

Man Arrested Decades Later in Cold Rape Cases After DNA Match

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– Categories: Crime



After more than twenty years without answers, authorities in Jacksonville, Florida, have arrested a man believed to be responsible for three separate rapes that took place between 2000 and 2002.

Jason Leonard Blount, a 52-year-old resident of Orlando, was taken into custody earlier this month. Investigators say he faces multiple charges of sexual battery tied to crimes that had haunted victims and law enforcement for decades.

Each assault involved a different woman and occurred at separate locations across Jacksonville. According to officials, one attack happened while a woman was jogging near Baymeadows. Another occurred near a tennis court, and the third took place inside a private home. In each case, the suspect vanished before authorities could identify him.

For years, the investigations stalled. The cases were considered cold, but the evidence never disappeared. Detectives preserved DNA samples from each crime scene, storing them carefully with the hope that advances in technology or new information could one day shed light on who committed the assaults.

That moment came recently when the preserved DNA evidence was run through a national database as part of an ongoing effort to revisit unresolved sexual assault cases. The results pointed to Blount.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, in a public statement, called the arrest a significant breakthrough that brings a measure of relief and hope to the survivors, who had waited decades for justice.

"These are cases that weigh heavily on investigators, and most importantly, on the victims," the statement read. "We are committed to using every resource to bring closure and accountability, no matter how much time has passed."

Blount is currently being held without bond. Court records indicate he will face formal charges of sexual battery. It is not yet clear whether he has entered a plea or retained legal counsel.

This arrest underscores how critical it is to preserve evidence, even when cases go cold. For the victims and their families, it offers a reminder that no matter how long it takes, investigators continue searching for the truth.

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