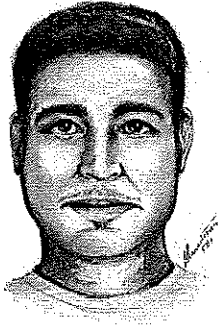


Police: Description of man who raped nanny may match earlier case

Ariana Sawyer and Holly Meyer, hmeyer@tennessean.com 7:16 p.m. CDT August 5, 2016



(Photo: MNP)

The man who police say [raped an 18-year-old nanny \(/story/news/crime/2016/08/04/police-man-raped-18-year-old-hamilton-creek-recreation-center/88276520/\)](#) while she was caring for 3-year-old twins Thursday evening may fit the description of a man from a previous Nashville sexual assault case.

The victim in that case was a 29-year-old Hickory Trace apartment resident who left her keys in the front door of her apartment on Hickory Hollow Place on July 20, Metro police said.

The suspect entered the apartment and woke the woman, choking and raping her before fleeing. He was described as a man of Hispanic descent, 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 7 inches and wearing a black shirt and red shorts.

Victims in both cases worked with a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation sketch artist to produce a drawing of their attackers, and police said Friday the attacker from about two weeks ago has the same general description as the man in Thursday's attack.

The teen described Thursday's attacker as Hispanic, 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches and wearing khaki pants, a black shirt with possible black stripes and sunglasses, police said. He drove a four-door black sedan with a spoiler, tinted windows and factory wheels.

She was attacked and raped at the Hamilton Creek Recreation Center off Bell Road, police said.

The suspect followed the teen and the children as they walked from the swings to the BMX bike track. During the attack, the teen told the children to run away. She fought back and lost a tooth in the struggle.



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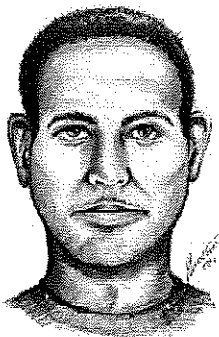
[Police: Nanny raped, tells kids to flee; suspect sought](#)

[\(http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/04/police-man-raped-18-year-old-hamilton-creek-recreation-center/88276520/\)](http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/04/police-man-raped-18-year-old-hamilton-creek-recreation-center/88276520/)

When the community talks about the 18-year-old nanny, they should validate her experience and praise her for keeping the 3-year-old twins in her care safe, said [Jessica Labenberg \(http://www.sacenter.org/support/volunteer\)](#), an advocacy services coordinator at Nashville's Sexual Assault Center.

But it's key to understand that there is no right or wrong way for a victim to respond to an attack, [Labenberg \(http://www.sacenter.org/support/volunteer\)](#) said. One of the most common physiological reactions staff at the center see among victims is not fight or flight, but to freeze.

"There's also all sorts of different responses to a trauma and to a sexual assault," Labenberg said. "She did an amazing job of keeping her kids safe and her actions afterward, but across the board freeze is a common reaction."



Kathy Walsh, the executive director of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, called the case horrific.

"This happened during the day, at a park, while other people were around," Walsh said. "That's very bold."

The case reminded her of a similar incident 28 years ago, on her first day of work with the coalition, when a woman was raped in a parking lot downtown at 8:30 in the morning.

"You're really not safe anywhere," she said. But she noted that people are much more likely to be attacked by someone they know — an acquaintance, a family member, a friend.

In at least 80 percent of sexual assaults, the offender is known to the victim, Labenberg said.

Police released a sketch of the man who they said raped an 18-year-old woman Aug 4, 2016. (Photo: MNPD)

The Sexual Assault Center offers resources for survivors and anyone interested in wanting to know how to support victims and prevention efforts, she said. More information is available on the center's website, [sacenter.org](http://www.sacenter.org) (<http://www.sacenter.org/home>).

"As a community we can join together and say this shouldn't be happening and wanting to hold offenders accountable. It creates a space of support for others to come forward. There's a lot that we can do as individuals in supporting our friends and our families and our loved ones," Labenberg said.

And Walsh said it's important to recognize that it is never the victim's fault and to stop asking where the victim was or what the victim was wearing. As a society, "we should really be focusing on what makes someone a rapist," she said.

The Metro Sex Crimes Unit is asking anyone who knows of a man driving a vehicle with the above description to immediately contact them at 615-862-7540 or Crime Stoppers at 615-742-7463. Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and qualify for a cash reward.

Spanish-speaking operators are available.

Reach Ariana Sawyer at 615-815-5933 and on Twitter @a_maia_sawyer. Reach Holly Meyer at 615-259-8241 and on Twitter @HollyAMeyer.

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