



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

JAMES A. MCDEVITT

To: Officer Jennifer DeRuwe
From: Jim McDevitt, Director of Law Enforcement
Date: April 25, 2016
Re: Employee of the 1st Quarter Award

Ofc. DeRuwe,

Lt. Tracie Meidl recently nominated you for the Employee of the 1st Quarter Award. Employee of the Quarter nominations are based on either a specific act of unusual meritorious service, a specific project of significance to the community, City, or Department, or sustained superior performance of assigned duties. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nominations, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

Lt. Meidl wrote, "I would like to nominate Officer Jennifer DeRuwe for the Employee of the 1st Quarter. Jenn has been instrumental in building community relations on many different levels and using a variety of programs to accomplish this task. The Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) is a program that breaks down barriers and stereotypes between youth and police and builds trust and relationships. Jenn has coordinated and facilitated 20 different sessions of YPI across Spokane, connecting 234 youth to 96 different officers. She also created a Facebook network group for all YPI graduates and not only stays connected with them, but connects them to each other as well as the officers that they have built relationships with. These relationships have empowered youth to gather together and march with police during January's Martin Luther King Jr. March. Jenn consistently organizes events for YPI graduates and officers to attend in order to sustain and build upon these relationships.

Jenn coordinated job application training with Spokane Parks and Recreation where YPI graduates attended. Several youth received summer jobs at Riverfront Park because of this training. There are countless stories where youth have been impacted by Jenn and her work. Officers have also come away from YPI with a different perspective of youth and many times, a new friend.

Jenn's passion for the youth in our community shows every time she talks to someone about YPI, which many times has people asking "How can I help?" and "Where can I donate money?". All of this is just from one of the programs that Jenn coordinates. There is also the Spokane Police Activities League (PAL), which engages youth over the summer in healthy activities and also promotes the building of relationships with our community. Another program is Restore Our Kids (ROK), which is an alternative to school suspension program in the High School. With every program that Jenn coordinates and facilitates she gives 100% of her heart and energy. Jenn has impacted this department and community in so many ways that it would be impossible to measure. At a time, across the nation, where the trust between law enforcement and the community has been strained, Jenn has built bridges that benefit, grow, and empower our community. If you were to poll the youth in Spokane there would be a majority that know or know about "Officer Jenn".

Finally, Jenn also represented the City of Spokane in Denver, where we were awarded the All America City Award. I am honored to work with Jenn on a daily basis, but even more honored to nominate her for this well-deserved award."

Jenn, you exemplify the best in an employee with your initiative, dependability, professionalism, and dedication. The Spokane Police Department is fortunate to have such an employee, and you are extremely worthy of this recognition. Jenn, you will receive a plaque at our annual award ceremony in February 2017 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your employee file.


Jim McDevitt
Director of Law Enforcement

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