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**Charlene Bonner**  
Chairperson

**Janis DiLoreto Smith**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JULIE PIKE**  
**F36360**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 16, 2014

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 26, 2015

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in writing, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is granted to a long term residential treatment program after spending one year in lower security within the Department of Correction.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On November 2, 1995, after a trial by jury in Hampshire Superior Court, Julie Pike was convicted of second degree murder<sup>1</sup> and sentenced to life in prison. She is currently incarcerated at MCI-Framingham.

A summary of the facts of the governing offense are as follows: Julie Pike met Barry Loring, her co-defendant, sometime in 1994. The two became romantically involved and traveled the country, where Pike would work as a prostitute to supplement their income. In September 1994, the two returned to the Greenfield area where the couple lived in the woods

<sup>1</sup> Pike's co-defendant, Barry Loring (W39889), is currently being housed out of state, serving a life sentence for second degree murder. His initial parole eligibility date was September 3, 2010, but the hearing was postponed at his request. Because he has not requested to be seen by the Board since his postponement, his scheduled hearing is September 2015.

and Pike solicited food and supplies from local residents. During that same month, Pike and Loring broke into the home of Don Maynard while he was at work. While the two were still in the house, Mr. Maynard returned home and was shot in the back of the head (it is unclear as to which individual actually shot Mr. Maynard, as each party blamed the other).<sup>2</sup> Pike and Loring removed the body and cleaned up the scene. They then dumped the body of Mr. Maynard down an embankment in New Hampshire. Both fled to California after pawning some of Mr. Maynard's possessions. The couple was later apprehended in California.

Pike appealed her case to the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on the grounds of newly discovered evidence. She claimed to be the victim of what is commonly known as "The Battered Women's Syndrome" and under duress at the time of the trial. The SJC thereafter affirmed both the conviction and denial of Pike's post-trial motions. See *Commonwealth v Pike* 431 Mass 212 (2002).

In October 2005, while denying Pike's petition for habeas relief, the United States District Court held an eight day evidentiary hearing, "credited large portions of [Pike's] testimony and found that she had been subject to severe and pervasive abuse prior to her pretrial incarceration. The court also found that some emotional abuse had continued during her immurement." (Quoting from the First Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the judgment of the United States District Court.) See *Pike v Guarino*, 492 F. 3d 61 (1<sup>st</sup> cir. 2007). The court went on to say that it "picked its way carefully through a tangled evidentiary thicket. It took issue with some of the state court's findings, credited much of [Pike's] testimony, and gave credence to her expert's opinion that she had experienced batter woman's syndrome." However, in the end, the court found that Pike had not proved her inability to communicate and thereby denied her requested relief.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING DECEMBER 16, 2014**

This is Julie Pike's second appearance before the Parole Board (after being denied with a five-year review date), following her initial hearing in September 2009. Pike apologized for the murder and said she postponed her September 2014 hearing because she did not want to have the hearing on the anniversary of Maynard's death. She is currently attending A Way of Life (AWOL) program and likes this program because there are "no excuses." She also works as a cleaner.

Pike recounted her early history, stating that she began consuming alcohol and engaging in promiscuous activity after she was raped at age 14. Prior to meeting Barry Loring, Pike had been in other relationships where she was deceitful. Pike met Loring after his girlfriend went to jail. Pike then defrauded her bank of funds and traveled with Loring to New Jersey, California, and Nevada to gamble and engage in prostitution, as well as other unlawful and fraudulent activities. Pike and Loring returned to Massachusetts from California in 1994. They went to Greenfield (where Loring had grown up) and "lived in the area woods" because

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<sup>2</sup> The Commonwealth proceeded with principal and joint venture theories of murder and the jury was instructed on both theories. Pike was convicted of second degree murder but the verdict slip did not specify under which theory. After an evidentiary hearing on Pike's motion for a new trial, the Superior Court made no findings as to who pulled the trigger, stating only that the victim was shot. On Pike's direct appeal, the Supreme Judicial Court found that the jury could have inferred that the codefendant had lied to protect himself in testifying that Pike shot the victim. Finally, the United States District Court declined to make any findings as to what happened inside the victim's house.



they were homeless. Pike was seven months pregnant at the time, but Loring had her beg strangers for food and blankets to survive.

