2026

Letter of Award
Chief's Citation

To: Kristi Herron
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: August 27, 2026

Captain David Richards and Rayanne Hoopes, Records and Evidence Administrator, nominated Property and Evidence unit employees to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are all most deserving of this award. The nomination included the following:

When an unexpected freezer failure threatened the integrity of evidence entrusted to the department, the entire Property & Evidence Unit immediately responded to an urgent and complex situation. Without hesitation, every member of the team worked together to preserve thousands of pieces of evidence that were at risk of degradation.

The team was tasked with completely repacking the freezer's contents so the evidence could be safely transported to temporary storage at the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory. This required quickly evaluating and reorganizing evidence, separating critical items that required frozen storage from those that had been stored there for convenience, and carefully repackaging everything into transport containers. They accomplished this while working against the clock as the freezer thawed around them, creating an increasingly difficult and demanding work environment.

Despite the challenging conditions and tight timeline, the team remained focused, organized, and committed to protecting the integrity of every item in their care. Employees willingly extended beyond their normal work hours to ensure the evidence was transported before the crime laboratory closed, demonstrating exceptional dedication to the department's mission and the integrity of the criminal justice process.

The work did not end once the evidence was safely relocated. After the freezer issue was resolved, the team undertook the enormous task of rescanning and documenting more than 3,500 individual pieces of evidence into their new containers and storage locations. Their meticulous attention to detail ensured every item maintained its chain of custody and could continue to be relied upon for future investigations and court proceedings.

The Property & Evidence Unit's response exemplifies the highest standards of public service. Their teamwork, professionalism, and unwavering commitment prevented the loss or degradation of vital evidence and safeguarded countless criminal investigations. Their actions protected not only the integrity of the evidence itself, but also the trust placed in the Spokane Police Department by the courts, victims, investigators, and the community. The extraordinary efforts demonstrated by every member of the Property & Evidence Unit during this incident make them highly deserving of a Chief's Citation.

Kristi, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. Your unit will receive a plaque at the next annual employee award ceremony and this letter will be added to your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police