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# Cleveland police officer pleads guilty to sex crimes against 13-year-old boy



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By: Bretton Keenan

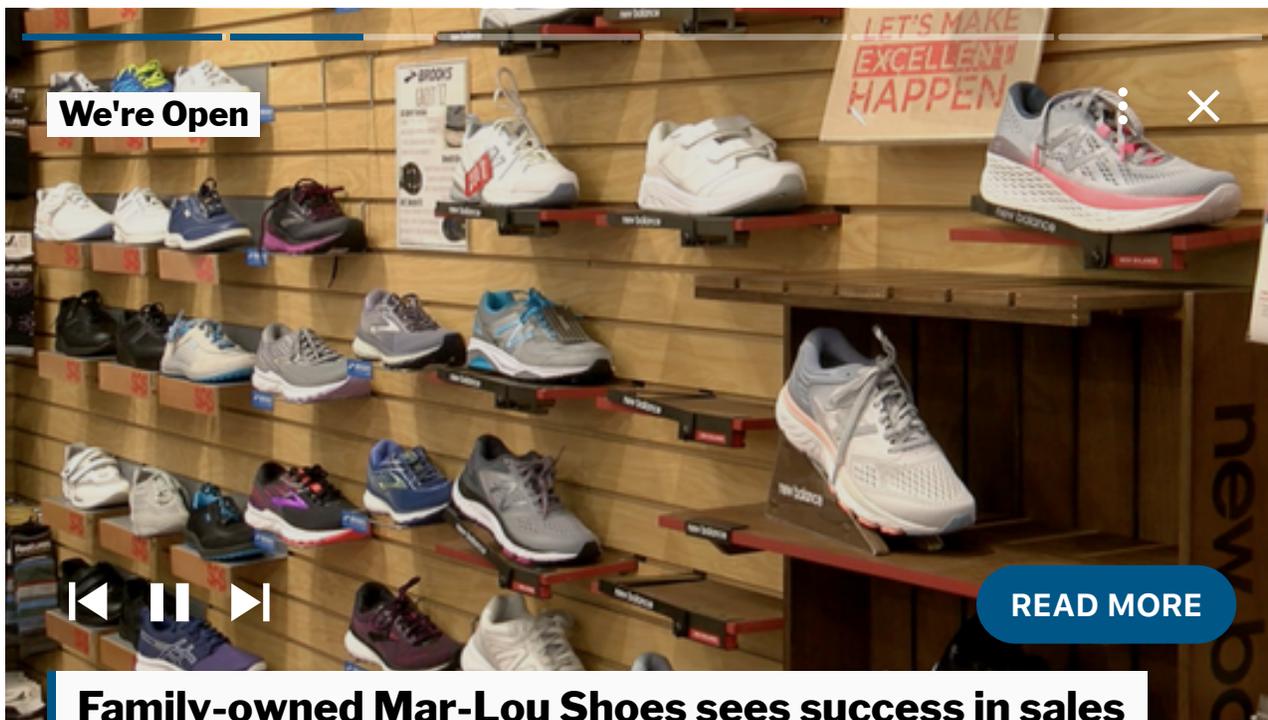
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A Cleveland police officer has pleaded guilty to multiple sex crimes charges against a 13-year-old boy.

According to court documents, [24-year-old Maria Velez](#) was charged with three counts of sexual battery, two counts of attempted tampering with evidence and two counts of intimidation of a crime victim or witness.

Velez was arrested in October 2017 after [allegations arose that she engaged in sexual conduct](#) with a student at Clark Elementary School, where she was working as an instructional aide at the time.

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Velez remains suspended from the Cleveland Police Department without pay. A determination of her future at the department will come following her sentencing, according to Cleveland police.

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