Ohio woman, 68, recounts brutal beating from her hospital bed

Video: Beverly Johnson was beaten and left for nearly dead during a robbery in the parking lot of a radiology facility in Springfield.

By PARESH DAVE contact the reporter

SHARELINES

68-year-old beating victim speaks out to warn others to be vigilant of surroundings

Police in Ohio search for man who beat, mugged woman, 68

A badly beaten 68-year-old Ohio woman, her face fractured and pummeled to black and purple, decided to recount her ordeal Friday in a stouthearted televised interview to warn other senior citizens to be vigilant of their surroundings.
As far as robberies go, to pick on an elderly female like that -- he got her good. He caught her completely off guard. I don't think she could've expected this.

- Springfield Police Lt. Jeff Meyer

George Frost, her 47-year-old son on the other end of the phone, heard the attacker repeatedly tell Johnson to put her face down on the seat. Johnson said she thought she was going to get shot.

But the robber fled to his own vehicle after taking her wallet, with credit cards and $40, along with her purse, car keys and a SafeLink Wireless government-subsidized phone, Meyer said. A witness did not get a look at the robber's face.

With blood gushing into her hands, Johnson said, she ran into the Springfield Imaging Center, where she had checked in earlier. She collapsed in front of the counter.

Frost heard “thumping rap music” through the phone -- the robber apparently not realizing it was still on, Meyer said. Frost told The Times that he also heard the robber have a conversation in which he referred to the mugging of an "old girl." He stopped listening when he received a call from an imaging center worker, who told him what had happened.

"When I saw her, she was unrecognizable," Frost said by phone as his mother was being discharged Friday night. "She is on a fixed income, having car troubles, falling down a lot and needing X-rays and then you have some knucklehead taking her last $40 from her."

The case doesn’t match any recent robberies and police are still investigating, Meyer said.

"Hopefully, someone will have the heart after seeing what’s happened to her to come forward," Frost said.

Meyer wasn't sure if detectives had tried to track the phone, but Frost said SafeLink told him that they couldn’t track it. He said that
his mother was being issued a new phone but that SafeLink said it was unable to roll over the thousands of extra minutes she had purchased.

The imaging center is located on a former hospital on the site, Meyer said, and is now a lightly-trafficked area, which may have made it attractive to the attacker.

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