



2024 Letter of Award Chief's Citation



To: Officer Todd Nelson
From: Justin Lundgren, Interim Chief of Police
Date: July 17, 2024
Re: Chief's Citation Award

Sgt. Rhian Wilkinson nominated Team Charlie 3 (C3) to receive recognition for the courageous actions displayed on May 24, 2024. The Chief's Citation 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 members of Team C3 are most deserving of this award. Sgt. Wilkinson's nomination included the following:

"On May 24, 2024, Team C3 was conducting roll call at the South Precinct when they heard a Domestic Violence incident being dispatched which was just two blocks away. The female complainant reported her boyfriend was beating her in the head with a beer mug, he had accessed a shotgun, and she was hiding in the garage. The female begged for help as she told 911 "please help me, he tried to kill me". She believed that her boyfriend was going to use the shotgun to break out a window.

All of the officers of Team C3 cleared roll call immediately and rushed to the incident. They quickly determined that they were facing a potential hostage situation with an armed suspect. As they arrived on scene, they encountered an 8' wooden fence which not only prevented them from accessing the detached garage where the victim was hiding, but also greatly limited their ability to see into the backyard of the residence where the suspect was reported to be. OFC T. Herzog and OFC D. Pavlischak stood on a planter box to see over the fence and provide lethal cover as other officers developed a plan to breach the fence and gain access to the backyard. While preparing to breach the fence, OFC T. Herzog and OFC D. Pavlischak observed the male suspect walk out from behind a vehicle near the detached garage. He was shirtless and appeared to be covered in blood. They immediately ordered him to the ground in a prone position. OFC S. Holtshausen then breached the gate by kicking it several times. The gate's wooden slats broke at the bottom, which complicated the officer's ability to enter the yard. One officer held the broken portion of the fence up while other officers crawled under the fence into the backyard. The suspect was then detained and secured in handcuffs. Officers moved to the garage where they contacted the female victim. Her face, head and chest were covered in blood. They immediately moved her to the front porch of the residence to wait for medics.

Through the investigation it was discovered that the suspect had hit the female in the head numerous times with a beer mug and a large stick. He struck her so many times in the head with the stick that it had shattered into three different pieces and each piece was covered in blood. A shotgun was also discovered laying on a recycling bin in the backyard near the garage where the female was hiding. The shotgun was loaded with one shell and the safety was in the 'off' position. The suspect told the female several times that she was "going to die today". At one point in the altercation the male stated "this has gone too far, now we're both going to die today."

I have no doubt that if the officers had not responded to the scene as fast and effectively as they did, the victim would have been killed by her boyfriend."

Officer Nelson, 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. As a member of Team C3, you will be recognized and the team 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