

10TH BODY SPURS FEARS OF KILLER

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The possible tenth victim **of** a fast-working serial **killer** was found Wednesday in Highland Park, chilling residents and the man who found her **body** in an abandoned apartment building.

"I just ran. I ran," said DeVal James, 27, who was inside the Highland Court building around 3 p.m., scrounging for scrap.

As James stood outside the building recounting the discovery, he raised his voice to a crowd that had gathered and said, "Look here, whoever's out doing this . . . better stop messing with these women."

Another onlooker voiced the community's desperation.

"Mr. President Bush, could you please help us?" screamed Caroline Amble, 45. "Our children are growing up, our young ladies are growing up, right next to where we find victims **of** a murderer. Please, can you stop the killing?"

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

The Highland Court apartment building at the southeast corner **of** Highland and Hamilton is just three blocks northwest **of** where most **of** the other **bodies** were discovered.

James said he was looking for toilets, sinks and other scrap when an overpowering odor led him to the decomposing **body** on the first floor.

"It scared the hell out **of** me," he said. "I walked right in, and there she was laying on her stomach. . . . She was like laying there as if somebody pushed her over."

James ran down to the basement, climbed out a window and called police. They questioned and released him.

The black woman wore a shirt and skirt, both black, James said. Her face appeared bruised.

Police believe the woman had been dead for at least two months, a high-ranking city official said.

The other victims also were black.

Highland Park Public Safety Director John Mattox would say only that the **body** was female. No cause **of** death was released.

FBI spokesman Hank Glaspie said it is too early to tell whether the latest **body** fits the serial killing pattern. The FBI is helping in the search for the **killer** .

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.

Renee Williams, 34, who lives near the Highland Court apartments, 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.

Police said the Highland Court 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. 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.

After O'Rourke's **body** was found, Highland Park police and Wayne County sheriff's deputies went door to door, hoping residents could provide clues.

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

Porter said Wednesday he may ask state and federal officials for urban crisis money to tear down abandoned buildings in the 2.9-square-mile city.

Porter repeated his belief that the women are being killed elsewhere and being dumped in Highland Park.

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

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.

Caption: Photo Color HUGH GRANNUM; Map ROGER HICKS

: De Val James, left, stands outside the Highland Park building where he found a **body** while looking for scrap. "Look here, whoever's out doing this ... better stop messing with these women," he told the crowd.

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