

Sex abuse case against former Detroit police officer continues

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Closing arguments will begin Thursday morning in the sex abuse case against a former Detroit police officer.

Geoffrey Townsend, 46, is charged with six counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct for acts said to have occurred at his Farmington Hills home.

Townsend met the two alleged victims in this case through Reality Check Detroit, a boot camp he ran for troubled teens. A total of five teenage girls came forward with allegations against Townsend, and all five testified.

Two of the teenagers were 16 at the time of the alleged contact. One of the accusers said the contact occurred in Detroit, while the other four had contact with Townsend at his home.

The abuse involving at least one of the victims took place between October 2010 and August 2012, according to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

Following an extended break for the holiday weekend, the trial resumed Wednesday with testimony from several witnesses called by defense attorney John Brusstar.

All of the witnesses called Wednesday had some connection to Reality Check Detroit.

"I think he is an outstanding young man who is living out his purpose ... helping families heal," said Sherrian Greenwood, who had a child who went through the program.

Greenwood now works with Reality Check Detroit.

"The change that I've seen in the children is absolutely amazing," Greenwood said.

Greenwood said she never heard of anything negative taking place at the camp.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Tricia Dare asked Greenwood if one-on-one sleepovers at Townsend's home were part of the program. Greenwood said the sleepovers and other one-on-one trips, such as visits to the mall or the movies, are approved beforehand by parents.

Five people have complained about Townsend.

"To have five complaints in over 3,000 (participants) is an excellent success rate," Greenwood said.

Many of Wednesday's witnesses were children who participated in the program — several of whom described their relationship with Townsend as a father-son relationship.

After calling eight witnesses Wednesday afternoon, the defense rested.

Townsend, who was arrested in March and resigned from the Detroit Police Department in April, chose not to testify.

