



## 2024 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Jason Tanascu  
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police  
Date: January 27, 2025  
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Sgt. Bryan Tafoya 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. Excerpts from Sgt. Tafoya's nomination included:

*"Drive by shooting investigations are typically started by patrol officers and in very short order are passed off to Major Crimes for continued follow up and charging. In the case that happened in the West Central neighborhood in September 2024, Officer Jason Tanascu had a unique trail of bread crumbs laid out before him. By the end of the weekend Officer Tanascu had worked this case to the point he had developed a source of information that helped him identify several of the shooters and vehicles involved in this incident.*

*By the end of the weekend Officer Tanascu was very intimately involved in this investigation to the point he asked if he could continue to do the follow up on this matter. When Sgt. Tafoya checked with MCU to see if this was a possibility he was told essentially "if Jason wants to continue working this, he is more than squared away enough to handle it".*

*Over the course of the next eleven days, Officer Tanascu located both involved vehicles (riddled with bullet holes), recovered one of the pistols involved in the shooting, and had executed four different search warrants. Over the next several weeks Officer Tanascu continued to work this case culminating with arresting one of the shooters and, with the assistance of other members of Team A-3, obtaining a very extensive confession from one of the shooters and obtaining a very comprehensive statement from one of the other suspects.*

*All told this investigation required interviewing dozens of individuals, executing five search warrants on residences, vehicles, cell phones and social media accounts. Officer Tanascu coordinated extensively with the Prosecutors Office to put together the best possible case. When he was done, Officer Tanascu had submitted six counts of Assault 1st, two counts of drive by shooting with additional felony charges possible. Although it is not at all remarkable for the Department to work a case that starts out with no leads and turn it into a case with numerous felony charges filed, it is remarkable for a full time Patrol Officer to do so."*

Officer Tanascu, 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: The special awards committee  
From: Sgt. Bryan Tafoya  
Date: 12/16/24  
RE: Nomination of Jason Tanascu for the Medal of Merit

**Medal of Merit** - The Medal of Merit shall be awarded to department employees who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement. The meritorious achievement can be for a single exceptional act or a series of actions completed in order to accomplish a difficult project or program that brings credit upon the department either internally, externally or both.

September 28, 2024 started out like any other Saturday in the West Central neighborhood, it was still plenty warm enough for children to be riding their bikes up and down the streets or playing at a friend house. Neighbors were running errands or winding down their summer activities, there was even a farmer's market in Cannon Park. Shortly before 2pm all of this was interrupted by a running gun battle between two different vehicles on the North East corner of the park that eventually stretched out over a dozen blocks and ten weeks.

Drive by shooting investigations are typically started by patrol officers and in very short order are passed off to Major Crimes for continued follow up and charging. In this case Officer Jason Tanascu had a unique trail of bread crumbs laid out before him. By the end of the weekend Officer Tanascu had worked this case to the point he had developed a source of information that helped him identify several of the shooters and vehicles involved in this incident.

By the end of the weekend Officer Tanascu was very intimately involved in this investigation to the point he asked if he could continue to do the follow up on this matter. When Sgt. Tafoya checked with MCU to see if this was a possibility he was told essentially "if Jason wants to continue working this, he is more than squared away enough to handle it".

Over the course of the next eleven days Officer Tanascu located both involved vehicles (riddled with bullet holes), recovered one of the pistols involved in the shooting, and had executed four different search warrants. Over the next several weeks Officer Tanascu continued to work this case culminating with arresting one of the shooters on 11/17/2024 and with the assistance of other members of Team A-3 obtaining a very extensive confession from one of the shooters and obtaining a very comprehensive statement from one of the other suspects.

Over the course of the next few weeks Officer Tanascu continued to clean up this investigation. Throughout the entirety of this investigation Officer Tanascu continued to carry more than his fair share of patrol calls for service.

All told this investigation required interviewing dozens of individuals, executing five search warrants on residences, vehicles, cell phones and social media accounts. Officer Tanascu coordinated extensively with the Prosecutors Office to put together the best possible case. When he was done, Officer Tanascu had submitted six counts of Assault 1<sup>st</sup>, two counts of drive by shooting with additional felony charges possible. Although it is not at all remarkable for the Department to work a case that starts out with no leads and turn it into a case with numerous felony charges filed, it is remarkable for a full time Patrol Officer to do so. For this reason, I am recommending Officer Jason Tanascu for the Spokane Police Department's Medal of Merit.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Bryan Tafoya

