



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN

ON AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2005 GOVERNOR ERNIE FLETCHER CHARGED THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN (KCW) TO REVIEW THE CASES OF ELEVEN WOMEN FOR POSSIBLE PARDONS.

THROUGH DUE DILIGENCE, THE CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND ATTORNEYS, THOROUGHLY REVIEWED INFORMATION PERTAINING TO EACH INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION.

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> 2005, THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN DOES HEREBY RENDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

OF THE ELEVEN CASES REVIEWED, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS PARTIAL PARDONS RESTORING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND RUN FOR OFFICE TO TRACIE ENGLISH, MARY ANN LONG AND SHERRY POLLARD.

AT THE AGE OF 16, TRACIE ENGLISH WAS CONVICTED OF THE MANSLAUGHTER OF HER FATHER. EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT ENGLISH'S FATHER ABUSED AND IMPRISONED HER FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD. NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS REPORTED THE ABUSE TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, BUT ENGLISH WAS NEVER REMOVED FROM HER ABUSIVE HOME. WHILE THE COMMISSION IN NO WAY EXCUSES THE CRIME COMMITTED BY ENGLISH, IT TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION EVIDENCE OF YEARS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUFFERED BY ENGLISH AND HER SPOTLESS RECORD SUBSEQUENT TO HER RELEASE IN 1996. FOR THESE REASONS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT ENGLISH BE RESTORED THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO RIGHT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

MARY ANN LONG WAS RAPED AND BEATEN FROM AGE SIX UNTIL AGE TEN, AND EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT THIS ABUSE WAS ARRANGED BY HER FATHER WITH A MAN FROM WHOM HER FAMILY RENTED THEIR HOUSE. EVIDENCE FURTHER SHOWED THIS CYCLE OF ABUSE CONTINUED WITH HER MARRIAGE TO THE MAN SHE WOULD EVENTUALLY KILL. ACCORDING TO LONG, HER HUSBAND ABUSED THEIR CHILDREN, AND KEPT HIS FAMILY IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FEAR AND INTIMIDATION. THOUGH THE COMMISSION RECOGNIZES THE SERIOUSNESS OF LONG'S CRIME, IT ALSO CONSIDERED EVIDENCE OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHE ENDURED, HER MENTAL STATE DURING THAT PERIOD OF HER LIFE AND HER SPOTLESS RECORD SUBSEQUENT TO HER RELEASE IN 1996. FOR THESE REASONS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT LONG BE RESTORED

THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

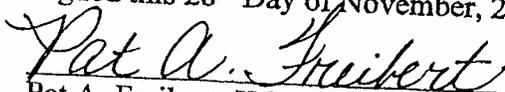
SHERRY POLLARD WAS MARRIED FOR FOURTEEN YEARS WITH TWO CHILDREN WHEN SHE CLAIMS HER HUSBAND BEGAN TO HAVE EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIRS. EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT POLLARD'S HUSBAND SOON BEGAN TO BRING HIS GIRLFRIENDS TO THEIR HOME, WOULD HANDCUFF HIS WIFE TO A CHAIR AND FORCE HER TO WATCH AND SOMETIMES PARTICIPATE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES WITH THESE OTHER WOMEN. EVIDENCE SHOWED THAT THIS CONSTANT PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE LEAD POLLARD TO SEEK HELP FROM HER BROTHER, WHO EVENTUALLY KILLED POLLARD'S HUSBAND. WHILE POLLARD AND HER BROTHER MAINTAIN SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CRIME, POLLARD WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER. WHILE THE COMMISSION IN NO WAY EXCUSES POLLARD'S CRIME, IT TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE EVIDENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DEVIANT SEXUAL ABUSE POLLARD ENDURED, HER MENTAL STATE AT THE TIME OF HER CRIME AND HER SPOTLESS RECORD SUBSEQUENT TO HER RELEASE IN 1996. FOR THESE REASONS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT POLLARD BE RESTORED THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

AT THE OUTSET OF THIS REVIEW, THE COMMISSION REQUESTED INPUT FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. THE COMMISSION SINCERELY APPRECIATES THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS WHO APPEARED BEFORE OR PROVIDED INVALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

GOVERNOR BRERETON JONES  
 RAY LARSON, COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY  
 MARSHA WEINSTEIN, THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT  
 LUKE MORGAN, FORMER PROSECUTOR  
 LISA BERAN, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSOCIATION  
 MARGUERITE THOMAS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY  
 TED KUSTER, CHAIRPERSON OF PROBATION AND PAROLE  
 LINDA TALLY SMITH, COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY  
 CYNTHIA GALE COOK, COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

FINALLY, THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN RECOMMENDS THAT GOVERNOR FLETCHER'S ADMINISTRATION TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO HEIGHTEN THE AWARENESS OF KENTUCKY AGENCIES THAT EXIST TO SERVE BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN. THE COMMISSION FURTHER SUPPORTS PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION THAT FOCUS ON ENDING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SO THAT KENTUCKY WOMEN ARE ARMED WITH THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LEAVE THEIR ABUSIVE HOMES.

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2005.

  
 Pat A. Freibert, KCW Chairwoman

  
 Glenda R. Woods, KCW Executive Director