



Ex-Methuen officer won't face 2nd rape trial

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METHUEN - Prosecutors say a former Methuen police officer whose rape conviction was overturned by the state's highest court will not face a second trial because the alleged victim has refused to testify.

The Eagle-Tribune reports that charges against David Blache were dropped Monday before his second trial was scheduled to begin.

The Essex district attorney's office said in a statement that the woman decided it is not "in her best interest ... to participate in a second trial."

Blache was convicted in 2002 of raping a Haverhill woman in 2000 while he was on duty. He said the sex was consensual. The Supreme Judicial Court overturned the conviction in 2008, citing faulty jury instructions on determining whether the alleged victim was intoxicated.

Blache refused comment through his brother.

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