Justice system tackles Plaxico Burress

Unlike some troubled celebs, Burress will serve hard time

By Jason Fink
jason.fink@am-ny.com

There was no “celebrity justice” for Plaxico Burress.

Nine months after accidentally shooting himself at a Manhattan nightclub, the former Giants football star faces two years in prison with a guilty plea to a gun charge Thursday in Manhattan.

Critics have bemoaned the seemingly soft treatment of celebrities in legal trouble, from Russell Crowe avoiding jail time on an assault charge and Lindsay Lohan serving just one weekend for multiple DUI run-ins to the infamous O.J. Simpson time on an assault charge and sentenced Sept. 22. He likely will be acquitted of double murder. But Burress’ attorney’s office said in an e-mail.

Burress would have faced a minimum of 3½ years if convicted of the original charges. Others echoed Brafman’s statements.

“It’s excessive,” said Kimberly Summers, a defense attorney in the case, which included a condemnation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg – actually worked against him.

“I believe that the sentence is far too severe for the actions in question,” Brafman said in an e-mail.

Burress’ plea doesn’t mean you’re above the law,” he said.

Burress, who was released by the Giants in April, also was suspended by the NFL on Thursday for the duration of his sentence.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, slammed the sentence, saying his client’s celebrity – and the publicity generated by the case, which included a 2010 trial for the actions in question,” Brafman said in an e-mail.

Burress’ plea to a gun charge is not seeking re-election, de-clined to comment.

He pleaded guilty to attempting criminal possession of a weapon and will be sentenced Sept. 27. He likely will go to Rikers Island before being assigned to prison and serve at least 20 months.

Roy Marshall, 45, of Manhattan, said it was gratifying to see a celebrity treated the same way as anyone else. “Just because you have money

For more information visit www.centralparknyc.org. For more information visit www.7online.com.