

Letter of Award Officer of the 1st Quarter 2023



To: Detective Craig Wendt
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: April 25, 2023
Re: 2023 Officer of the 1st Quarter Award

Recently, Sgt. Dahle nominated you for the 2023 Officer of the Quarter Award. Officer of the Quarter nominations are based on either a specific act of unusual meritorious service, a specific project of significance to the community, City, or Department, or sustained superior performance of assigned duties. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nominations, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Sgt. Dahle's nomination included the following:

"Detective Wendt is currently assigned as the lone threat investigator in CIU. The types of threats he routinely investigates include work place violence, numerous school 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. Most of his cases involve a high level of liability, and are of a time critical nature. Detective Wendt routinely writes social media warrants during the course of his investigations, and has a fantastic working relationship with the CIU analysts who are vital in compiling the results of the warrants.

A recent example of Detective Wendt's excellent work involved a subject who had threatened to shoot Amazon employees regarding a refund of money. This caused a high level of fear in the workplace at local Amazon fulfillment centers, and they were very concerned the subject would follow through with his threat. Detective Wendt immediately went to work collaborating with employees, gathering evidence, and investigating the virtual footprints of the subject. Detective Wendt was able to identify the subject, and found that he had a violent episode in 2018. During that incident, the subject was armed with a gun and threatened to shoot numerous people in the downtown area. Detective Wendt then worked seamlessly with the prosecutor's office after developing probable cause for an arrest. Detective Wendt was able to contact management of the apartment complex that the subject lived in and established rapport and gained their cooperation. The management called Detective Wendt when the subject left the building. Detective Wendt was able to direct plain-clothes units, and the subject was taken into custody without incident. A search warrant was executed on the subject's apartment, and a loaded .357 revolver was recovered. I have no doubt that Detective Wendt prevented a tragedy with this investigation."

Amazon Employees emailed the following to Detective Wendt: "We appreciate the great work you and your team did on this investigation and apprehension. The collaboration and professionalism over the last few days was incredible. Let us know how we can help as this case moves forward. Thank you!"

Captain Meidl added, "In my short time in the Investigations Division, there have been several incidents involving threats to schools, as well as students and staff. As you are aware, the circumstances with our Public Schools and laws has changed dramatically, making some investigations even more difficult than they used to be. Detective Wendt has taken all of these cases and investigates them thoroughly to not only determine if there is valid threat, but also follows up with suspects, their families, school personnel, and even victims to ensure they are aware of the investigation and any action items that may come from the investigation. There are even cases that he intentionally keeps open throughout the school year, to make sure there is no repeat behavior or incidents that occur with certain individuals. Detective Wendt's work and attention to detail have kept our city and our schools as safe as possible, considering the many hurdles affecting these types of investigations."

Det. Wendt, you exemplify the best in an employee with your commitment and dedication to your profession and the safety of the community. The Spokane Police Department is fortunate to have such an employee, and you are worthy of this recognition. You will receive a plaque at our annual award ceremony in March 2024 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,


Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police

TO: AC Lundgren

RE: Employee of the Quarter

I would like to recommend Detective Craig Wendt to receive the Employee of the Quarter and/or the Medal of Merit.

Detective Wendt is currently assigned as the lone threat investigator in CIU. The types of threats he routinely investigates include work place violence, numerous school 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. Most of his cases involve a high level of liability, and are of a time critical nature. Detective Wendt routinely writes social media warrants during the course of his investigations, and has a fantastic working relationship with the CIU analysts that are vital in compiling the results of the warrants.

A recent example of Detective Wendt's excellent work is incident 2023-20047316. A subject had threatened to shoot Amazon employees regarding a refund of money. This caused a high level of fear in the workplace at local Amazon fulfillment centers, and they were very concerned the subject would follow through with his threat. Detective Wendt immediately went to work collaborating with employees, gathering evidence, and investigating the virtual footprints of the subject. Detective Wendt was able to identify the subject, and found that he had a violent episode in 2018. During that incident, the subject was armed with gun and threatened to shoot numerous people in the downtown area. Detective Wendt then worked seamlessly with the prosecutor's office after developing probable cause for an arrest. Detective Wendt was able to contact management of the apartment complex that the subject lived in and established rapport and gained their cooperation. The management called Detective Wendt when the subject left the building. Detective Wendt was able to direct in plain clothes units, and the subject was taken into custody without incident. A search warrant was executed on the subject's apartment, and a loaded .357 revolver was recovered. I have no doubt that Detective Wendt prevented a tragedy with this investigation.

Amazon Employees emailed the following to Detective Wendt: *"We appreciate the great work you and your team did on this investigation and apprehension. The collaboration and professionalism over the last few days was incredible. Let us know how we can help as this case moves forward. Thank you!"*

The above is only one example of the excellent work Detective Wendt performs day in and day out. Detective Wendt is very skilled at his craft, and I highly recommend he be considered for the employee of the quarter and/or the Medal of Merit.

Thank you

Sergeant Zachary Dahle #766



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: SPD Employee Awards Committee

FROM: Captain T. Meidl #372

DATE: 4/5/23

RE: Detective Craig Wendt

I support Sgt. Dahle's nomination for Detective Craig Wendt's consideration for Employee of the Quarter or Medal of Merit, whichever you feel is more appropriate. I would like to add this memo to Sgt. Dahle's letter.

In my short time in the Investigations Division, there have been several incidents involving threats to schools, as well as students and staff. As you are aware, the circumstances with our Public Schools and laws has changed dramatically, making some investigations even more difficult than they used to be. Detective Wendt has taken all of these cases and investigates them thoroughly to not only determine if there is valid threat, but also follows up with suspects, their families, school personnel, and even victims to ensure they are aware of the investigation and any action items that may come from the investigation. There are even cases that he intentionally keeps open throughout the school year, to make sure there is no repeat behavior or incidents that occur with certain individuals.

Detective Wendt is very responsive to these cases, both internally and externally, to make sure everyone is aware of the circumstances involved. He takes pride in his work and provides thorough after action reviews and reports, when needed.

Detective Wendt's work and attention to detail have kept our city and our schools as safe as possible, considering the many hurdles affecting these types of investigations. I appreciate the consideration of recognizing him for his outstanding work.

Thank you..

