

## Southwest Ward Update

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Southwest Ward Council Member Dan Besse

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Neighbors,

I received the sad news earlier this evening that Sgt. Mickey Hutchens has passed away.

I'm sure that I can speak for everyone in our city in saying that we mourn the loss of a community hero who sacrificed his own life to protect others. Please join me in keeping his family and colleagues in our thoughts and prayers.

We are fortunate that Officer Daniel Clark was released from the hospital Friday and is doing well physically. I know that the loss of a colleague in this fashion is a blow to him and all their fellow officers and other members of the city family.

Sgt. Hutchens was a 27-year veteran of the Winston-Salem Police Department. Mayor Joines has declared Oct. 13-16 a period of civic mourning to honor his life and service, and has submitted a request to the Office of the President of the United States seeking authorization to have U.S. flags in Winston-Salem flown at half staff during that period.

This is once again a reminder that we need always to appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of the police officers who keep our community safe at such risk to themselves.

Please also keep in mind that this is Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month. It's a tragedy that we are reminded in this way of the costs to our entire community from domestic violence. Officer Clark and Sgt. Hutchens were shot while acting to protect a domestic violence victim and her co-workers.

Thank you all for your continuing concern.

Dan

Dan Besse, Southwest Ward City Council Member