



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108-1518**



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Timothy P. Murray
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Malcolm S. Medley, Chairman

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCAD LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION IN NEW BEDFORD

Boston, MA - The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination has launched an investigation into the arrest and handling of a Chinese immigrant by New Bedford police officers. The complaint, which was filed with the MCAD in December, 2009, alleges that the officers physically confronted the complainant, who was seated in a public park, after the complainant waved away an approaching officer to signal that the complainant was not in need of help.

The complaint alleges that the complainant does not speak English and is disabled as a result of a previous accident. The sixty year-old complainant was charged with assault and battery on a police officer and disturbing the peace. The complaint cites neighborhood witnesses to the incident.

"Police conduct in places of public accommodation falls within the purview of this Commission," said MCAD Chairman and Commissioner, Malcolm S. Medley. "Our obligation is to investigate this matter to determine whether a violation of law has occurred."

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) is the state's statutory civil rights law enforcement agency. The Commission has offices in Boston, Springfield, Worcester, and New Bedford.

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