

Detroit Police arrest man suspected in numerous sexual assaults

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DETROIT -- A parolee has been charged with raping four young women and robbing others he met at bus stops on the city's east side in a string of attacks that go back to December, police said Wednesday.

Anton Cortez Davis, 31, may be involved in another two sexual assaults, said Detroit Police Assistant Chief of Operations Portfolio Robert Dunlap. Investigators have already collected physical evidence that ties **Davis** to some of the attacks, Dunlap said.

The Tuesday arrest comes as the Detroit City Council weighs whether to hire the Wayne County Sheriff's Office to provide security along bus routes.

While police quickly suspected a serial rapist may be at work, it took longer for investigators to realize the same man was also robbing women as well, Dunlap said. Eventually, residents near where he lived were able to identify **Davis**, Dunlap said. Some items he took from the victims also helped investigators find him, Dunlap said without elaborating.

"I think relieved is an understatement," Dunlap said of the arrest. "I'm certain people on the east side and the north-east side are grateful."

The alleged rape victims ranged from 17 to 22 years old, according to the Wayne County prosecutor. Each reported being assaulted during daylight and three of them said he took them to vacant houses.

Authorities said the first attack happened Dec. 4 about 10:30 a.m. when a 22-year-old woman exited a bus on Grand River near West Warren. **Davis** followed the woman and told her he had a gun.

She reported being raped and robbed in an abandoned house in the 4400 block of Humboldt.

Investigators have not tied **Davis** to any other crimes from the rest of December, but they believe he robbed four women in January. Between those incidents, they suspect he sexually assaulted a woman Jan. 15 near Woodhall and Waveny.

On Feb. 6, a 19-year-old woman was waiting for a bus near Six Mile and Gratiot when **Davis** pointed a gun at her through a pocket, authorities said. He assaulted and robbed her in a vacant house in the 13000 block of Tacoma, authorities said.

Davis robbed two other women on Feb. 14 and Feb. 19, police believe.

The next day, **Davis** raped a 17-year-old who was waiting for a bus at Warren and Grand River at 8 a.m., authorities said. He told the girl he had a weapon and took her to a vacant house in the 5200 block of 15th Street, the prosecutor said.

After another robbery in early March, **Davis** allegedly raped another 17-year-old March 18, police believe.

In that case, the girl exited a bus near Seven Mile and Dequindre about 4 p.m. when **Davis** forced into a garage on Hull Street, the prosecutor said.

As the assaults poured in, police formed a task force to probe the cases, monitor certain bus stops and distribute sketches of the assailant.

"Each victim quickly the crimes to the police, giving them the information needed to capture this vicious predator," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy in a statement.

Davis, who was arrested in the 4200 block of Guilford, has not made any statements, authorities said. He is scheduled to be arraigned on charges of criminal sexual conduct, armed robbery and using a firearm Wednesday in Detroit's 36th District Court. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

Davis was convicted of two counts of felonious assault and felony firearm stemming from an April 1999 attack. He became a fugitive parolee March 26, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

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