

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NORFOLK, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
CRIMINAL ACTION
No. 2282CR00117

COMMONWEALTH

v.

KAREN READ

ORDER TO EXTEND JUNE 18, 2025 IMPOUNDMENT ORDER

The Supreme Judicial Court has recognized that the safety of jurors is crucial to the fair functioning of the judicial system, and that “the justice system owes them the highest degree of vigilance for their personal safety.” *Commonwealth v. Silva*, 448 Mass. 701, 708 (2007).

This case has garnered significant and divisive attention in Massachusetts and across the nation. The trial was livestreamed on local and national broadcasting channels. The proceedings continue to be the daily subject of commentary on various social media platforms. One person associated with the case has been indicted for intimidation of trial witnesses.

This Court acknowledges that the names of empanelled jurors who rendered a verdict in a criminal case must be retained in the court file and made available to the public. *Commonwealth v. Fujita*, 470 Mass. 484, 486 (2015). At the conclusion of the first trial, the court extended the initial impoundment order based upon a motion by one of the jurors where the juror established that publication of the list identifying the names of the empanelled jurors presented a real and present risk of personal harm to jurors and to the integrity of their service. Despite the impoundment of the juror lists at that time, at least one juror was identified in social media platforms last summer. A picture of the juror and their LinkedIn profile were published on Twitter.

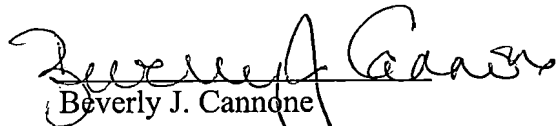
Based on the circumstances of the first trial where a juror avowed that they were in fear for their safety and the safety of their family if the list of jurors were made public, and the fact that the case continues to receive daily, divisive attention in Massachusetts and beyond, the Court concludes that there is a real and present “risk of [personal] harm to the jurors [and] to the integrity of their service.” *Id.*

Some of the empanelled jurors have come forward and spoken to the media after the verdict of June 18, 2025. However, some of the jurors have requested that the court impound the list of empaneled jurors beyond the initial ten day period because they are fearful. The Court concludes that there is a risk of immediate and irreparable injury should the list be made available to the public at this time. See Uniform Rules of Impoundment Procedure Rule 3(a). Consequently, the Court finds that good cause exists to extend the Impoundment Order, dated June 16, 2024, until and unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

This Order shall not preclude any juror from identifying himself or herself and/or from speaking to the public about his or her jury service.

SO ORDERED

Dated: June 26, 2025


Beverly J. Cannone
Justice of the Superior Court