Recently, Lt. Eric Olsen nominated Sgt. Steve Braun for the Spokane Police Department’s Lifesaving Award. The Spokane Police Department Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nomination, it was clear that Sgt. Braun was most deserving of this recognition.

On February 4, 2012, several officers were dispatched to the Monroe Street Bridge on a call of a possible suicidal male. When officers checked, they did not find anyone on the bridge. Sgt. Braun decided to check the Maple Street Bridge. As he approached, he saw a male standing on the south sidewalk attempting to lift his right leg off the street. Sgt. Braun called out to the male. The male turned and looked at Sgt. Braun, placed both hands on top of the rail and swung his right leg over the rail. Sgt. Braun quickly grabbed the male around his neck and pulled him off the railing. Witness officers advised that there was no question that the man was going to jump.

Sgt. Braun, due to your immediate actions and intervention you saved a human life. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal and the uniform Lifesaving Bar during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February 2013. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Frank G. Straub, Jr.
Chief of Police