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## After two years, charges against Shelton dismissed

By MARK SMITH  
 PVT

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Two years ago Michelle Shelton was brought up on charges after a significant fight among young people broke out at the intersection of Third and East streets.

She was charged with "rout and riot," contributing to the delinquency of a minor and endangering the welfare of a child. Her bail was set at just under \$5,000.

Now, Aug. 5, her attorney, Gus Flangas, has written to those it might concern, "Because Ms. Shelton's involvement in the matter did not and could not amount to a level that could sustain any type of criminal prosecution, the case was negotiated to end it once and for all and for Ms. Shelton to obtain finality."

Flangas continued, "I appeared today in court for Ms. Shelton and am able to report that the matter has been dismissed in its entirety and the case has been closed."

District Attorney Bob Beckett said the charges have been dismissed after negotiations.

He said Shelton had stayed out of trouble for a year, and last May she was told if she remained out of trouble for 90 days, the charges would be dropped.

"We had a strong case," said Beckett. "Sometimes there are alternatives of working things out, and that's what we did."

Shelton, while pleased that the case is over, was also disappointed at the length of time it took for her to not go to trial.

"A lot of the court dates were canceled," she said. "They had a witness, then they didn't have one ..."

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She said sheriff's deputies seemed more intent with issuing their own statements than getting hers at the time. Shelton said she had gone to the site to gain information about her son, 14 at the time, and was wondering for what reason a 20-year-old might want to beat him up.

"They are looking into it again," she said. "I was quite pleased to hear that but not happy I was brought up on charges."

She said nearly two dozen young people were around the intersection, apparently preparing for a fight, when she showed up.

"It was just a true disappointment in how everything has taken place," Shelton said. "I'm just upset about the whole situation. It seems like we've gotten a few officers up there who keep doing this. It was basically dismissed in May."

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