



Letter of Award Community Service Award

To: Officer Chris Lesser
From: Rick Dobrow, Interim Chief of Police
Date: November 16, 2015
Re: Community Service Award

Sgt. Tom Lee recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Community Service Award. The Community Service Medal is awarded to employees for an act or achievement in the community beyond the normal call of duty which brings credit to the Spokane Police Department or the City of Spokane. Such act or achievement has come about due to voluntary action for which the employee received no compensation. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this award. In his nomination, Sgt. Lee wrote:

"On July 4, 2015, a resident called asking for police to check on her elderly neighbor. The day was extremely hot with the temperature above 100-degrees. The caller said her neighbor, who lived alone, was outside, appeared frail, refused offers of help and was possibly unable to care for herself.

Officer Chris Lesser self-dispatched on the call and found the subject of the call, Mildred, age 80, inside her house. He introduced himself, explained the reason for his presence, was invited in and immediately noticed the house was in disarray. Ofc. Lesser spent several minutes in conversation with the woman and learned she indeed lived alone and had no living relatives. She also had lost her only reliable ride to errands and appointments. On this occasion, she was trying to walk to a grocery store—the closest being a mile away. Ofc. Lesser checked the woman's kitchen and found very little food in the cupboards or refrigerator. Much of what he found had expired dates on the packaging. After a little more time, Lesser had compiled a grocery list and, without telling the woman, went to Safeway to get her some food. He also wrote a report to Elderly Services so follow up could be done.

Ofc. Lesser intended to keep this all to himself. However, the neighbor who originally called 9-1-1 saw him return with bags of groceries and felt compelled to call us back and express her appreciation.

I met with the complainant and her husband. They said Mildred is stubbornly independent and has frequently refused offers of help. However, their concern was recently heightened when a man on a bicycle guided Mildred home after she became lost at a nearby park. On this day, the complainant was rebuffed when she offered to help Mildred who was outdoors in the extreme heat.

The following day, July 5th, Mildred herself phoned SPD and spoke with Sgt. Tyler Cordis. She expressed her appreciation for his help and said Ofc. Lesser took time to pet her dogs and listen & talk to her. She added, 'I've never been so happy with police in my life.' Sgt. Cordis wrote, 'This shows the professional and caring nature of an officer who took the time to not just clear a call and get on to the next one, but see one of our citizens as a person in need.'

At first, Ofc. Lesser was evasive when asked how much he spent on groceries for Mildred. However, after some prodding by his teammates, he said it was \$100.

Ofc. Lesser's actions went beyond the normal call of duty and brought credit to our department and the City. He is clearly deserving of consideration for the Community Service medal."

Officer Lesser, I am honored to present you with the Community Service Award. You will be given the Community Service Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in 2016. A copy of this document will be placed in your department personnel file.

Rick Dobrow
Interim Chief of Police