



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE  
FRANK STRAUB, Ph.D.

To: Detective Bryan Tafoya  
From: Frank Straub, Jr., Chief of Police  
Date: January 20, 2015  
Re: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Employee of the Year

Recently, Sergeant Kevin Keller nominated Detective Bryan Tafoya for Employee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2014. 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 Detective Tafoya is most deserving of this recognition. In his nomination, Sergeant Keller wrote:

*"Det. Tafoya has one of the most difficult jobs in SVU. He specializes in sexual exploitation of children on the internet. This job involves viewing the repulsive evidence that suspects produce and often times requires him to take on the role of acting like a child when suspects solicit a minor for inappropriate sexual behavior. His job requires him to complete numerous, and lengthy time-consuming warrants as he pursues a suspect's location through internet services. This work requires special computer skills and the ability to articulate his work in a manner that allows everyone to understand this process.*

*Det. Tafoya does not stop his investigation when he finds the location of a suspect. He often sets up stings where the suspects arrive at a designated location to perform an illegal act. He also coordinates with members of our unit in order to safely take down the suspect as well as retrieving items of evidentiary value in search warrants at a residence. Often times these items of evidence are computers that lead to additional evidence and additional charges for suspects.*

*It would be difficult for many of us to have a civil conversation with a suspect who, just a short time earlier, was interested in raping a child. Det. Tafoya has the ability to compartmentalize this information and continue with his goal of taking these criminals off the street in a professional manner. Det. Tafoya's low key demeanor resonates with suspects and he often receives full or partial confessions on these types of cases.*

*Det. Tafoya's work has led to asset forfeiture and he has also participated in the civil abatement process with Assistant City Attorney Matthew Folsom. As a result of Det. Tafoya's fine work, Mr. Folsom wrote a letter about his experience working a case with Det. Tafoya, noting Det. Tafoya's professionalism and high degree of ability. I could not agree more with Mr. Folsom's assessment of Det. Tafoya in his current assignment. Det. Tafoya is a member of a unit that deals with some of the most despicable acts in our community. Yet, he continues to work hard and maintain a positive attitude. As a citizen of this community, and Det. Tafoya's supervisor, I am incredibly grateful for the excellent job that Det. Tafoya does on a regular basis to make our city a safer place to live."*

Detective Tafoya, your leadership and dedication set an excellent example for all employees. We are fortunate to have such a dependable, innovative, and dedicated professional and you are very deserving of recognition. Along with this document, you are being issued a framed certificate. You will also be given the Employee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter plaque at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Frank G. Straub, Ph.D.  
Chief of Police

