

MAN WRONGLY FREED FACES TRIAL IN 2 WOMEN'S DEATHS - RAPIST'S SENTENCE WAS OVERLOOKED HE'S ACCUSED OF MURDER

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A man was ordered to stand trial Tuesday on charges that he murdered two women and stashed their corpses in his Highland Park home.

Michael Lee Anthony -- who should have been in prison when the women were killed, serving a forgotten rape-and-robbery sentence -- will be held without bond until his trial. A date was not set.

A neighbor testified in 30th District Court that she saw **Anthony** and one of the victims, Toya Hill, together often, and as recently as September. "I don't forget nothing, and I'm very nosy," said Donna Lewis, 44.

Anthony, 54, laughed during her testimony, muttering, "They must be paying you good."

Boguslaw Pietak of the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office said Hill, 30, and an unidentified woman had been dead for one to five months when sheriff's deputies found them in **Anthony**'s basement flat on Grove Avenue on Jan. 12. They were responding to a tip.

Mark Haidar, **Anthony**'s lawyer, suggested in court that someone else put the bodies in the basement while **Anthony** was in the hospital nursing an infected hand. He was admitted to the hospital on Dec. 26 and hasn't been home since, Haidar said.

But District Judge William Bledsoe ruled there was enough evidence to have **Anthony** stand trial. Bledsoe said there was no evidence the bodies had been transported, and **Anthony** couldn't have lived in the basement without noticing the stench. One body was concealed in an inoperable freezer near the foot of his bed.

Hill's body was under clothes in a nearby room. Both were asphyxiated, authorities said.

Whatever happens in that case, **Anthony** must serve a 15- to 30-year sentence for the rape and robbery of a Detroit woman in 1991. Because of wide-ranging errors in the Michigan law enforcement system, **Anthony** never served a day of that sentence.

His sentence was overlooked until after his arrest in the deaths of the two women.

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Caption: Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Michael Lee Anthony , right, talks Tuesday with attorney Mark Haidar during his preliminary examination in Highland Park. **Anthony** was ordered to stand trial on murder charges. He also must serve a rape and robbery sentence in a 1991 case.

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