



## Letter of Award Distinguished Service Medal



To: Detective Craig Wendt  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: November 15, 2023  
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Captain Tracie Meidl nominated you for the Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is awarded to employees who have demonstrated outstanding sustained and exemplary performance along with diligence and devotion to duty. The performance should exceed normal demands required or expected over an extended period of time. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this award. Captain Meidl's nomination included input from Sergeants Dahle, Storment, Bode, and Uberuaga:

Sergeant Dahle wrote: *"Detective Wendt has been assigned as the lone threat investigator in CIU since 01-08-2023. The types of threats he routinely investigates include workplace violence, school violence threats, and a variety of other high-level incidents. Detective Wendt has a vast amount of investigative experience and is very adept at working the intricate cases he is assigned. Detective Wendt performs his investigations with a high level of professionalism and is able to put both victims and suspects at ease during interviews. Detective Wendt further has the contacts and working relationships that have been developed over time with the Prosecutor's Office. He obtains information and opinions on his investigations in a timely manner, as he has fostered and maintained an excellent working relationship with a multitude of prosecutors. Detective Wendt is also a team player and frequently volunteers to work overtime for CIU events. During these events Detective Wendt is able to interact with any crowd and maintain his composure and calm demeanor at all times. He continues to be an asset to teams that he is assigned to and is a valuable resource of knowledge and experience."*

Sergeant Storment added: *"I believe Detective Wendt's homicide investigation from May 2017 was certainly one of his greatest contributions to SPD's mission. This was a gang related homicide that occurred downtown with an enormous number of witnesses, however, very few were helpful. This necessitated Detective Wendt to refine our video analysis efforts at that time and essentially established those tools as a standard for detectives today."*

*In short, video of the shooting was captured - it was valuable, but the matter of how to introduce it in court as credible remained uncertain. Detective Wendt, along with Officer Ryan Snider of TARU, worked with Input Ace to analyze that video and show beyond a reasonable doubt that a sweatshirt collected from the suspect was the exact same one he wore during the shooting. To my knowledge, this was a first for SPD. Getting this case to the point of trial readiness was no small matter given the uncooperative attitude of many witnesses. That shooter is now serving a 29 year sentence as a result of Detective Wendt's dedication."*

Sergeants Bode and Uberuaga said: *"He was also assigned his 800th investigation of his career, an arson case, on August 9th. Detective Wendt was assigned the Major Crimes case involving several fires intentionally set in the Spokane area. Detective Wendt worked with multiple entities, including the Spokane Fire Department and Tukwila Police Department, to establish probable cause quickly and get the suspect into custody within 2 days."*

*"Detective Wendt routinely goes above and beyond in his investigations, while building relationships with crime victims and outside organizations, to not only solve crime but to prevent future crime and victimization. He is truly deserving of the Distinguished Service Medal."*

Det. Wendt, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file and you will receive the Distinguished Service Medal at the next Employee Award Ceremony.

Handwritten signature of Craig Meidl in black ink.

Craig Meidl, Chief of Police