



2024
Letter of Award
Distinguished Service Medal



To: Sergeant Bryan Tafoya
From: Justin C. Lundgren, Interim Chief of Police
Date: July 25, 2024
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Lt. Rich Meyer nominated you for the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). The Distinguished Service Medal 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. In his nomination, Lt. Meyer wrote:

"Sgt Tafoya has been a sworn police officer with the Spokane Police Department since March 13, 1995. Prior to that, he was an officer with the Ellensburg Police Department since July 1, 1989. Since being hired with SPD he has served in numerous positions to help lead this agency; he has served as a field-training officer, a member of the department's Tactical Team, Volunteer Services Unit, Fraud Unit, US Secret Service (TFO), Special Investigative Unit, Targeted Crimes Unit, Special Victims Unit, Criminal Intelligence Unit and in June 2019, he went back to his roots when he was promoted as a Patrol Sergeant where he has supervised various patrol teams. He has never forgotten that his role is to teach, train and mentor and to pass on that training and experience that covers well over of 3300 hours of documented training in various law enforcement skills with emphasis in: Drug Investigations, General investigations, Fraud and Financial Investigation, Training of Officers, Interviewing and Interrogation techniques, Crime prevention, Officer Survival Skills, and Internet crimes/child abuse/sexual exploitation."

Over the course of his career, he has written and executed well over 800 search warrants in support of property crimes, narcotics cases, sexual abuse, financial investigations, against persons investigations and numerous other felony investigations. He is constantly passing along this knowledge to various other patrol teams and new-hires on the shift. It is a pleasure to watch Sergeant Tafoya on calls as he is always patient with both citizens and officers alike. I have had the pleasure of Supervising Sgt Tafoya over the last year and he truly believes in the motto of "being here and be present" for his officers.

From Ofc. C. Miller: "Sgt Tafoya has continued to go above and beyond his duties to further the development of officers he oversees. Working under him for the last couple of years, I have seen him mold officers into a better version of themselves, including myself, by continuing to provide wisdom from his over 30 years of law enforcement experience, getting officers in touch with contacts he has made over the years, or into training that is beneficial to adding to an officers overall "box of tools" to use on patrol. My growth as a police officer has been directly affected in the most positive way due to the exemplary and sustained leadership of Sgt Tafoya."

Sergeant Tafoya's dedication to his profession has made a difference in the community in which he patrols, and an asset to the Spokane Police Department as a whole. Sergeant Tafoya is a consummate professional and I heartily recommend him for the Distinguished Service Medal."

Sgt. Tafoya, 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 be recognized at the next Employee Award Ceremony.

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

Justin C. Lundgren, Interim Chief of Police