



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

To: Officer Doug Strosahl
From: Craig Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: October 25, 2016
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Ofc. Strosahl,

Lt. Dan Ervin recently nominated you for the Community Service Award, however, when the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nomination, it was clear that the nomination rose to the level of the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the Spokane Police Department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nominations, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Excerpts from the nomination include:

"Officer Doug Strosahl has been working as the Northwest Neighborhood Resource Officer since June 10th, 2013. He is the go-to person for that area. He has attended numerous community meetings, handled hundreds of neighborhood complaints, and developed good relations with the community.

The Northwest Neighborhood has a wide variety of community issues Officer Strosahl has to address. Most of these issues impact a person's quality of life. Sometimes they can be handled fairly easily by talking to someone or making an arrest. Officer Strosahl does this on a daily basis and serves his neighborhood well. Other times the situations take a long time to solve - weeks, months, or even a year.

In the past year and a half Officer Strosahl dealt with 3 substantial nuisance addresses: 3215 W. Rosewood - Officer Strosahl worked for months and eventually was able to get the house abated; 4112 W. Wellesley - Officer Strosahl collected volumes of information and put a lot of pressure on the homeowner and eventually got the homeowner to voluntarily move out and board the house up; and 4519 N. Hawthorne - Officer Strosahl gathered enough information about the homeowner's long history of criminal activity and eventually got the house abated. Some nuisance houses occur because the person living at the address has a mental health issue. This was the case at 6103 N. Belt. The owner of the house had her son living there; he had mental health issues. After collecting volumes of data and working with the homeowner he was eventually able to get the son moved out and the house boarded up.

It takes a lot of time, patience and talent to get a nuisance house shut down. An officer must constantly keep in contact with the neighbors. Their cooperation and participation is paramount to addressing the problem. Sometimes getting neighbors to help is difficult because neighbors are frustrated with the inability of the police to immediately address a problem. The officer oftentimes has to coordinate with multiple outside agencies, units within the department as well as other City entities for assistance and to gather the information needed to address the problem. Officer Strosahl does an extremely good job at building relationships, working with neighborhoods, and collaborating with other entities to address nuisance houses. He has the patience and tenacity to tackle most any problem. When combining his everyday work with all the work he has done on these nuisance addresses, he has made a substantial impact on the quality of life of the residents in the North West Community. His efforts further the Department's mission of reducing crime and building relationships with the community. I want to commend him for his quality work and dedication to the community."

Ofc. Strosahl, you have certainly distinguished yourself in the area of meritorious achievement and I am proud to recognize you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be given the Medal of Merit at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in 2017. A copy of this document will be placed in your department personnel file.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police

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