

Jury finds veteran Cleveland police officer guilty of 2012 rape

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A jury today found veteran Cleveland police officer Gregory Jones guilty of raping and kidnapping a woman in 2012.

Jones, 49, faced multiple charges of rape, kidnapping and gross sexual imposition involving two separate women.

After trial that lasted more than a week in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Steven Gall's courtroom, a jury deliberated for about two days before reaching a verdict.

They found Jones not guilty of a rape reported by a separate woman in 2008.

Gall ordered Jones taken into custody and set his sentencing for April 30.

"The jury saw Greg Jones for what he is – a predator who victimized a helpless, vulnerable woman," Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Jesse Canonico said after in an email after the verdict was announced. "He was a rapist masquerading as a police officer, but this jury saw through the disguise and held him accountable for what he did."

An officer of more than 20 years, Jones maintained his innocence and testified that he had had consensual sex with the women, one whom he was introduced to by a friend and another he had casual sexual relationship with.

Jones' attorneys, Steven Bradely and Mark Marein, pointedly attacked the credibility of both women. They could not be reached for comment after the verdict.

In a closing statement, attorney Steven Bradley called one of the women a "chronic 20-plus-year crack user" who admitted to being high and drunk the night she said Jones attacked her. He also said she had sometimes worked as a prostitute.

She reported to police that Jones attacked her after seeing a news report about him being accused of a 2012 rape. Bradley said there was no evidence other than her report.

"Who here would be willing to rely on her," Bradley asked jurors.

The other woman, who made the first report against Jones in July 2012 when she was 34, willingly went to Jones' home and wasn't honest with the jury about having an interest in Jones, Bradley said.

He said witnesses described the Chicago woman as a conniving and manipulative liar.

Assistant County Prosecutor Melissa Riley, however, called attention to what she called Jones' "Penthouse forum" description of the encounters.

Jones' recollection didn't make sense with the reaction or injuries of the woman he met through friends at a card game.

Riley said witnesses described how upset she was after she said Jones raped her and that medical records backed up that she had physical injuries consistent with what she told police.

Riley also said the woman's doctors described several injuries she had and a recent surgery that made Jones' descriptions of her actions that night unlikely.

Riley also asked the jury to question why – if the allegations were false – did a man that knew Jones call the 2012 victim and offer her money to drop the complaint.

Jones has been suspended from the department without pay since August 2012.

Public Safety Director Michael McGrath will hold an administrative hearing soon to determine the fate of Jones' employment with the city, spokeswoman Maureen Harper said Wednesday.