Pike said she did not know anything about the victim, Mr. Maynard, and did not know that Loring had been to Mr. Maynard's home prior to the day of the murder. She said that it seemed Loring was familiar with the house because he knew where everything was located. Pike said that Loring took "possession of" two guns from the house, including a rifle. At some point, Maynard came home to find them in the house and she ran outside. She did not see what happened between Loring and Maynard and does not remember hearing a gunshot. She said that she is uncertain if Maynard was still alive when she first saw him after the shooting. Pike denied that she was the shooter. She said Loring was supposed to go to trial first, but instead took a plea deal in exchange for his testimony against her at trial. At Pike's trial, Loring testified that Pike came up from behind and shot Maynard in the back of his head while he and Maynard were struggling.

Pike said she appealed her conviction based upon the theory that she suffered from Battered Women's Syndrome. Her attorney, Catherine Hinton, submitted documentation in support of parole, which included a detailed report of the history of abuse and control she suffered at the hands of Loring. Pike said she was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after two years of therapy. She still suffers from PTSD and is addressing it through therapy and medication.

Four individuals testified in support of parole for Pike, including former Correctional Officer Cynthia Brissette, Pike's former therapist Christie Dustman, forensic psychiatrist Dr. Prudence Baxter, and Pike's aunt. Both Ms. Dustman and Dr. Baxter provided detailed knowledge of Ms. Pike and offered their expert opinions regarding Pike's history of trauma, path to recovery, progress in treatment, and ability to succeed in the community. Dr. Baxter, a senior forensic psychologist and the former Director of the Cambridge Court Clinic, has extensive knowledge of Pike's case, as she also testified in Pike's motion for a new trial. Dr. Baxter provided her expert opinion on Pike's mental state at the time of the offense, her clinical experience in cases of Battered Women's Syndrome as it applied to Pike, and Pike's suitability for parole. Of particular note, Dr. Baxter stated that Pike has taken every opportunity to participate in treatment in order to gain a better understanding of herself and her role in the murder. Dr. Baxter believes that Pike has genuinely benefited from her investment in treatment. Dr. Baxter further stated that Pike has never been diagnosed with psychopathy or impulsivity and believes Pike to be a low risk for violence.

Seven individuals voiced opposition to parole for Pike. They include the victim's brother, sister, son, and friend, as well as former Greenfield Police Chief David Glibault, former Massachusetts State Police Trooper Paul Palazzo, and Northwestern District Assistant District Attorney Cynthia Von Flatern. ADA Von Flatern expressed concern regarding Pike's credibility, noting that Pike denied having substance abuse issues when she came before the Board in 2009, but now admits that it played a significant role in her criminal behavior.

In its 2009 decision, the Board acknowledged that Pike's institutional conduct was "very good." It is also the view of the current Board that Pike continues to demonstrate good institutional behavior. Since 2009, Pike has continued to engage in programming to inculcate prosocial behavior and address her mental health needs. Specifically, Pike completed the AWOL



program and is enrolled in the WRA Graduate Maintenance program to address her prior history of substance abuse. She also completed programs such as Criminal Thinking, Violence Reduction, Healthy Relationships for Women, and Cognitive Skills Workshops (Problem Solving and Active Listening) which addressed the maladaptive behavior that led her to prison. Pike continues to engage in individual therapeutic counseling and takes prescribed medications to address her prior diagnoses of PTSD, depression, and personality disorder (not otherwise specified).

In addition to the Bachelor's Degree she received from Boston University in 2008, Pike also acquired vocational skills in culinary arts, cosmetology, and computer technology. It is also worth noting that her disciplinary history over the past 20 years has been relatively minimal and does not include any acts of violence or use of unauthorized substances. Since being denied parole in 2009, Pike was found guilty of only two disciplinary reports — the first in 2009 for being out of place during a non-movement time and the second in 2013 for allowing another inmate to use her personal pin number to make a telephone call. Otherwise, she has demonstrated steady progress in her rehabilitation.

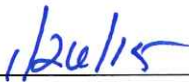
### **III. DECISION**

Julie Pike led a life filled with alcohol abuse, unhealthy relationships, and antisocial behavior that culminated in her involvement in the murder of Don Maynard. However, she has spent 20 years in prison, during which time she has worked assiduously to address the factors underlying her criminal behavior and to better prepare herself for successful reentry into society. The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Julie Pike has reached the point where she merits parole. Parole is granted to a long term residential program after one year in lower security. This plan will allow for important supports and treatment during a closely supervised transition.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Parole to a long term residential program after one year in lower security; Report to MA parole office on day of release; Waive work for long term residential program; No drug use with testing required; No alcohol use with testing required; AA/NA at least 3 times per week; Take prescribed medications; One-on-one counseling for mental health and adjustment issues; Polygraph testing at parole officer's discretion; No contact with co-defendant.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.*

  
Janis DiLoreto Smith, Executive Director

  
Date