

Jennifer Sebell
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August 26, 2018

RE: Erick Shute
Case# 17-F-18

To The Honorable Judge Steven Redding,

My name is Jennifer Sebell and I am writing on behalf of Erick Shute who has been convicted of first degree murder in three counts. Erick and I met in high school when I was a Senior and he was an underclassman twenty years ago. We had a class together where we had to make up a skit for something that I do not remember. Erick, myself, and two other classmates met at my house and we made up this skit to present to our class. That is where our friendship began. We had not known each other prior to that. Erick was very approachable and likeable. Erick became really close friends with my husband's best friend(at that time my husband was my boyfriend). We would hang out and joke around and enjoy each other's company. We would have Thanksgiving dinner at the best friend's parent house. We enjoyed gathering around the dinner table and then watching football. Erick would always try and help with cleaning up the dishes or helping elsewhere. Once I got married and had children, Erick became involved in their lives. We used to have cookouts all the time and Erick would always be there to play with the children(mine and my best friend's children). He loved to play wrestle with them and give them piggy back rides. He was always so caring and kind hearted. He always tried to include them. There was this one time when my daughter and my best friend's son were having a catch and somehow the ball landed on my roof. My daughter was upset and Erick actually climbed my roof and got the ball down so she would not be upset anymore. Erick has always been caring and wants to make sure everyone is happy. Another thing that I can remember about Erick is we used to have game nights at my home a lot. We would normally play Cranium or Monopoly. It was always a girls vs. boys type thing. We always had a fun time and we never got too competitive. It would normally be myself, my best friend, and Erick left in Monopoly and we would always try to make it harder for Erick to win. He would play along with it and we would have a good time. I can say that in the time that I have known him, Erick Shute has been a trustworthy, caring, and hard working person. We may not agree on everything but we agree to

disagree. Everything is peaceful and we remain friends. The Erick that I know is not a violent person. I do not believe for one minute that this was premeditated. I believe he feared for his life. I hope this letter will give you an idea of his good character and how he really is a kind soul. Please set aside the verdict and call it self defense. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sebell

Jennifer Sebell

DHAVALKUMAR PATEL
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires January 26, 2023

