

SERIAL RAPE SUSPECT CHARGED IN 5 MORE ATTACKS

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A suspect in a series of rapes was charged Wednesday in five additional attacks on women in Detroit and Harper Woods - bringing the total number of suspected cases to eight in the last eight months, prosecutors said.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy said investigators are looking for more victims of the man who is suspected of approaching young black women, and luring or forcing them into his car, where they were transported to a home in Harper Woods and assaulted.

Dennis Whitsett, 30, of Detroit was arraigned Wednesday in two sexual assault cases in 32A District Court in Harper Woods and is expected to be arraigned today in three other cases in Detroit.

"He sought the same type of victim and violently assaulted them. ... Make no mistake, he is a serial predator," Worthy said in a statement.

According to Worthy, **Whitsett** has been charged in eight attacks on young women from Dec. 6 until July 27. On Wednesday, he was charged with kidnapping, assault with intent to commit second-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of being a habitual offender in connection with the attack of an 18-year-old woman Dec. 6 in Harper Woods.

He also was charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping in connection with the July 20 attack on a 15-year-old girl in Harper Woods.

Whitsett could receive life in prison if convicted of sexual assault and kidnapping.

(SIDEBAR)

To report a crime

Anyone who may have been a victim of sexual attack is asked to call the Detroit police Sex Crimes Unit at 313-596-1950 or Harper Woods police at 313-343-2530 anytime.

Contact CECIL ANGEL at 313-223-4531 or angel@freepress.com.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Dennis Whitsett** of Detroit

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