



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

LETTER OF AWARD

To: Sergeant Troy Teigen, Officer Chris LeQuire, Officer Todd Belitz, and Officer Chris Benesch
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: October 25, 2016
Re: Lifesaving Award

Lt. Dean Sprague recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Award. The 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 your nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

Lt. Sprague wrote: "On Saturday, July 30, 2016 at 0506 hours, officers responded to a shooting call at 2107 W. Sharp Avenue in Spokane, with several neighbors reporting multiple gunshots from the address. Upon arrival they located a male suffering a gunshot wound to his ankle, and were told that another victim was still in the house.

Officers entering to clear the house of other occupants and check for victims located a male victim lying on the floor with an apparent chest wound, and a .223 rifle cartridge on the ground next to him. Sgt. Teigen and Ofcs. Belitz, Benesch and LeQuire immediately attended to the victim, who was described by Sgt. Teigen in his report as "conscious, but incoherent and non-responsive". Sgt. Teigen cut off the victim's blood soaked shirt and located a bleeding gunshot wound in his upper torso under his right arm and another gunshot wound near his left shoulder blade. It appeared to be a through and through from the same round. Ofcs LeQuire and Benesch assisted in cutting off the rest of the victim's clothes, where additional but non-life threatening injuries were noted.

Ofc. LeQuire began stuffing gauze into the bleeding armpit hole, and Sgt. Teigen used a zip-lock property bag over the top to apply direct pressure and try to stem the bleeding. Ofcs. Belitz & Benesch also applied direct pressure and placed chest seals on the torso wounds, during which time Ofc. Belitz reported that the victim "was losing consciousness and struggling to breathe". All four officers assisted in carrying the victim out of the residence and down the block in order to meet fire and ambulance personnel. During this time, the chest seals came loose due to extreme blood loss from the victim preventing a tight seal, so officers reapplied the seals and continued direct pressure on the victim's wounds. Ofc. Belitz reported that "the victim was fading" and officers were talking to him to keep him conscious. Ofc. Benesch reported that "(victim's) breathing changed dramatically before he was loaded into the ambulance and taken to the hospital. His breaths became very shallow with long pauses in between. His eyes rolled into the back of his head and he was no longer responsive to us".

I contact Sacred Heart Hospital ER doctor Dan Hagerty, the attending physician when the victim was brought into the ER. Dr. Hagerty stated that the victim arrived in critical/life threatening condition, and that it was his opinion that the actions taken by Sgt. Teigen and Ofcs. LeQuire, Belitz and Benesch "directly contributed" to the victim being alive today.

Based on documentation and interviews with Sgt. Teigen, Ofc. LeQuire and Dr. Hagerty, it is my conclusion that the four attending officers directly saved the life of the victim, who would not otherwise have survived."

Sergeant Troy Teigen, Officer Chris LeQuire, Officer Todd Belitz and Officer Chris Benesch, the Lifesaving Medal is being awarded to you for your heroic actions in the incident outlined above. You will all be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the Annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February 2017. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel files.

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police

