

Man was held because of mistaken identity

A Walnut Hills man was freed from jail Thursday after authorities took a closer look at the gun-running charges against him.

David Pankey, 29, was among 14 people charged last month in connection with a gun and narcotics ring that reached from Greater Cincinnati to New York.

Mr. Pankey's attorney, Clyde Bennett, said his client was the victim of mistaken identity. He said New York authorities visited Cincinnati to review the case this week and agreed to Mr. Pankey's release.

A spokeswoman for the New York District Attorney's Office confirmed Mr. Pankey's release but said the charges are still pending. She said the investigation will continue.

Mr. Bennett said Mr. Pankey, who faced a possible 112 years in prison, became ensnared in the case when a suspect in the gun ring used his name and identification.

"He is not guilty of anything," Mr. Bennett said. "He's excited to be free."