



# AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Office of Public Information

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May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 18-YEAR-OLD AURORA MAN CHARGED IN MULTIPLE ATTACKS ON WOMEN

An 18-year-old Aurora man has been arrested and charged with multiple felonies in connection to at least four attacks on different women in Aurora over the past month.

Detectives began investigating the case after they received a report from a female in her late 40's of a battery by a man in the 400 block of North Titsworth Avenue on April 17th at approximately 10 a.m. The victim told detectives she was walking home when she noticed that a man was following her. After a short time, the male approached her and grabbed her buttocks with both hands. The woman used an umbrella she was carrying to strike the male, and he fled the area.

Six days later, on April 23rd, Aurora Police officers were called to a report of a sexual assault in the 500 block of East Benton Street at 11:00 p.m. The woman in her 50's told officers that a man followed her into a backyard, grabbed the back of her neck, forced her to the ground and attempted to sexually assault her. The victim struggled and was able to break free, and the man fled from the area.

Seven days later, on April 30th, Aurora Police were called to the area of Kensington Place and Elmwood Avenue after a woman in her 20's reported that a man had assaulted her. The victim told officers that a man approached her from behind and grabbed her waist with both hands. The victim lunged forward, and the male fled the area.

Two days later, on May 3rd, officers received another report from a woman in her late teens. She told officers that she was walking in the 500 block of Second Avenue when a male approached her from behind and grabbed her buttocks with both hands and then fled the area on foot. Officers on patrol spotted a man matching the description of the offender in the area and detained him. The victim was able to positively identify the man who assaulted her as 18-year-old Zion Banks of the 200 block of T Street in Aurora.

Detectives from the Aurora Police Department interviewed each victim, spoke to potential witnesses, and collected physical evidence and video from the area of the incidents and were able to link Banks to all four incidents.

Detectives reviewed the details of the investigation and evidence in the case with the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, who authorized the following charges against Banks:

Three Class 3 Felony charges of Aggravated Battery (Public Way)

One Class 2 Felony charge of Attempted Criminal Sexual Assault (Force/Threat of Force)

One Class 4 Felony charge of Unlawful Restraint

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Aurora Police Department  
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## One Criminal Misdemeanor charge of Obstructing Identification

Detectives are also investigating a similar incident that occurred on April 28th in the area of Garfield Avenue and Chestnut Street.

Detectives believe that Banks may be connected to similar assaults that occurred in the Aurora area in the past several months that were possibly not reported to police. If you believe you were a victim of a similar crime or have any information regarding a potential assault, please call the Aurora Police Investigations Division at (630) 256-5500.

“The solving of these cases exemplifies what can be accomplished when members of the Aurora Department work together with citizens and the Kane County State's Attorney's Office to address crime issues within our community,” Aurora Police Investigative Division Lt. Robb Wallers said. “The teamwork displayed in this investigation between our patrol officers, crime analyst, and investigators was crucial in the offender being apprehended before someone was seriously injured.”

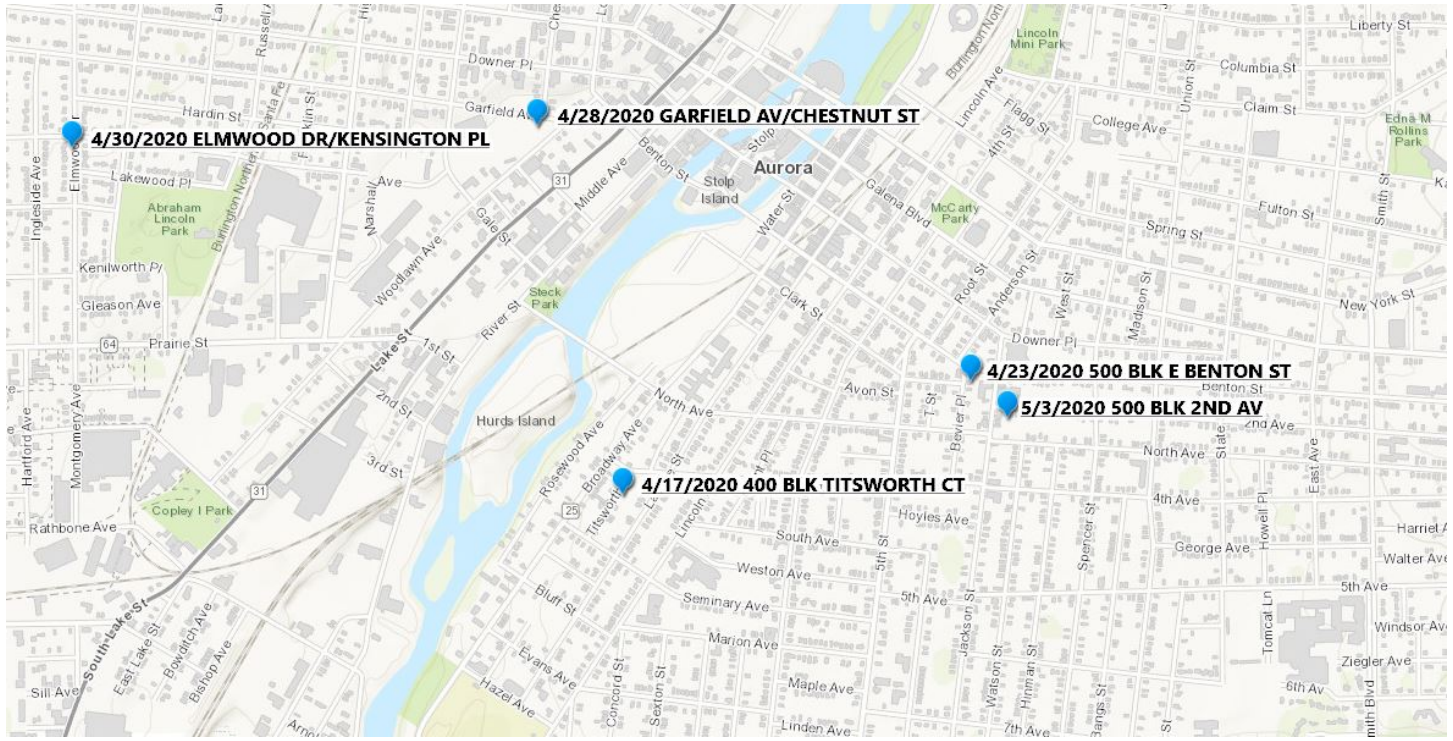
Charges are not proof of guilt. The defendant listed in this release is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which it is the burden of the State to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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*(APD Reports: AUPR20004518, AUPR20004755, AUPR20004911, AUPR20005042)*



Zion Banks  
*Aurora Police Department*



Aurora Police Department  
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