



Reform Lodging

August 15, 2020

Hon. Charles "Buster" Bingham
Police Chief
Cleveland Police Department
301 S Sharpe Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732

Hon. Kelvin Williams, Sr.
Sherriff
Bolivar County Sheriff's Department
2792 Highway 8 West
Cleveland, MS 38732

Hon. Brenda F. Mitchell
District Attorney
11th District Circuit Court
201 South Court Street
Cleveland, MS 38732

Re: Investigation and Prosecution of Suspect in Mr. Yogesh Patel's Murder

Dear Chief Bingham, Sherriff Williams, and D.A. Mitchell,

We write to you on behalf of our hotel owner advocacy group, Reform Lodging, with over 1,500+ members from across the United States. First and foremost, we would like to extend our gratitude to you and members of your respective departments for all that you do in keeping the citizens of Cleveland safe. Our organization has the utmost respect for law enforcement and their many sacrifices in ensuring the safety of our communities.

Our members have brought to our attention, the senseless murder of one of your community members and our fellow hotelier, Mr. Yogesh Patel. The former Mr. Patel and his wife Sonam are the owners of the Delta Inn Motel located at 1139 South Davis Avenue in Cleveland, MS. Tragically, on the evening of August 11, 2020, Mr. Patel had conducted an eviction under police presence of a customer at his property. Shortly thereafter, under the guise of retrieving a forgotten item in his guestroom, this customer returned to the property with malice in his mind and heart. Mr. Patel was nearly beaten to death after opening the guestroom door for this already evicted customer in an attempt to assist him. His gruesome injuries meant that he had to be immediately airlifted to a hospital in Jackson, MS. Later in the afternoon on August 12, 2020, Mr. Patel sadly succumbed to his injuries.

We are absolutely appalled at this heinous criminal act and condemn it in the strongest possible sense. Our group seeks justice for Mr. Patel and trust that your investigations lead to the immediate apprehension of this dangerous criminal. It is our collective hope that this suspect is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and that all legal avenues are considered for justice to be swiftly and appropriately served.

Several of our members have family and social ties to the former Mr. Patel and his loved ones. We remain available to assist your investigation in any way possible and will fully support all of your efforts. We plead with you to bring peace of mind to Mr. Patel's family expeditiously.

Yours in Hospitality,

Rich Gandhi
Chairman & Co-Founder

Sagar V. Shah
President & Co-Founder

Dharam Goragandhi
Director of Member Relations &
Co-Founder

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CC: Hon. Lynn Fitch, Attorney General, State of Mississippi