

RAPIST'S FREEDOM TORMENTS VICTIM - MAN CHARGED IN 2 DEATHS FACES RESENTENCING TODAY

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The last time she saw the man who raped her, he was in handcuffs, being led away to prison.

Michael Lee Anthony was supposed to be gone for many, many years.

"I was OK, because he got prosecuted," she said. "I did what I had to do. And I was OK."

But that was then. Today, the woman **Anthony** preyed upon feels like a victim again.

Because of a wide-ranging failure of the Michigan law enforcement system, **Anthony** never served a day of his sentence for raping and robbing the woman on a May morning in 1991.

Nobody noticed.

Not until after Jan. 12, when police found two dead women in **Anthony**'s Highland Park basement. Now he is in jail, charged with their murders. Police still don't know who they are.

Today, **Anthony** is to appear in Wayne County Circuit Court, where a judge -- again -- will order the Michigan Department of Corrections to make **Anthony** serve the prison time he owes. His rape victim says she plans to attend.

"This was supposed to stop. His violence toward women was supposed to stop with me," the woman said in an interview with the Free Press. "I feel like I've just been raped all over again."

She is 36 now, single, and the mother of an 11-year-old son who was an infant when she was raped. She asked that her name not be used to protect her boy from questions at school.

For 11 years, she kept the rape a secret from her mother, coworkers and her son, thinking she'd never have to deal with **Anthony** again. But after being contacted by a reporter Wednesday night, she decided her son needs to know.

Anthony raped her in the darkness of a Sunday morning in May 1991. It was 2:30 a.m. She was parking her car outside an apartment on Whitmore near Palmer Park in Detroit. Two men walked by. Cautious, she stayed in the car until they were up the street.

She got out and one of the men, **Anthony**, ran up and forced her back inside. He jumped in, too. He had a hunting knife, police reports said.

He threatened her.

"As soon as I'm through raping you," she recalls him saying, "I'm going to throw you in the Detroit River."

But first he robbed her of \$12 and her jewelry and drove to buy a dime pack of drugs, according to an investigator's report. He then parked the car on a street where they wouldn't be noticed.

For the next several hours, she said, **Anthony** raped her again and again. "That's all I kept thinking about was I did not want to leave my baby. 'God, do not let me leave the world like this, please.' "

Her son, not a year old, was staying with her brother for the night. But she said she pleaded with **Anthony**, telling him her baby needed to be taken to the hospital and that her boyfriend would be worried about her.

But with the knife, his strength and his temper, **Anthony** maintained control of her -- until he noticed that she reminded him of an ex-girlfriend, she said.

She played on the remark, and over the hours until daylight, she persuaded **Anthony** that she wanted to see him again. There were troubles in her current relationship, she told him.

After daybreak, he told her to drive back to where she had parked earlier and he got out. She asked his name. He said, "Bobby."

When she asked if he was being truthful, she said he showed her identification with his real name. They were supposed to meet again at lunchtime.

Instead, she fled to a friend's house, and the police came.

Anthony told detectives he and the woman knew each other previously, that she wanted to get high and that they had consensual sex. But she stuck to her account, and **Anthony** pleaded guilty to two counts of rape, one count of armed robbery and a charge of being a habitual offender. He had other convictions for rape and drug possession.

In November 1991, Wayne County Circuit Judge Leonard Townsend gave him 15 to 30 years for the woman's rape. That was on top of the 5 to 10 years he had recently been sentenced to by another judge for an assault.

Anthony should have been in prison at least until 2011, prosecutors said. But he got out in 1996 because the Department of Corrections didn't know about the rape-and-robbery sentence. The Corrections Department and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department handled the paperwork. Officials in both departments said they don't know what happened.

In the murder cases, **Anthony** is being held without bond. He faces a preliminary examination Tuesday in Highland Park. The women, whom police believe were asphyxiated late last year, are unidentified. Some families have come forward looking for missing relatives, but the leads didn't pan out.

Earlier this week, **Anthony** did not yet have an attorney.

The woman **Anthony** raped in 1991 says she is angry that no law enforcement officials have contacted her to admit **Anthony** had been mistakenly freed in 1996.

"Oh, my God, they let out a dangerous man," she said. "By the grace of God -- I'm telling you -- his intentions were to kill me that night."

She said she plans to speak today at his resentencing.

"I really feel sorry for the families of these women. That wasn't supposed to happen. It was supposed to stop with me. . . ."

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Caption: Photo

Michael Lee Anthony is held in two Highland Park deaths.

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