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For immediate release

Kohl Statement on Charlottesville

Calls for removal of top White House aides

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In light of recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, business executive and non-profit leader Dan Kohl issued the following statement:

“I am troubled and saddened by the hateful violence witnessed in Charlottesville. Like millions of Americans, my ancestors arrived in this country fleeing persecution and hate-inspired violence. The sight of organized, violent, and bigoted individuals parading in public should be of concern to all of us, and their views are a direct affront to our American values.

I mourn with the family and friends of Heather Heyer, who lost her life in an act of domestic terrorism while standing up for equality and justice. While her life was cut much too short, her sacrifice and devotion to a just cause will long be remembered. I also honor the memory of troopers Jay Cullen and Brooke Bates, who died in the line of duty providing protection for their fellow citizens.

I remain deeply disheartened by the lack of moral leadership demonstrated by President Trump. Speaking out against neo-nazis and white supremacists should be easy. His statement on Saturday fell far short. The President’s belated response on Monday failed to mitigate the damage done by false equivalency and silence.

What’s now required is a clear signal and swift action by this White House,. If Donald Trump wants to demonstrate that today’s statement was more than words on a teleprompter, he must take immediate steps to remove even the suggestion of alt-right or white supremacist influence. He must immediately ask for the resignations of Steve Bannon, Sebastian Gorka, and Stephen Miller. Bigotry has no place in this country, let alone in senior spots of the Trump Administration.

Now is a time for all Americans to stand up for equality and justice, and demand more from their elected leaders. I pledge to stand with you in this ongoing fight.”

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