



## 2024 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Michael Baldwin  
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police  
Date: October 25, 2024  
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Sergeant Bryan Tafoya recently nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Sgt. Tafoya's nomination included the following:

*"Officer Baldwin came to SPD as a lateral officer from the Baltimore Police Department. Officer Baldwin has spent four of the last five years as both an FTO and as part of the MCU collision investigation team. Officer Baldwin has been invaluable each of those years in assisting with leading and mentoring the more junior officers on the team.*

*Officer Baldwin has excelled in his role as being the senior officer on our patrol team and truly is the person his peers look to as far as the example. I think everyone who has worked on our team believes Officer Baldwin has been the anchor for this patrol team. Whether it is mentoring younger officers, modeling patience, great de-escalation techniques or assisting other officers with complex investigations, Officer Baldwin is a huge asset to the team.*

*Officer Baldwin often work's what would be described as MCU level cases. Officer Baldwin has the ability to incorporate the younger officers into his investigations without them even realizing that they are receiving top notch investigative training. The DV sergeant from one of his investigations said, "This was definitely detective level work. Didn't leave much for the detective to do. Very well done."*

*As a result of his superior investigative efforts, Officer Baldwin was invited to job shadow in Major Crimes for a week. I was a Detective for 15 years and do not recall MCU ever inviting a Patrol Officer to job shadow. I believe this speaks to Officer Baldwin's ability to investigate in a thorough manner the most complex calls.*

*Whether it is a large complex investigation, handling multiple difficult calls in a week or investing the time to help train younger officers in bettering their investigative skills, Officer Baldwin truly has proven himself an asset to not only Team A-3 but also to the Department as a whole."*

Officer Baldwin, I am proud to present you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2025 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hall".

Kevin Hall  
Chief of Police