

Clearwater Sun

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Charges against sect security guard dropped

The Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office has dropped a charge of false imprisonment pressed in August against a security guard for the Church of Scientology, officials said.

Roy Rodriguez was arrested Aug. 23 after he and two other sect guards chased 21-year-old John Williams of Clearwater on foot through downtown Clearwater, police said. The guards accused the man of throwing a rock through the window of the sect communications office at 500 Cleveland St., police said.

Four sect guards were in the communications office when the rock came through the window around 9 p.m., police said, and when they ran outside, Williams was walking about a half-block

away from the building.

Rodriguez tackled Williams behind the Pierce 100 condominiums and handcuffed him, police said. Williams denied throwing the rock, police said, and Rodriguez was arrested and charged.

The charge was dropped Sept. 19 due to insufficient information, according to a report from the State Attorney's Office, police said. The report stated that although Rodriguez did not have probable cause to make a citizen's arrest, the state would drop the charge because Williams lied to investigating officers and investigators from the State Attorney's Office, police said.

Williams was charged Sept. 17 with throwing a deadly missile into an occupied dwelling.