



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U of M student posts false account of police encounter on social media - then campaigns for “accountability”

(St. Paul, Minn.) – In the early morning of February 1, 2021, the University of Minnesota’s Department of Public Safety (UMPD) received a call regarding a robbery. Officers received information about an armed suspect and stopped to speak with a student a block from the event that matched the description. Officers quickly realized this person wasn’t their suspect, and continued searching.

After the encounter, student Nikil Badey posted a factually inaccurate account of the interaction on his Instagram account, and urged others to contact University Board of Regents leaders on “racial profiling and harassing” and said he was “immediately criminalized” through this pre-written email campaign against UMPD: Z.umn.edu/umpdblast

Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Executive Director Brian Peters said, **“The truth is clear from the officer’s dash camera video: Mr. Badey’s encounter was extremely courteous and respectful. We’re frustrated that an elected student leader would purposefully choose to stir further division against police on social media using false statements and fabrications. This is irresponsible and further divides the campus culture on safety and community.”**

Law Enforcement Labor Services Executive Director Jim Mortenson said, **“Everyone deserves to be safe, and false accusations against law enforcement only incites unnecessary fear and minimizes the positive ways law enforcement helps our communities. Thank you to the UMPD for their exemplary work searching for the armed burglar on campus.”**

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and Law Enforcement Labor Services have asked Mr. Badey to:

1. Publicly apologize to the UMPD officers for his dishonest statements.
2. End his email campaign to the Board of Regents against the UMPD due to false allegations.
3. Read the [University of Minnesota’s Student Conduct Code](#), particularly Section IV, Subsections. 3 (Falsification), Subsection 5 (Attempt to Injure or Defraud), and Subsection 9 (Disorderly Conduct).
4. Consider meeting with UMPD in further dialogue on ways the community can work together for a safer campus for all.

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Screen shots of Mr. Badey's Instagram posts can be found here.

<https://twincitiesnewstalk.iheart.com/content/2021-02-05-must-read-local-uofm-student-makes-case-of-racial-profiling-umpd-responds/>.

After these allegations the UMPD released the officer's squad car video of the interaction which shows a short polite conversation dramatically different than described by Mr. Badey, including his request to officers for a ride home. The UMPD video can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/q7YzseziArl>.

INSTAGRAM POSTS VS. TRANSCRIPTS:

MR. BADEY: "I was able to show the officer my University ID saying that I was a university student just trying to clear my mind by taking a late-night stroll but they wouldn't believe me."

TRUTH: The officers said they believed him multiple times. A quote from the transcript:

Squad 1830 (Officer 1): Okay no, I believe you, I appreciate it, you are good to go. We just have a lot of cars around here.

Squad 1830 (Officer 2): You're good man, you're good.

MR. BADEY: "After multiple questions, they turned off their lights and left me alone: no apology, no explanation, nothing. Just me: mentally and emotionally tormented with an experience that will last a lifetime."

TRUTH: The officers offered multiple apologies, explanations.

Squad 1830 (Officer 1): Alright sorry about that man, we just had a robbery that occurred in this location and whatnot, so we are just checking it out, we just wanted to chat with you. See a lot of cars out here. You're free to go. Where you living at these days?

Squad 1830 (Officer 1): Okay, well you have a good night.

Unidentified Person: Would you mind giving me a ride?

Squad 1830 (Officer 1): No, I can't, I can't give you a ride.

Unidentified Person: Okay, thank you.

Squad 1830 (Officer 1): Thank you.

Squad 1830 (Officer 2): We are still looking for the guy, that's why we can't give you a ride alright

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) has represented Minnesota's public safety officers for nearly 100 years and currently has 10,000+ members who hold active law enforcement licenses in the state of Minnesota. Our members include police officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters. The MPPOA is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) represents the rank-and-file officers at the UMPD. It is Minnesota's largest public safety labor union specializing in representing police, fire personnel, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state.