

FIRST SELECTMAN HERBST ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF TRUMBULL NATIVE KEVIN SUTHERLAND

First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst offered the following statement on the passing of Trumbull native Kevin Sutherland:

JULY 6, 2015 -- This afternoon, I had the opportunity to visit with Kevin Sutherland's family and on behalf of the Town of Trumbull, I offer my sincere and profound condolences to his parents and the entire Sutherland family. Kevin was a bright and accomplished young man who had so much to offer. At 24, Kevin made a tremendous mark. After graduating from American University, Kevin served on the staff of Congressman Jim Himes and recently began a successful career in the private sector working for a political consulting firm. On behalf of all Trumbullites, we offer our prayers and support.

Earlier this afternoon, I had the opportunity to speak with the Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser concerning the tragedy that unfolded this weekend. Mayor Bowser extended her deepest condolences to the Sutherland family and pledged her support in bringing his murderer to justice. I thanked Mayor Bowser for her support in this regard.

As I indicated to Mayor Bowser, I am deeply troubled by the circumstances of this case as they have been reported. The suspect, Jasper Spires, was arrested two days earlier for assault and was charged with a felony. This individual showed a clear propensity for violence and why this felony charge was reduced to a misdemeanor is highly questionable. By reducing this charge to a misdemeanor, the assailant was allowed to walk and commit another act of senseless violence that took an innocent young man's life far too soon. I am grateful that Washington D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier has pledged to conduct her own internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding this case. Questions must be answered and individuals must be held accountable.

I am asking all Trumbullites to commit to an act of kindness this week in helping others. Kevin Sutherland was known as someone who was selfless and always eager to help someone in need. I can think of no better way to honor his memory.