Wayne Co. Prosecutor Worthy to discuss untested rape kits on national TV

Detroit — Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy is scheduled to appear on national television Thursday to discuss the thousands of untested rape kits discovered three years ago in the Detroit Police property room.

Worthy is scheduled to appear on NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams, which is set to air at 10 p.m. Thursday.

"The show will focus on the 11,303 untested rape kits discovered in August of 2009 during a tour of a Detroit Police Department property storage warehouse," a press release from the Prosecutor's Office said. "The piece will also focus on the work of the Detroit Sexual Assault Kit Action Research Project to address the problem and create a national protocol for other jurisdictions that encounter this issue across the nation."

One case that will be highlighted involves convicted rapist Eric Taliaferro, who was sentenced Tuesday. Evidence that was collected following an August 1998 rape was found during a tour of the Detroit Police Department warehouse in August 2009.

"When the evidence was tested there was a DNA match with the defendant," the press release said.

Taliaferro pleaded no contest to two counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct, and on Tuesday he was sentenced to 15 to 30 years in prison.

"Fourteen years ago the victim in this case was sexually assaulted and, because her untested rape kit sat ignored in an evidence warehouse, Mr. Taliaferro walked free," Worthy said in the statement. "Now Taliaferro has lost his freedom. It is fitting that he will serve just over a year in prison for each year that the rape sat on the shelf."

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