



Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association

P.O. Box 136 Germantown, WI 53022
<http://www.wlecha.org>

2020 AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please complete this form and submit with your nomination letter to (email preferred):

WLECHA
c/o Award Nominations
PO Box 136
Germantown, WI 53022
wlechatreasurer@gmail.com

Handler Name: OFFICER CHRISTOPHER HASZ
K-9 Name: STEFFI
Agency: MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Category (Please circle one per form)

Handler of the Year - Rookie Handler of the Year - Meritorious Apprehension - Meritorious Article Find
Meritorious Track with Apprehension - Meritorious Track - Meritorious Narcotics Find

Nominator: TRAVIS ESSER
Title: LIEUTENANT
Agency: MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
Phone: 715-384-0810
E-Mail Address: travis.esser@ci.marshfield.wi.us
Hours of Work: 0800-1600

*****Membership must be current to be eligible for an award*****

*****All nominations must be postmarked or submitted by e-mail by August 15th, 2020 to be accepted*****

Canine teams may be submitted for multiple awards.

Please submit separate nominations for each category.

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

This is to nominate Officer Christopher Hasz and his canine Steffi of the Marshfield Police Department for the Meritorious Track award.

On April 7th 2020 Officer Hasz was monitoring radio traffic from our neighboring jurisdiction of Marathon County. Officer Hasz overheard radio traffic of a stabbing that had occurred in the Village of Stratford which is approximately 10 miles northeast of the City of Marshfield. Marathon County identified the potential homicide suspect, who Officer Hasz knew to have connections to the Marshfield area. A short time later Officer Hasz also heard other Marathon County radio traffic involving a Silver SUV driving recklessly at high rates of speed Westbound from the Stratford area on STH 153. Officer Hasz believed the two calls were related and immediately contacted other Marshfield officers to make them aware of this information.

Officer Hasz and other officers proceeded to the Northern area of the city limits to attempt to locate the silver SUV to determine if the driver was the homicide suspect. It was learned that one individual had died due to the stabbing incident and another was in critical condition.

A short time later Marshfield officers were dispatched to a hit-and-run crash on the east side of the city limits near the intersection of Galvin Ave and E. 4th St. A silver SUV traveling at a very high rate of speed ran a stop sign, crashed into another vehicle and then fled the area. Officers proceeded to that location as they believed the silver SUV was potentially the suspect from the Stratford stabbing.

While en route to that location officers received information that the silver SUV (striking vehicle) was located 200-300 yards south of the crash location abandoned and the interior of the vehicle had a large amount of blood on the inside. Due to the thick fog in the area nobody saw where the suspect went after exiting the vehicle.

The area where the vehicle was abandoned had a business park on the west side of the road with numerous buildings and storage units. The east side of the road had an open field with a dense woods approximately 200 yards east of Galvin Ave. While en route to the area Officer Hasz coordinated with other officers to plan a track and start setting up a perimeter of the area. It was determined that Officer Hasz and K9 Steffi would start by attempting to locate the suspect's track on the east side of the roadway first. It was unknown what type of weapons the suspect had at this time, as there were known firearms in the victim's house in Stratford, but Marathon County Deputies were unable to determine if any were missing at that time. Officer Hasz was accompanied on the track by on duty members of Marshfield Special Response Team.

Officer Hasz and Steffi made passes in the field east of Galvin Ave and Officer Hasz advised that Steffi did not appear to be giving any indication that human odor was in that area. Officer Hasz and K9 Steffi then proceeded to the grassy ditch line on the west side of Galvin Ave and Officer Hasz immediately advised other officers that K9 Steffi was showing good tracking behavior and began to pull him southbound along the ditch for approximately 100 yards. K9 Steffi then began to move west between two commercial buildings for approximately 75 yards and brought officers to a parking lot in front of a

commercial roofing business before losing the track. Officers contacted witnesses at a nearby business and learned that they observed a young male suspect matching the description of the homicide suspect run through the area a few minutes before and observed him get into a white passenger car and leave the area. Witnesses did not believe it was suspicious as they thought the male was an employee at the roofing business.

Officers contacted the roofing business and were able to locate the owner of the white passenger car that the suspect was seen getting into. It was determined that the suspect stole the vehicle and the registered owner was unaware his car was gone. The owner likely would not have noticed his car was missing until five hours later when finishing work for the day.

Due to the tracking ability of Officer Hasz and K9 Steffi, officers were able to identify the vehicle the suspect was in and quickly relay that information to other area law enforcement agencies. A short time later Spencer K9 Officer Mindy Stellmach located the stolen vehicle being operated in her jurisdiction which ultimately led to a pursuit that involved multiple agencies. The suspect once again proceeded 10 miles back to the City of Marshfield where Marshfield officers deployed spikes strips and Wisconsin State Patrol conducted a P.I.T. maneuver on the vehicle to end the pursuit and take him into custody without anyone else being injured.

In the end, two victims died in the Stratford stabbing. The suspect later stated that he planned the stabbing in advance and wanted to know what it was like to take a life. Given the state of mind the suspect was in, it is safe to say that he could have easily hurt or killed more people if he had not been quickly apprehended by law enforcement. The track by Officer Christopher Hasz and K9 Steffi most definitely provided information that allowed officers to quickly locate and arrest the suspect.

Please consider Officer Christopher Hasz and K9 Steffi for the WLECHA 2020 Meritorious Track Award.

Respectfully,

Lt. Travis Esser and former K9 Handler Officer Terry Endries