

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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**Police Looking for Witnesses to Potential Hate Crime Against 81-year-old
Laotian Man**

San Diego – An elderly Laotian man is still being treated for his injuries from an unprovoked attack near Porter North Elementary School. Police are investigating the attack as a hate crime and believe there may have been witnesses who were going to or from the school for morning drop-off at the time of the assault.

On the morning of December 17th, 81-year-old Mark Sanouvong was on his morning walk around the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Between 9:07 a.m. and 9:14 a.m., he was walking southbound past Porter North Elementary School on S. 47th Street and Franklin Avenue. The suspect attacked Mr. Sanouvong and caused severe injuries. The assault spilled into the middle of S. 47th Street and Ocean View Boulevard, bringing traffic to a halt.

The suspect is described as a white man, about 40 years old, wearing a light-colored jacket (possibly a tan Dickies brand “Eisenhower” jacket with a front zipper), blue jeans, and carrying a large bag. He was about six feet tall, average build, and had brown hair.

Detectives will be conducting another search for witnesses near Porter North Elementary School on Monday, January 3rd. Anyone with information is asked to contact SDPD. Witnesses may also call Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous.

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