## City Mourns VU Student Varun Raj Pucha

The City of Valparaiso joins Valparaiso University in mourning the loss of VU student Varun Raj Pucha. "Our hearts go out to Varun's family and friends in this heartbreaking loss. The Valparaiso community has been shocked by this senseless tragedy and is united in support for this young man and his family," said Mayor Matt Murphy. "I ask all of Valparaiso to continue to keep Varun and his family in your thoughts and prayers."

Pucha died as a result of injuries in a stabbing on Oct. 29 at a local gym. Valparaiso Police arrested Porter Township resident Jordan Andrade who remains in custody at Porter County Jail. Andrade, who was originally charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, now faces an amended charge of murder.  All criminal defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Pucha came to Valparaiso from Hvderabad, India to pursue a graduate degree in Information Technology and has made numerous friends in the Valparaiso and Valparaiso University community. City and Valparaiso University representatives continue to be i n contact with Pucha's family, offering support at this difficult time. The university will host a service of remembrance and memorial for Pucha on Nov. 16.

The Valparaiso Police Department would like to thank the Porter County Prosecutor's Office and the many concerned citizens who have aided in this investigation. "The continued support offered for Varun and his family is greatly appreciated," said Police Chief Andrew McIntyre.