



Letter of Award

Lifesaving

2025



To: Officer Andrew Willis
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: August 5, 2025
Re: Lifesaving Award

Sergeants Bryan Tafoya and Ryan Jamieson nominated you and Officer Jason Tanascu for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Medal. The Spokane Police Department Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed your nomination, it was clear that you are both most deserving of this recognition. Their nomination included the following:

"On March 18th, Officers Tanascu and Willis responded to a report of a woman in crisis on the Monroe St. Bridge. The Spokane Regional Crisis Line had called 911 advising there was a female who said she was suicidal and was on her way to the Monroe St. Bridge. Crisis Line further advised the female was armed with a box knife. The female has a local history of suicide attempts and radio advised: 'USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN DEALING WITH THE FEMALE - SHE TRIED MULTIPLE TIMES TO GRAB OFFICERS GUNS DURING A PREVIOUS SUICA CONTACT. SHE ALSO HAD A KNIFE IN HER BACKPACK.'

Upon arrival in the area, Officers Tanascu and Willis located the woman mid-span on the Monroe St. Bridge. Officer Willis made initial contact with the female and was able to convince her to drop the box cutter. As Officer Willis continued to engage the female in conversation, she started climbing up on the railing in a clear and determined manner preparing to jump.

Seeing a tactical opportunity, Officer Tanascu quickly closed distance with the female and was able to pull her down off the railing at which point she quickly gave up her attempts to harm herself. The female was subsequently transported to the hospital for her mental health issues.

In reviewing the BWC footage it is clear to us that had Officer Tanascu and Willis not responded the way they did, the female in this incident would have most likely succeeded in taking her own life that day. We are therefore nominating Officer Willis and Tanascu for the Spokane Police Department's lifesaving medal."

Officer Willis, I am proud to present you with the Lifesaving award. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2026. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police