

Oklahoma City police officer accused of sexual battery, rape

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- Daniel Ken Holtzclaw was arrested around 3 p.m. on Thursday after a judge approved a probable cause arrest warrant.

Holtzclaw had worked for the Oklahoma City Police Department for three years. He worked in the Spring Lake Division.

Police Chief Bill Citty made the announcement Thursday afternoon. He said there are at least seven victims in the case, all black women.

The Oklahoma County District Attorney's office anticipated first-degree charges of rape by instrumentation, forcible oral sodomy, sexual battery and indecent exposure.

Video: Police officer accused of sexual battery, rape

Citty said the victims were forced to expose themselves, fondle themselves and one of the women was raped. Citty said several of the women were forced to perform oral sex on Holtzclaw.

"Traffic stops, some of the individuals were actually just walking," Citty said. "Walking in their neighborhood and they were stopped, you know, searched, threatened in some way with arrest or something to that extent. And as a result of that, actually coerced them into providing sexual favors to him."

Citty said they want to be open about this investigation as the department works to rebuild trust.

"I have to hope that most of the community realizes that our officers, 99.9 percent of them are trustworthy, and when something like this happens the officers take it very personally," Citty said.

Alitia Timmons is representing the 57-year-old grandmother who first came forward with allegations that Officer Daniel Holtzclaw forced her to perform oral sex during a traffic stop in June.

The incident reportedly happened near the intersection of NE 50th Street and Lincoln Boulevard.

"She was really, really fragile," Timmons said. "She was scared to leave her house, when she was driving and she saw a police officer drive by it would terrorize her and she has

been piecing herself together.”

She spoke outside the Higher Ground Baptist Church, which is less than two miles where Holtzclaw was stationed. Assault victims gathered inside the church, but asked for privacy.

Following the Police Department’s response, NAACP President Anthony Douglas urged other women in the community to come forward if they feel they’ve been a victim of similar crimes.

“Tell somebody, but come forward. We will protect you, and we will back you 100 percent,” Douglas said.

Holtzclaw was on the force for three years before he was arrested. He is being held in jail on a \$5 million dollar bond.