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Man who recanted accusation against Scientologists won't face charges

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

A man who told police he was detained at the Church of Scientology headquarters in Clearwater and later recanted that account will not be charged with filing a false police report.

The Pinellas-Pasco state attorney's office declined to charge Daniel Cotrino, 30, of Brooklyn, N.Y., after reviewing a taped statement Cotrino

made to police. Clearwater police had taken Cotrino to police headquarters for questioning March 5 after a police sergeant reported that he saw him being held by two Scientologists outside the church's headquarters at 210 S Fort Harrison Ave. The men left when police arrived.

Cotrino told officers the men had stopped him when he refused to pay for classes at the church and tried to

leave.

Cotrino, an 11-year member of the church, said he did not want to press charges. Two days later, after the incident was reported in local newspapers, Cotrino told the *Times* that the police department's version of the incident was incorrect. The conflicting reports prompted the state attorney's office to review the incident, and insufficient evidence to prosecute was found.