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Former officer pleads guilty to beating prisoner

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - A former Memphis police officer has pleaded guilty to beating a transgender prisoner at a jail more than two years ago.

Bridges McRae pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court to a felony civil rights charge. He had faced up to 10 years in prison, but instead he will serve two years under his plea agreement.

McRae acknowledged he used excessive force when he repeatedly hit Duanna Johnson in the face while she was being booked on a prostitution charge in February 2008. The former prisoner was a biological man living as a woman.

McRae was scheduled to be retried next month after the first attempt was declared a mistrial in April.

Johnson, 43, was shot to death later in 2008 on a street corner near her home.

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