

Woman banned from Fredericksburg for three years

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CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story failed to note that the ban was for three years.

By KEITH EPPS

A local woman has been banned from Fredericksburg as part of a plea agreement connected to her **assault on a city detective** last year.

Johana Yvette Silva, 31, pleaded guilty in Fredericksburg Circuit Court Thursday to misdemeanor charges of assault and battery and obstruction of justice. She was sentenced to two years in jail with all but six months suspended.

As part of her sentence, Silva was ordered by Judge Gordon Willis to stay out of Fredericksburg after she is released from jail for at least three years, the amount of time she will be monitored by the court for good behavior. Silva is reportedly planning to live with family in Illinois.

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Prosecutor Travis Bird also dropped two charges and reduced a felony charge.

According to the evidence, detectives Doug Perkins and Gray Hopkins went to the Kendalwood apartment complex Oct. 3 to follow up on a robbery that Silva had reported the week before.

She was initially interviewed Sept. 27 at the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, where she was being treated for a fractured finger and extensive bruising.

Silva told police that her cat had gotten out and she was looking for it in the woods when she was attacked from behind. She was knocked unconscious, according to the story, and didn't remember how she'd gotten to the hospital.

Among the items reported stolen were her wallet and medication.

She said she didn't see who attacked her, but named a woman who was the victim in an earlier case involving Silva as a suspect.

When the detectives came to meet with Silva, Bird said, the wallet and its contents were on her lap. She claimed the wallet belonged to her wife and got agitated when it became apparent the detectives didn't believe her.

Bird said she tried to run away with the wallet but was stopped. During the ensuing struggle, she hit and kicked Perkins and yelled loudly. Bird said Silva called 911 from her cell phone during the incident and was screaming for several minutes straight while the detectives tried to calm her down.

Bird said he reduced the felony charge in part because Silva has some issues and because she's agreed to leave town. "She has no reason to be in the city and cause us any more headaches," Bird said.