



Shortly before 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 12, the University of South Florida Police Department received a report of a deceased person in parking lot 3C near the Fine Arts Building on the Tampa campus. Upon arriving at the scene, police found Winton C. Cutchins, 61, of Tampa who was deceased and appeared to have suffered upper body trauma. At approximately 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 12, David Tyler Bartles, 21, and Thomas Allen Phanphilathip, 36, both of Tampa, were taken into custody in connection with the death of Cutchins. They are currently being held in the Marion County jail awaiting extradition back to Tampa on charges of first-degree murder and theft of a motor vehicle by force.

Details of the investigation indicate that Bartles and Phanphilathip arrived at Cutchins's home early morning hours on Saturday, August 12 seeking a ride to a bus depot. Mr. Cutchins agreed to assist the men, and ultimately drove them to a parking lot on the USF campus around 6:30 a.m. Information suggests this is when and where the two suspects attacked Cutchins with a knife and removed him from the vehicle. The University of South Florida Police Department has been able to determine that none of the parties involved are affiliated with USF, and based on the targeted intent of this crime, the safety of the USF community was not at risk.