employees who have displayed courageous actions above and beyond that normally expected. These acts of courage do not rise to the level of the voluntary risk of requirements for the Medal of Valor, but are displays of exemplary acts of bravery. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. The following was included in Sgt. Anderson's nomination:

"On August 3rd, 2022 just before 0100hrs, Officer S. Lesser and Officer J. Siegel were working in uniformed -patrol capacity on SPD patrol team 9. Simultaneously, SIU was conducting an investigation within Spokane Valley. Unbeknownst to patrol officers, during the course of their investigation, SIU had potentially witnessed an on-view robbery. An SIU supervisor advised a stop was needed on a suspect vehicle, however, cautioned there was still limited information regarding the potential robbery and the robbery suspects. Several south-side units, to include Ofc. S. Lesser and Ofc. J. Siegel, were asked to switch to channel 4 to assist SIU. Without hesitation, Ofc. Siegel and Ofc. S. Lesser located the suspect vehicle in the area of E. 3rd Avenue and S. Sherman Road, and attempted to initiate a felony stop on the vehicle. Shortly thereafter, just after 0100hrs, Ofc. Siegel advised shots were fired and SPD units were taking heavy gunfire from the suspect/suspects.

While under heavy suspect gunfire, Ofc. J. Siegel and Ofc. S. Lesser returned fire toward the suspect vehicle while simultaneously guiding in incoming units to a chaotic, ongoing gunfight. It was unknown how many suspects were firing at SPD officers, or how many suspects were outstanding outside the suspect vehicle, as SIU had engaged in a bail-out foot pursuit just prior to shots being fired by the suspect toward both Ofc. S. Lesser and Ofc. J. Siegel.

Both Ofc. Siegel and Ofc. S. Lesser were actively engaged in a gunfight with potentially several suspects. It would have been reasonable for them to continue engaging the suspects with minimal to no radio traffic until they perceived a potential lull in the gunfight. However, both Ofc. Siegel and Ofc. S. Lesser actively communicated with incoming officers on safe avenues of approach, where the suspect vehicle was located, where the gunfire was coming from, all while actively engaging the suspect(s).

Officer J. Siegel and Ofc. S. Lesser's courage under fire and wherewithal to communicate with incoming SPD resources through an active gunfight, not only potentially saved the lives of incoming officers, but also allowed SPD to contain this active gunfight within 2 city blocks, preventing a violent suspect(s) from breaking containment and potentially harming members of the community. If not for their bravery and courage under fire, I have no doubt this incident could have easily led to serious injury or death to incoming SPD officers as well as innocent community members who would wake up in a few short hours, preparing for the morning commute.

Their actions went above and beyond what was reasonable given the circumstances of the gunfight, and undoubtedly contributed to the best possible outcome for the safety of the community. "

Officer Lesser, I am very proud to present you with the Silver Star Medal. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police