



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

March 21st, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Former Delaware Man Formally Charged for 2006 Rapes

Newark Police have formally charged John Paul Thomas, of Louisiana, for two separate rapes and a burglary incident, all occurring in October of 2006.

Thomas has been in the custody of Louisiana Authorities since his arrest on September 3rd, 2010. In August of 2012, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison for an Attempted Rape in Lafayette Louisiana.

Through an extradition order signed by Governors in both states, Thomas was transferred to Howard R. Young Correctional in Delaware on March 20th and formally arrested at that facility by detectives from the Newark Police Department on March 21st, 2013. Thomas was arraigned through JP Court and held on \$251,000 secured bail. He will be held by the Department of Corrections until his Delaware charges are adjudicated.

The following is a synopsis of events from original press release dated September 9th, 2010:

October 8, 2006: Around 5:30 a.m. a rape occurred in the first block of Wilbur Street, Newark. The 19 year-old victim was asleep in her bedroom and was awoken by a male stranger. The suspect forcibly raped the victim, then left the house. Evidence collected as part of the investigation included the suspect's DNA.

October 28, 2006: Around 5:00 a.m. a rape occurred in the 100 block of Haines Street, Newark. The 20 year-old victim was asleep on a couch and was awoken by a male stranger. The suspect moved the victim to a nearby bedroom, forcibly raped the victim, then left the house. Evidence collected as part of the investigation included the suspect's DNA.

January 23, 2007: Newark Police are made aware by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner that the same suspect was the source of the DNA from both rapes.

January 26, 2007: Around 2:15 a.m. an attempted burglary occurred at the residence of a female victim in Lafayette, LA. Entry to the house was unsuccessful. Evidence collected as part of the investigation included the suspect's DNA from blood left at the attempted point of entry.

July 20, 2009: Newark Police are notified by Lafayette Police that the unidentified suspect's DNA from the 1/26/07 attempted burglary is a match to the unidentified suspect's DNA in the two Newark rapes from October 2006. The match is discovered by a hit through the national DNA database, known as CODIS.

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us.



PRESS RELEASE, Continued

December 23, 2009: A rape occurred in Lafayette, LA. Evidence collected as part of the investigation included the suspect's DNA.

January 2010: Newark Police detectives travel to Lafayette, LA to discuss and compare the related cases. Newark Police detectives interview persons connected to the LA incidents.

February 2010: Newark Police are notified by Lafayette Police that the unknown suspect's DNA from the 12/23/09 rape is a match to the unknown suspect's DNA from the earlier incidents.

March 2010: John Thomas is arrested for a domestic-related crime in Lafayette, LA. Part of the arrest processing for the domestic-related crime is mandatory submission of a DNA sample.

September 1, 2010: Newark Police are notified by Lafayette Police that the DNA of John Thomas is a match to the DNA from the four earlier cases.

September 2, 2010: Newark Police detectives fly to Lafayette, LA. Plans are made for the arrest of John Thomas.

September 3, 2010: Officers from the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marshall's Office pick up John Thomas from his place of employment aboard an oil rig off the Louisiana Coast. He was brought to the Lafayette Police Department, where he was charged with Attempted Rape and Burglary in that jurisdiction.

The following was not included in original timeline as it was not known at the time of that release:

Following his arrest by Lafayette Police, NPD officers obtained Thomas' fingerprints. These fingerprints were compared to fingerprints lifted during crime scene processing of a burglary occurring at approximately 4:50am on October 8th, 2006 in the 200 block of East Park Place. During that incident a female resident was awakened by an unknown male suspect who was rubbing her arm. The female resident pushed the male out of the home and reported the incident to NPD the following morning.

Defendant: John Paul Thomas (DOB 12/15/83)

**Charges: 2 cts. Rape 1st
2 cts Burglary 1st
1 ct Burglary 2nd
1 ct Offensive Touching**

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