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Kappa Alpha Psi® Condemns Use of Excessive Force Against Life Member Shawn Marshall, Demands Transparent Investigation

PHILADELPHIA—The Grand Polemarch [International President] of Kappa Alpha Psi® Fraternity, Inc., Reuben A. Shelton, III, Esq., issued the following statement in response to the apparent use of excessive force by members of the New Haven [Connecticut] Police Department in the January 29, 2021 arrest of Life Member Shawn D. Marshall. During an encounter at the Connecticut Financial Center, Marshall complained of harassment.

“Unfortunately in America, we continue to see unarmed African American men and women become seriously injured or murdered due to the use of excessive force by police officers. This latest incident in Connecticut involving a member of Kappa Alpha Psi® is yet another deeply troubling situation when law enforcement’s first instinct, according to news reports, was to punch Marshall in the face, restrain him by the neck and use pepper spray when he was already down on the ground. Police brutality is not just a local problem. These situations spotlight the need for a nationwide review of use-of-force standards, mandatory body cameras, bias training, updated disciplinary policies, and also stronger federal and state oversight of local police departments.

“We stand with Shawn Marshall, the Brooklyn/Long Island (NY) Alumni Chapter and the Northeastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi® in calling for federal and state oversight to ensure a thorough, transparent investigation is conducted in this matter along with systemic reforms to increase police accountability and prevent similar abuses from happening in the future.”

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. is an international organization founded on the campus of Indiana University,