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Detroit police officer charged in sexual assaults

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By: Anu Prakash

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (WXYZ) - Detroit police officer Geoffrey Townsend is behind bars and suspended from the department after accusations he sexually assaulted a girl between the ages of 13 and 16.

Prosecutors say Townsend met the girl through Reality Check Detroit, a non-profit crime prevention program for at risk kids. The website says Townsend founded the organization.

Investigators say the sexual assaults happened at Townsend's Farmington Hills home between

October 2010 and August 2012.

No one answered when 7 Action News knocked on the door at Townsend's home and neighbors didn't want to comment on the arrest.

It's not clear what tipped off police to start their investigation.

According to the Reality Check Detroit's website, Townsend is called "one of Detroit's unsung heroes." It says he "has a sincere desire to see young people avoid the criminal justice system."

But now he's the one on the other side of the law, locked up on a \$25,000 bond.

The Oakland County prosecutor says she's concerned there could be additional victims out there and wants them to call Farmington Hills police.

Townsend is expected in court again on Friday for another hearing.

We left a message with his attorney, but haven't received a call back yet.

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