



2025 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Sergeant Paul Buchmann
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: November 6, 2025
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Lieutenant Sean Wheeler 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. Wheeler wrote:

"Sgt. Paul Buchmann has been with the Spokane Police Department for 23 years. Sgt. Buchmann was a K9 handler for ten years where he worked diligently to be a proficient and highly effective K9 team with his partners Talon and Trace. Sgt. Buchmann was heavily relied upon in the unit and earned the title of Master Handler. During Sgt. Buchmann's tenure as a K9 handler, his experience and leadership moved him into a senior leadership role for the unit. Sgt. Buchmann has been a member of the SWAT team for the past 18 years. He has held numerous roles within the SWAT team to include marksman, Team Leader, and is currently the Assistant Senior Team Leader. Sgt. Buchmann gives a hundred percent effort in everything he does and completes his tasks to the highest level of standards."

Sgt. Buchmann is assigned to the Training Division as the Assistant Training Director. He oversees and helps provide training to the entire department on all aspects of law enforcement. The position is also the first point of contact for outside agencies and/or local businesses looking to get specific training needs met. Sgt. Buchmann has also been working on a regional team assisting all Fire Departments in Spokane County with developing a new regional RTF (Rescue Task Force) program. Sgt. Buchmann along with the regional team are working towards a full-scale exercise integrating all agencies."

Sgt. Buchmann is constantly tapped on the shoulder to either provide department-wide training or unit specific needs. He answers the call every time with enthusiasm, professionalism, and tireless effort to provide the absolute best results. Sgt. Paul Buchmann has been understaffed almost the entire time he's been in the position of Assistant Training Director. Despite the lack of personnel, Sgt. Buchmann provides the highest level of training that brings credit upon the department both internally and externally. In his current role as Assistant Training Director and throughout his career with the Spokane Police Department, Sgt. Buchmann demonstrates exemplary performance along with diligence and devotion to duty. It is for these reasons I believe wholeheartedly Sgt. Paul Buchmann is deserving of the Medal of Merit."

Sgt. Buchmann, 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 2026 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police