



2024 Letter of Award Chief's Citation



To: Dan Morse
From: Justin Lundgren, Interim Chief of Police
Date: April 30, 2024
Re: Chief's Citation Award

Captain Shawn Kendall nominated the Abandoned Auto Unit to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award recognizes members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that your unit is most deserving of this award. Captain Kendall wrote:

"For the past several years our department has recommended and investigated the possibility of bringing back our abandoned vehicle mitigation unit. Our former and current leadership supported this endeavor and in November of 2022 the Abandoned Auto Unit was stood up.

I participated in the development, training, and selection process of this new unit. Parking Enforcement Specialists Christopher Patchin and Daniel Morse were selected. From the onset these two stellar employees embraced the training and adapted to the new expectations of this assignment. Unlike their former assignments, these positions required a much higher level of certification, patrol officer capabilities, organization, reporting capability, team work and a strong ability to work and perform independently.

The program was designed to filter "nuisance vehicle" complaints from traditional parking violations. As SPD worked with City Parking on how this process would work, we discovered that hundreds of unanswered complaints fitting "nuisance vehicle" criteria were already holding. The City's Parking Unit was not capable of handling all of these complaints so Chris and Dan already had a huge work load holding for them from day one.

Chris and Dan attacked the list. In just a matter of weeks, they had mitigated this huge list of holding "nuisance vehicle" complaints. In addition, they have placed our city in a position to handle these continual complaints in a timely manner. Prior to the existence of SPD's Abandoned Auto Unit, these complaints would hold for weeks or even months.

Chris and Dan are extremely responsive to patrol and precinct requests. Their deployments are critical for long-term problem-solving endeavors and the quality-of-life improvement for Spokane neighborhoods. They are a critical part of the success of the Spokane Police Department and it should not go unrecognized."

Dan, as a member of the Abandoned Auto Unit, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. The Abandoned Auto Unit's efforts epitomize the criteria set forth for the Chief's Citation Award. You will be recognized and the unit will receive a plaque at our annual awards ceremony in March 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lundgren".

Justin C. Lundgren
Interim Chief of Police