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# Chief: Officer charged with sexual battery on woman he arrested

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ORLANDO, Fla. — An Orlando police officer has been arrested and charged with sexual battery after he had a "sexual encounter" with a woman he arrested before taking her to jail, Orlando Police Chief Paul Rooney said Monday.

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Rooney said the officer, 20-year veteran Roderick Johnson, arrested a woman several weeks ago and took her to a location where the battery occurred before taking her to the Orange County booking and release center.

Rooney said the woman came forward several days later.

"I want the Orlando community and its citizens to know that the Orlando Police Department remains committed to keeping the actions of its employees transparent," said Rooney.

Johnson was relieved of duty without pay. He was charged with sexual battery by a law enforcement officer, which is a first-degree felony.

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Ronald Parramore has known the officer for 20 years and said Johnson has been an upstanding figure in the community and helped change the way people view the police.

"I did not respect the police whatsoever 20 years ago; they could tell me nothing," Parramore said. "Rod Johnson taught me how to respect the policemen."

In 2009, Johnson was suspended for one week for allegedly using excessive force on a juvenile. He was also accused of destroying a department laptop.

Johnson made bail Monday night and was escorted out of jail with the protection of guards and under the cover of a white towel to hide his face.

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