



2025 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Josh Stewart
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: November 6, 2025
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Lieutenant Sean Wheeler 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:

"Officer Josh Stewart was a lateral from Georgia with a large amount of experience working high-level drug cases alongside federal agencies. Officer Stewart brought this experience and immediately put it to use within the Spokane Police Department when he joined us in 2021. Officer Stewart became an FTO and a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team.

More recently, Officer Stewart was selected to become the newest FTO Coordinator. Officer Stewart brought several ideas to the table on ways the program could be improved and find ways to provide our newest recruits with the best training possible. Not only is Officer Stewart the FTO Coordinator but he also is the first point of contact for our newest SPD recruits when they are hired. He welcomes them to the agency and starts the pre-academy work with them so they're prepared for day-one of the Washington Basic Law Enforcement Academy. This encompasses everything from their uniform, ballistic vest, gun belt and all accessories, laptop, etc. Officer Stewart continually checks in on the recruits, observes their mock scenes and academic test results, ensuring the recruits are progressing in all areas to successfully complete the Academy. Once the recruits graduate the Academy, Officer Stewart immediately takes them into a post-academy. Officer Stewart has worked tirelessly at re-structuring our post-academy, providing the recruits with more training in specific applied skills and other areas to help set them up for success. He also developed a way to measure their skills and abilities prior to entering the post-academy and when they complete the post-academy. This data is vital and will allow us to see if there are specific deficiencies that need to be addressed as well as how to improve the post-academy moving forward.

I have the privilege to watch and work alongside Officer Stewart as he continually makes improvements to the FTO program. His dedication and passion for the FTO program as well as the success of our recruits is more than impressive. Since Officer Stewart's time as FTO Coordinator, he has been forward thinking and made positive changes with the training of recruits, as well as our FTO Program. Regardless of the task or personal sacrifice, Officer Stewart sustains superior performance to which all Spokane Police personnel should look up to and seek to emulate. It is for these reasons I believe wholeheartedly Officer Josh Stewart is deserving of the Medal of Merit."

Officer Stewart, 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