

Accused ex-cop kills self in New Orleans

by UPI

NEW ORLEANS - A New Orleans police officer who was fired and was facing charges for a nationally televised on-duty beating has committed suicide.

Lance Schilling, 30, was found dead in his home Sunday night with a single bullet wound to the head, the New Orleans Times Picayune reported Tuesday.

Schilling and partner Robert Evangelist were fired from the police force following the Oct. 8, 2005, incident in which two people with video cameras recorded the officers scuffling with a 64-year-old school teacher in New Orleans' French Quarter.

The officers said they believed the man was drunk and claimed he became aggressive when they tried to handcuff him.

Schilling's trial for second-degree battery was to begin this month.

Franz Zibilich, Schilling's attorney, said the eight-year veteran officer had undergone psychiatric treatment following an apparent suicide attempt in the mid 1990's, a year before the force hired him.

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