

## Man on Crimestoppers billboard arrested in Houston

**Terrytown man arrested in wife's death**

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**By Paul Purpura**

A Terrytown man accused of slashing his estranged wife to death last year, ignoring a protective order she obtained against him, has been arrested in Houston, authorities said.

Don Jordan, 47, faces a charge of second-degree murder in the Nov. 28 death of Ashley Ruffin, 35, who was stabbed about 19 times in the Wall Boulevard apartment she moved to in Harvey after leaving the Terrytown home they shared, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office said.

Acting on a tip received by an acquaintance of Jordan's, Houston Police Department tactical officers arrested Johnson on Oct. 2 at a motel where he had been staying, interim Sheriff Newell Normand said Wednesday.

He was arrested without incident while leaving the motel in an SUV.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office detectives were in Houston on Wednesday and are expected to bring Jordan back Friday for booking, Normand said.

If indicted and convicted of the charge, Jordan would face a mandatory life sentence in prison. Court records show Ruffin got a restraining order against Jordan on June 6, 2006, forbidding him to contact her or get within 100 feet of her. She alleged Jordan physically and emotionally abused her, according to records.

A Jefferson Parish magistrate judge later upgraded the restraining order to a protective order that would have been in effect through next year, according to records.

Yet her co-workers said he came to the Algiers hair salon where she worked the day of her death. The Morningside Drive home they shared was set on fire two days after her death, but Normand said Wednesday that detectives had no information linking Jordan to the blaze. Jordan has a history of domestic abuse. He was booked with raping his ex-fiancee in 1992 and pleaded guilty to forcible rape the following year. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison and is a registered sex offender.

He and Ruffin had been a couple for about two years before her death. They moved to the West Bank after their 9th Ward home was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina.

After Ruffin's death, Jordan was one of several suspects highlighted by Crimestoppers in its billboard program, in which large photos of the area's most wanted are plastered along main thoroughfares. Normand said Wednesday he was unsure whether Jordan's placement on billboards played a role in the arrest.

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