

Queens clerk cleared in gay bash

PROSECUTORS dismissed attempted murder charges against a Queens supermarket clerk yesterday, admitting a gay-bash victim who fingered him after coming out of a coma and seeing a shrink may be wrong.

"I feel liberated in every sense of the word," Lamell Jones said after Judge Pauline Mullings spoke the words he's waited to hear since February's arrest landed him on Rikers Island for a month.

"This case is dismissed and sealed," the judge declared.

Jones, 24, was facing 25 years in prison.

Victim Risto Prendzov identified Jones as one of his assailants following a two-month coma and years of psychotherapy.

But an expert in recovered memories believes Prendzov's recall of the Nov. 21, 2008, attack on an Ozone Park street is unreliable, prosecutors said yesterday.

"There is insufficient credible evidence to prove the case," said Assistant District Attorney Michael Brovner. DNA testing of blood found on Prendzov's clothing also

EXCLUSIVE

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helped to clear Jones, Brovner said.

In January, following two years of psychotherapy, Prendzov identified Jones in a police lineup as one of three men who attacked him, shouting anti-gay epithets.

Brovner hinted that Prendzov may have identified Jones because he had seen him before, possibly at the Pathmark where Jones worked in the seafood department.

Jones lost his job and hasn't been able to find work while his lawyer, Robert DiDio, worked to clear his name.

"Although the circumstances of Lamell's arrest are unfortunate, in the end justice was served," DiDio said. "Mr. Jones is anxious to put this nightmare behind him and move on with his life as a productive member of society."

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Lamell Jones