



2024 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Mackenzie German Johnson
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: February 6, 2025
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Lt. Ben Maplethorpe 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. Lt. Maplethorpe's nomination included:

"Officer Madison McDonald and Officer Mackenzie German-Johnson responded to and spoke with a bicycle theft victim who had tracked his \$3500 bicycle to the location. They attempted to contact the occupants of the apartment, who hid inside. Investigating further, they found a black Jeep Wrangler was associated with the apartment. Officer McDonald was aware of a black Jeep Wrangler associated with thefts throughout the Spokane area. This information was bolstered by a recent Crime Analysis information bulletin, drafted by Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna, for a black Jeep Wrangler involved in thefts. A short time later, a Spokane County Sheriff's Office detective arrived, unrelated to their incident, and advised he was looking for a black Jeep Wrangler associated with several thefts in Spokane County. Additional information came to the Officers from SPD's Special Investigative Unit, linking many of the recent thefts in Spokane to a black Jeep.

Officers McDonald and German-Johnson worked diligently to draft a search warrant for the location listing as many items as they could locate by pouring through the multiple case reports associated with the thieves and their Jeep. A search of the apartment not only yielded many stolen items and the suspects who were taken into custody, but also the black Jeep Wrangler in a nearby garage, full of many more stolen items. The Jeep was seized as evidence.

Once the items were located, the myriad of victims needed to be identified and contacted. This job was taken on by Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna. She was able to locate and contact 21 victims, many of which had not reported the thefts. Some of these victims were completely unaware of their items being stolen. As a result of Jaime's proactive work, 21 additional charges can be brought against the arrestee.

The extra effort put in by Officer McDonald, Officer German-Johnson and Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna not only led to the arrest of the thieves and the recovery of the stolen items, but also to positive community feedback and public support for SPD on social media from several of the victims. This type of work is indicative of the incredible work done by these individuals. Their dedication brings great credit to themselves, the Spokane Police Department and the police profession.

Officer German-Johnson, 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 on March 19, 2025, and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

To: SPD Awards Committee

From: Lieutenant Benjamin Maplethorpe

Date: January 1, 2025

RE: Medal of Merit Nomination for Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna, Officer Madison McDonald and Officer Mackenzie German-Johnson

Theft is a significant concern in Spokane and is directly associated with more serious crimes. The Spokane Police Department has many hard-working people whose expertise help bring criminals to justice.

The following Spokane Police Department press release is a good place to start for this award nomination:

"On December 5th, 2024 at 4pm Spokane Police responded to an apartment complex in the 1700 block of East Lincoln Road on a report of stolen property. A community member located his stolen bike via a tracking device. Upon finding his property, he confronted a male who told him he was the owner of the property. The victim left the location and called 911. Officers responded and attempted contact at an apartment.

Additional information was provided to officers that confirmed the stolen property was inside the apartment. A search warrant to enter the location was granted and officers contacted the occupants of the apartment, one of which was found hiding in a closet. Officers located a large quantity of stolen items inside the apartment. Multiple delivery boxes containing names of several different people were found inside as well. Other items found of note were mail, debit cards, clothing, golf items and tools. All of which had no link to the occupants of the apartment.

Today, members of the SPD Crime Analysis Unit started contacting the names listed on the recovered stolen items. 21 victims have been reunited with their stolen property. The investigation is on-going and additional charges may be forthcoming."

Officer Madison McDonald and Officer Mackenzie German-Johnson are the two hard-working Patrol Officers on this incident who helped bring the criminals to justice. Officer McDonald and Officer German-Johnson responded to the scene and spoke with the victim who had tracked his \$3500 bicycle to the location. They attempted to contact the occupants of the apartment, who hid inside. Investigating further, they found a black Jeep Wrangler was associated with the apartment. Officer McDonald uses several social media sites to stay up to date on crime trends in Spokane. From these sites she was aware of a black Jeep Wrangler associated with thefts throughout the Spokane area. This information was bolstered by a recent Crime Analysis information bulletin, drafted by Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna, for a black Jeep Wrangler involved in thefts. A short time later, a Spokane County Sheriff's Office detective arrived, unrelated to their incident, and advised he was looking for a black Jeep Wrangler associated with several thefts in Spokane County. Additional information came to the Officers from SPD's Special Investigative Unit, linking many of the recent thefts in Spokane to a black Jeep.

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Lieutenant Ben Maplethorpe -Northeast Precinct

Public Safety Building • 1100 W. Mallon Avenue • Spokane, Washington 99260-0001

