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## Ex-Deputy Pleads Guilty in Deal

**Garcia faces 4 years probation on two official misconduct charges.**

By [Cody Dulaney](#)

THE LEDGER

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BARTOW | A former sheriff's deputy pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of official misconduct, which stems from arresting women and offering them deals if they exposed themselves.

Julio Jose Garcia will be sentenced Dec. 19. He faces four years of probation.

After investigating complaints from two women he had arrested, the Polk County Sheriff's Office fired Garcia, 27, on April 11.

During a November 2013 interview with detectives, a 24-year-old woman said Garcia offered to get her out of felony grand theft charges if she flashed her vagina and breasts, and thinking he would help, she briefly exposed herself in the backseat of his patrol car, according to arrest reports.

The Ledger is not identifying the woman, in keeping with its policy of not naming the victims of alleged sex crimes.

The woman's hands were cuffed in front of her body because of a broken wrist, which allowed her to pull her clothing aside.

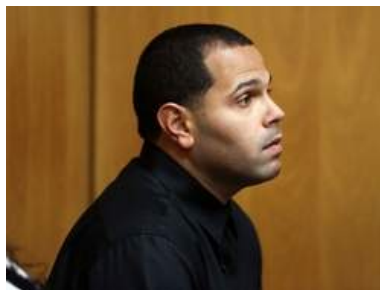
The report said Garcia never touched her or asked to touch her.

The following day, detectives tried to interview Garcia about the alleged incident but he declined to speak without a lawyer present, the report states.

On Jan. 2, a 30-year-old woman told detectives Garcia arrested her on felony charges in June 2013, but said he might be able to help her.

While searching her for anything illegal, Garcia put his hand in the woman's shorts and patted the outside of her genitals for several seconds, according to reports. He then asked her to shake out her shirt to make sure nothing was hidden in her breasts.

The woman told detectives Garcia then drove her to an abandoned building in Lakeland, asked her again whether she had anything illegal and then told her to unbutton her shorts, the report said.



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Julio Garcia waits for his hearing to begin Tuesday in Bartow. The former deputy was accused of touching women in his custody and lying about his whereabouts while on duty.

She told detectives he reached inside her shorts and touched her, the report said, and she believed Garcia would let her go in exchange for not reporting his actions.

But then he told her to button her shorts and he took her to the jail in Bartow.

Detectives conducted a five-day undercover surveillance of Garcia in January and found that he left his assigned patrol area in Mulberry numerous times and falsified records.

Garcia was originally charged with two counts of unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, two counts of displaying a firearm during a felony offense and two counts of official misconduct, according to court documents.

In exchange for a guilty plea on two counts of official misconduct, the state dropped the remaining charges against him.

Garcia was hired by the Sheriff's Office in August 2011. His yearly salary was \$40,252.

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