



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

To: Officer Stephanie Kennedy
From: Craig Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: January 31, 2017
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Sgt. Kurt Vigasaa nominated you for 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:

"Ofc Kennedy has an amazing self-driven work ethic and is always first to volunteer for any detail. Ofc Kennedy consistently volunteers to take lead on lengthy team generated cases of the most active criminals in Spokane. Her solid and thorough investigations have led to countless active criminals and repeat offenders being convicted and taken off the streets of Spokane, which has significantly helped with the reducing crime rate in Spokane. She has currently written over 100 search warrants since being on the PACT (3.5 years). This team successfully identifies the most active offenders in the Spokane Community who are victimizing Spokane citizens. Ofc Kennedy is a huge part of this team's successful mission.

Ofc Kennedy, without a doubt, is one of the best interviewers on this department. She continuously amazes me with her consistency in receiving confessions from the hardest and most active criminals. These repeat offenders would normally refuse to talk with officers, but with Ofc Kennedy, she sets them at ease, has in depth interviews and most often will receive a confession.

In May of 2015, this team identified and arrested a subject in possession of two stolen vehicles. This subject was one of the most active criminals in Spokane at the time and only a 4 time convicted felon which didn't meet the ROP standards (at the time). Over the next 7 months, we arrested this subject an additional 10 times. Ofc Kennedy took lead on nearly every one of these arrests. This subject was arrested on 16 felonies during this time period. Ofc Kennedy was injured during one of these arrests when the subject rammed his stolen vehicle into her vehicle in an attempt to flee. Ofc Kennedy wrote 12 search warrants during these investigations, and recovered numerous items of stolen property and firearms that had been stolen from Spokane to Montana, as well as several thousand dollars in currency. Each and every arrest, this subject would confess to Ofc Kennedy because he "Respected her" for her honesty and for treating him fairly. Eventually this subject was convicted and sentenced to several years in prison in Washington, and will be standing trial in Montana for 3cts of Burglary and Vehicle Theft from Ofc Kennedy's probable cause.

Her dedication to the citizens of Spokane and tenacity for doing a large amount of quality investigations, often means working overtime and on her days off. One investigation was started by her on her day off while shopping with her daughter. Ofc Kennedy was at a local small business and noticed a picture of a subject she recognized from prior investigations. The picture was in the checkout area and was labeled "Thief". Ofc Kenney inquired about the picture and learned that he was a suspect in a theft from the store of over \$1000.00 in antiques. Ofc Kennedy wasn't in uniform and didn't say she worked for SPD. The employees stated several derogatory statements regarding the local Police Department and their lack of service. Ofc Kennedy took it as a personal mission to change these citizens perception of their Police Dept. When she returned to work, she checked on the status of this particular case and learned it wasn't currently being followed up on. Within the day, she had the suspect in custody and returned some of the stolen property to the business. This is one example of countless times that Ofc Kennedy has made positive impacts for the Police department in the eyes of the citizens she passionately serves.

Ofc. Kennedy, 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.

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police

Public Safety Building • 1100 W. Mallon Avenue • Spokane, Washington 99260-0001

