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**National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) Urges Madison Police Department to Investigate Police Incident that Left an Indian Grandfather Partially Paralyzed**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) urges the Madison Police Department in Alabama to perform a thorough and immediate investigation on a Feb. 6 incident that left a grandfather visiting from India partially paralyzed.

Sureshbhai Patel, a 57-year-old Indian citizen visiting his family to help care for his grandson, was temporarily paralyzed after an encounter with police during a walk. A neighbor was suspicious of Patel and reported him to law enforcement. Patel, who does not speak English, remains in the hospital due to injuries that resulted from police forcing him to the ground.

NCAPA leaders issued the following statements:

Suman Raghunathan, executive director of South Asian Americans Leading Together, said, “This incident brings to attention that law enforcement must learn how to address the needs of immigrants and limited English proficient individuals. We call upon a full investigation and for the Madison Police Department to prevent similar instances of police brutality.”

Mansi Shah, president of the South Asian Bar Association of North America, said, “It appears that the police may have used excessive force. The incident of Mr. Patel requires a full and transparent investigation given the facts that are known at this time.”

Mee Moua, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, said, “Our communities of color face discrimination all too often, and an investigation is urgently needed to hold the Madison Police Department accountable. Our sincere condolences go to Mr. Patel, his family and the Madison community as we hope for the speedy recovery of Mr. Patel.”

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*The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), founded in 1996, is a coalition of 34 national Asian Pacific American organizations. Based in Washington D.C., NCAPA serves to represent the interests of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA & NHPI) communities and to provide a national voice on policy issues and priorities.*