

COPS MAKE HOUSE CALLS SEEKING CLUES TO KILLINGS

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Wayne County Sheriff's deputies went door to door Wednesday asking residents of Highland Park for help in solving a string of slayings that are believed to be the work of a serial **killer**.

About a dozen deputies, accompanied by the news media, canvassed several blocks where the bodies of nine women have been found since December. Residents received fliers and fielded queries for any information they might have.

But as the workday ended, Highland Park police said they had received nothing immediately useful in their investigation.

Sheriff Robert Ficano ordered the sweep after a request for help from Mayor Linsey Porter. Porter said his department, burdened by a lack of cash and the layoffs of 11 officers in June, cannot solve the slayings alone.

Today, deputies on horseback will help to beef up the city's police force. Sheriff's officials would not say how long the mounted officers will be on the streets there.

The FBI on Wednesday answered Porter's call for help by assigning two special agents to the case. Spokesman Hank Glaspie said the agents will review evidence in the case and the tactics Highland Park detectives have used so far, and look at possible suspects.

In two weeks, the agents will report to Hal Helterhoff, special agent in charge of the Detroit office, with a recommendation on whether further federal involvement is needed.

The agents are expected to spend time in the Highland Park police department and "whatever's necessary to properly review the circumstances behind the crimes," said Glaspie.

Pressure has come from some citizens who feel not enough is being done to catch the **killer**. And intense media coverage of the crimes has added to the strain.

Television news trucks have swarmed throughout the community of 20,000 since the discovery of the ninth body Monday in an abandoned building across from the crumbling Monterey Motel on Woodward. Three women were found dead in the motel in February.

On Wednesday, when word spread that a foul smell was hanging over an abandoned building just west of Highland Park, a commotion began.

Detroit and Highland Park police rushed to the scene, followed closely by morgue trucks.

As the news media and other curious people waited outside, investigators took a look. They found hooves.

Officials believe hooves from either a horse or deer were left in three **black** plastic bags in the building in the 14400 block of Woodrow Wilson.

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Page: 2B

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