

Officer already serving his time

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JOHNSTOWN - Convicted rapist and former city Patrolman Adam Schwabrow is serving jail time ahead of his May 13 sentencing, but not in the Fulton County Jail.

Schwabrow began serving time in the Warren County Jail in Lake George in late March, Fulton County Sheriff Thomas Lorey said Monday.

Lorey recently got permission from the state Commission of Correction to send Schwabrow to the Warren County Jail as a "substitute jail."

Article Photos



Adam Schwabrow

Lorey said the first period of Schwabrow's incarceration in Warren County will run from March 17 to May 17.

Lorey said he has to keep applying to the state every few months and anticipates reapplying.

Schwabrow, 32, pleaded guilty March 4 in Fulton County Court to raping a 16-year-old girl in May 2011 and is expected to be sentenced May 13 to a year in jail.

The sheriff said he sent Schwabrow to the Warren County Jail instead of the Fulton County Jail for the safety of the former officer, who served the Johnstown Police Department for nine years.

"Obviously, there are people in our facility that he has been dealing with as a police officer," Lorey said.

The sheriff said Schwabrow probably asked to begin his sentence - likely to include three months off for good behavior - early so he could be out by the holidays. With good behavior, Schwabrow, who is a state-registered sex offender, could be released by Christmas.

Schwabrow, of 301 S. Perry St., had been free on \$5,000 cash bail. After he pleaded guilty in March to a felony third-degree rape count before acting Fulton County Court Judge Peter Feldstein, he resigned as a police officer.

Schwabrow was charged Sept. 19 by his own department with third-degree rape, commonly known as statutory rape. Schwabrow could have faced

1 1/3 to four years in state prison for the charge.

Schwabrow had also served as director of the Montgomery County Emergency Management Office, but the county replaced him after his arrest.

Defense attorney Michael McDermott of Albany said in March that Schwabrow has no fear of being an ex-police officer incarcerated among criminals and was "confident he will serve his time and move on."

McDermott said Monday, "As far as I know, [the decision to move Schwabrow to Warren County] was a decision by the sheriff for their own reasons. It didn't have anything to do with us."

McDermott said it is common for a convicted person - as Schwabrow became March 4 - to begin serving their time before sentencing.

In his client's case, he said an arrangement was made with Fulton County Court after Schwabrow pleaded guilty to allow Schwabrow to get a "head start" on his incarceration.

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