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By Valerie D. Lockhart
SUN EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A horrific video of Cedric Gibson Jr., a 30-year-old man pleasuring himself behind a young girl at a bus stop on Eight Mile and Meyers, has female residents in the area issuing a call for action due to slow police response to a sexual predator.

“If we’re not going to stand up and protect the black woman then who is going to do it? It will not be done, unless we do it,” activist Minister Malik Shabazz said. “You

help him. The state should be sending someone to his house. He should be monitored for life, instead of walking away after six months. I don’t want him in jail, because he’s very disturbed.”

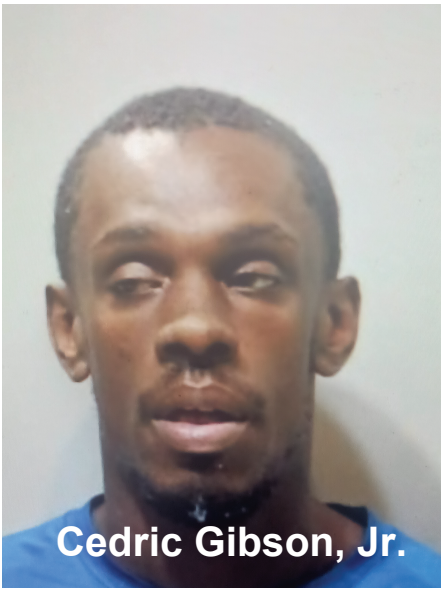
Some women offered help to others by driving alongside women walking home to protect them, ensuring the perpetrator does not cause additional harm.

Although police admit to receiving several calls from area businesses regarding the same suspect, no reports were reportedly filed and no investigations were conducted.

“We were just in Chicago with the case of Sonya Massey, who was assassinated by police officers. The point is that we’ve got to protect our women”, Sam Riddle political director of National Action Network said. “That means bringing to bear the resources in the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan and the federal government. Those three entities can combine to bring resources to treat those in need of treatment. We encourage you to stand with these women and young girls. Detroit deserves better. And, all of you running for president, be willing to hit the real streets of Detroit. Not the safe streets of booshwah. Be ready to do that or don’t ask for a vote. If you’re spending millions of dollars on TV commercials, spend some of that in Detroit. Police can only apprehend. We’ve got to work with the police to help them to do their job.”

Gibson is currently in the Wayne County Jail. He was arraigned on Aug. 13 and given a \$20,000 bond. When released he will be required to wear a tether and take prescribed medication for an undisclosed mental illness.

Residents said, “The police do not take our complaints seriously. It’s time for us to take action to protect each other and girls walking to and from school.”



Cedric Gibson, Jr.

don’t have to have a Benz. You don’t have to have gold. You don’t have to have a great job to protect women. All you have to do is to have a heart and get up and stand up wherever you see that our sisters need help.”

Gibson is charged with aggravated indecent exposure and faces up to 2 years in prison and a \$2,000 fine if convicted.

Mary Waters, Detroit Councilmember At-Large, says jail is not the answer for those who are mentally ill.

“We have to do something about mental illness. We have to do something at the city level, and we certainly have to do something at the state level,” Waters said. “I’m calling on the state today to help us replace that mental health facility that we use to have here in the city of Detroit, a long time ago, so that people can get the help that they need. We’ve got to protect our women trying to go to work and other places.”

Witnesses say it took the police about 45 minutes to respond to calls for help, with one unit shrugging off the incident despite viewing the video. The incident was not the only one committed by the perpetrator, who lives in the neighborhood with his parents.

Gibson faced three charges for 4th-degree criminal sexual conduct in 2015. He was sentenced to 2 years probation, which he violated at least twice.

Nearby residents said the incident on July 29 was the final straw.

Attorney Michael Fortner, of Spectrum Legal Services, is assisting residents with their complaints.

“I’m here to support the women in the community and to help them to feel safe in their neighborhood. Police and the justice department must think about the well-being of citizens living nearby this young man when sentencing him. He should not be able to return home with just a slap on his hand to commit another crime,” Fortner said.

Several calls for police assistance were reportedly made over the last 6 months involving Gibson inappropriately grabbing the buttocks of women in the area and following some of them home.

“We pay taxes, and we’re not safe here,” Martina Evans, a resident, said. “Our community is doing the best we can do. Help us to

Activist Minister Malik Shabazz, who was recently released from a rehabilitation center, listens to the concerns of residents and a business owner.

