



2024 Letter of Award Chief's Citation



To: Officer William Braten
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: January 27, 2025
Re: Chief's Citation Award—2024 Team A3

Captain Tom Hendren nominated the 2024 A3 Patrol Team 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 team is most deserving of this award. Excerpts from Capt. Hendren's nomination included:

"Since the markup in September of 2023 through December of 2024, Team A3 has consistently performed at a superior level. Thanks to the leadership of Sgt. Bryan Tafoya, Team A3 has developed a culture of problem solving, proactive enforcement and conducting superior investigations. Each team member has played a role in achieving some of the success stories.

In the latter part of 2023 into the beginning of 2024, northwest Spokane was plagued with a series of residential burglaries. Several Adam Sector teams and officers played a part in solving this crime spree. The end result led to an arrest of the suspect for 7 counts of residential burglary that resulted in a guilty plea and a prison sentence. This investigation is one of the main reasons that there was an approximate 25% reduction in Adam Sector's residential burglaries at the end of November of 2024 in the year-to-year comparison.

It is critical in this nomination to explain that the successes of Team 3 are not just that of the primary officer but of each member of the team. Each team member has assisted at various times in investigations. When I have reached out to individual officers to commend them on their superior efforts, the automatic response, regardless of the officer, has been "it was a team effort." Furthermore, as a mid-shift team, there are a tremendous number of calls for service that require response. This team has managed to handle the required work load and take on complex and challenging investigations.

It is also important to note that Team A3 is very proactive with enforcement and addressing problems. The team has completed 123 FI's since the start of the markup. The team has authored 60 non-DUI search warrants during this markup related to residences, vehicles, cell phones, and social media accounts. These investigations have led to the arrest of dozens of suspects and significant seizure of weapons and contraband. The significant investigations and efforts of Team A3 are worthy of consideration for the Chief's Citation."

Officer Braten, as a member of the 2024 A3 Patrol Team, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. The Team's efforts epitomize the criteria set forth for the Chief's Citation Award. You will be recognized and the team will receive a plaque at our annual awards ceremony on March 19, 2025.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police