

Julia Pemberton
First Selectman



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Town of Redding

July 14, 2015.

First Selectman Julia Pemberton released the following statement regarding the investigation into the death of Redding resident, Mr. Gugsu Abraham Dabela.

Recent stories in the Norwalk Hour and the Redding Pilot regarding the death of Redding resident Gugsu Abraham Dabela on April 5, 2014 have spawned renewed interest in the manner of his death and the investigation surrounding it. "The death of Mr. Dabela was and is a tragedy for the victim, his family and friends," said Julia Pemberton, Redding's First Selectman. "It's understandable that they would seek answers. The article in the Norwalk Hour, however, contained many factual inaccuracies."

With regard to the NAACP's plans, reported by the Hour and Pilot, to hold a press conference in Redding, Ms. Pemberton said, "If the NAACP comes to Redding, they will find a compassionate community. Attempts today to contact Mr. Esdaile, the President of the Connecticut Chapter of the NAACP, were unsuccessful. We will keep trying. We welcome the opportunity to meet."

The Redding Police Department has in fact spent hundreds of "man hours" investigating this incident. As previously stated by Redding Chief of Police Douglas Fuchs, in addition to the investigation by the Redding Police Department, this incident has been investigated by many entities including: The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, The Connecticut State Police Major Crime Unit, The State Forensics Lab, a Forensic Specialist hired by the family, a Traffic Crash Reconstruction expert hired by the family and other municipal police department's traffic crash units.

In the course of the investigation, members of the Redding Police Department's investigative team met with the family's own forensic expert and traffic crash reconstruction expert.

The Medical Examiner ruled the death of Mr. Gugsu Abraham Dabela a suicide by means of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. A death certificate for Mr. Dabela was first received for recording by the Redding Town Clerk on April 28, 2014 and after a five-month period, amended on October 6, 2014 with further detail on the cause of death per the Medical Examiner's office.

The details of this investigation may not be released until cleared by the Danbury State's Attorney. All investigative reports have been forwarded to his office.