

CITY OF VENTURA
NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
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For Immediate Release

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Ventura City Council Denounces Heinous Homicide

The Ventura City Council is reacting today with shock, sadness and anger after learning that the 35-year-old victim who suffered a stab wound to the neck during an unprovoked attack that occurred on April 18, 2018 succumbed to the injuries last night. The heinous crime took place on the Ventura Promenade. The suspect was detained and booked at the Ventura County Main Jail.

"We are extremely disheartened and infuriated by this criminal attack," said Mayor Neal Andrews. "We will not tolerate this in our community. Nothing is more important than the safety of our visitors, residents and businesses."

The Ventura City Council would like to extend its condolences to the family and all of those who were affected by this terrible crime. Additionally, the City would like to thank the bystanders who helped follow the suspect until the Ventura Police Department arrived at the scene, just minutes later.

The issue of vagrancy is complex and difficult. While Ventura has made strides over the years to address vagrancy by increasing its patrol and collaborating with local partners on innovative programs such as Community Intervention Court, there is a lot of work to be done given the changing character of our nation's society, healthcare, economy and environment.

"As a father of young children, I am truly heartbroken and send my deepest condolences to Mr. Mele's wife and daughter," said Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere. "My council colleagues and I want to assure the public that the City Council will commit whatever resources are necessary to make sure a senseless crime like this does not happen again. We have complete confidence in the Ventura Police Department and the council has authorized immediate police action in response to this tragedy. Working together, we will proactively respond by doing whatever it takes to rid our beautiful promenade of criminal vagrancy."

The City Council directed the Ventura Police Department to immediately increase targeted patrols in the area. Additional staff will monitor existing security cameras and the Downtown ambassadors will focus on the promenade area.

[Read the Ventura Police Department Media Release on this incident here.](#)

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov###