

# Karen Read lawyers say a 4th juror has come forward, saying the panel cleared her of murder, leaving scene charges

By [Travis Andersen](#) and [Sean Cotter](#) Globe Staff, Updated July 10, 2024, 59 minutes ago



Karen Read, right, looks up as defense attorney Alan Jackson, center, speaks to reporters while defense attorney David Yannetti, left, looks on in front of Norfolk Superior Court, Monday, July 1, 2024 after the mistrial was declared. STEVEN SENNE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Lawyers for Karen Read](#) said Wednesday that a fourth juror has come forward to say the panel unanimously voted to acquit her of second-degree murder and a lesser count at

[her trial](#), which [ended in a mistrial](#) on July 1 after jurors said they remained hopelessly deadlocked.

Alan Jackson, a lawyer for Read, said in court papers that the fourth juror, whom he identified as Juror D, contacted him directly Monday and asserted they had reached unanimous agreement that she was not guilty of second-degree murder and a separate charge of leaving the scene of personal injury and death, echoing the statements of three other jurors.

On Monday, Read's lawyers [filed a motion to dismiss those two charges](#), quoting one juror as saying that the murder against Read was "off the table."

In Wednesday's affidavit, Jackson said that Juror D, like the other three, indicated the jury was divided only on a charge of manslaughter while driving under the influence.

"Juror D, without hesitation, said in substance, 'Every one of us will agree and acknowledge that we found [Karen Read] NOT GUILTY of Counts 1 [murder] and 3 [leaving the scene]. Because that's what happened,'" Jackson wrote.

Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's spokesperson couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

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**“Today’s filing fully corroborates the central theme of the Motion to Dismiss — that Karen Read was unanimously found not guilty of murder and leaving the scene by her jury and that a retrial on either count would be categorically barred by the Double Jeopardy protections that are core to our system of justice and that safeguard a citizen from a second trial upon a showing — which we have compellingly made — that there was no manifest necessity for the mistrial order as to these two charges,”** Martin G. Weinberg, another lawyer for Read, said in a statement.

[Judge Beverly J. Cannone](#) declared a mistrial in Read’s case on July 1, when the jury said it remained deadlocked after five days of deliberations. Morrissey has said his office will retry the case, and a status conference is set for July 22.

Read, 44, of Mansfield, allegedly backed her Lexus SUV into her boyfriend, [Boston police officer John O’Keefe](#), after dropping him off outside a Canton home early on Jan. 29, 2022, following a night of heavy drinking. She returned to the scene hours later and found O’Keefe’s snow-covered body, [repeatedly shouting “I hit him”](#) in the presence of first responders, [witnesses testified](#).

Attorneys for Read say she's being framed and that [O'Keefe](#) entered the home, where he was fatally beaten in the basement before his body was planted on the lawn.

Read's lawyers said that four jurors have now contacted them, either directly or through intermediaries.

"Juror D said that it was very troubling that the entire case ended without the jury being asked about each count, especially Counts 1 and 3," Jackson wrote.

He said the juror told him the panel believed they had to come to a unanimous decision on all three charges against Read before "they could or should report" verdicts on any individual charge.

As jurors were leaving court on a bus following the mistrial, many "appeared uncomfortable with how things ended, wondering *Is anyone going to know that we acquitted [Karen Read] on Count 1 and 3? No one ever asked about those counts,*" Jackson wrote in the affidavit.

Prosecutors haven't yet filed a response to the defense dismissal motion in court, and Cannone hasn't ruled on it.

*This breaking news story will be updated when more information is released.*

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