

FEARS OF SERIAL KILLINGS REVIVED HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DISCOVER 10TH BODY

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, July 9, 1992

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Highland Park investigators searched for clues Wednesday to determine whether the badly decomposed body **of** a female is the work **of** a fast-acting **serial** killer believed responsible for nine victims found nearby.

The body was discovered shortly after 5 p.m. in a building at the southeast corner **of** Highland and Hamilton, about four blocks from Woodward Avenue. The victim, who is black, was wearing a black skirt and top, according to a witness. No information on her age or cause **of** death was immediately available.

The discovery sparked new concern in the community **of** 20,000, where **fears of** a **serial** killer have led residents to demand more police protection as the case confounds authorities probing the murders.

Nearby resident Renee Williams, 34, reacted with **fear** and outrage. "It's terrible, just terrible," she said. "I moved over here to get away from Woodward." Williams moved May 18 from an area closer to where several bodies believed to be **serial** killer victims were found earlier this year.

Since December, the bodies **of** nine women have been found in abandoned buildings within several blocks **of** a 1.4-mile stretch **of** Woodward Avenue in Highland Park and Detroit.

Police said the task force that is investigating the **serial killings** will handle this investigation. They also said the building was searched on April 21 and nothing was found.

The ninth victim was found June 15 in an abandoned building at 12223 Woodward. On July 3, police identified her as JoAnn O'Rourke, 40, formerly **of** Muskegon and most recently living in the Detroit area. Authorities said her body apparently had been in the building for more than a month.

Like the eight women before her, O'Rourke had been bound and strangled. Like most **of** the others, she was nude. All were black.

After O'Rourke's body was found, Highland Park Police and Wayne County Sheriff's deputies went door to door in Highland Park asking residents for clues in the slayings. Police said no significant information was uncovered.

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

Sheriff's deputies on horseback also are being used to beef up the city's patrol force. The FBI and Detroit Police also are involved.

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.

Detectives have established two hot lines for tips on the murders. Call sheriff's deputies at 224-2222 anytime, or Highland Park police at 252-0139, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone with information about the identity of the woman found Wednesday can call the medical examiner's office at 224-5643 anytime.

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: DEATH ; HOTLINE ; WOMAN ; HIGHLAND PARK

Record Number: 9201250950

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