

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7346 • Fax: 517-373-9320
E-mail: SenHansenClarke@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/Clarke



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov 16, 2007

Contact: Kim Bowman
Phone: (517) 373-7346

Senator Clarke Requests Federal Investigation of CMU Noose Hanging, Ethnic Intimidation

DETROIT—Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) formally requested a federal investigation of the recent act of ethnic intimidation at Central Michigan University today. On Monday, a student found four hangman nooses hanging inside a classroom, and an investigation into the incident is currently underway.

“This is a very serious matter, and I wanted to ensure that it was being treated that way at all levels, including a federal investigation,” said Sen. Clarke. “And I want to do what I can to protect the welfare of the students, staff and faculty on campus in case this noose hanging is a warning of imminent violence.”

Yesterday, Sen. Clarke met with school officials and CMU President Michael Rao to discuss the possible ethnic intimidation that stems from the discovery of four makeshift nooses in a classroom in CMU’s Engineering and Technology Building. And today, he requested that federal authorities intervene immediately and investigate the matter of the noose hanging at CMU. Sen. Clarke has been in contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Bay City and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Detroit to make sure this very serious matter is properly addressed.

“This is not just an issue in Mt. Pleasant or the state of Michigan. This is a national problem, underscored by the recent protests of unsolved hate crimes in Washington DC,” Clarke said. “We need to send a strong message that ethnic intimidation will not be tolerated in Michigan.”

Central Michigan University police are offering a significant reward, recently raised to \$5,000, as they investigate the incident. Anyone who has information about the case or who observed any suspicious activity should call the CMU police dispatcher at 989-774-3081 or the police tip line at 989-774-1874. An anonymous tip form also is available at <http://www.police.cmich.edu> by clicking on “contact us” and “anonymous tip.”

###