
## The Central Park 5


### Agenda

- History of Policing from 1661 to 1989
- Set the Scene: New York, 1989
- Group Activity
- Charges
- False Confessions
- Racial Disparities
- Role of the Media
- Backlash
- Life after being exonerated
- Takeaways

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# Then: History of Policing, African Americans



Barbados Slave Code: 1661



South Carolina Slave Codes: 1740

dam'd a public Act and shall be taken notice of without reading the same before all Judges Justices Magistrates and Courts within this Province AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that this Act shall continue in force for the space of three Years and from thence to the end of the next Session of the General Assembly and no longer.

In the Council Chamber the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1740  
Approved to  
C. Pinckney

Wm. Bull

Signed C. Pinckney, Speaker

In the Council Chamber, Commons House of Assembly of Carolina, the 10th day of May, 1740.

## Stono Rebellion: 1739



## Robert Peel's 9 Principle of Policing: 1829

**Sir Robert Peel**



*Robert Peel*

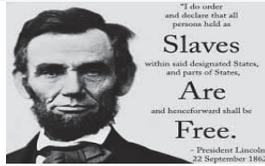
Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), who served as Prime Minister of England twice, is remembered for many notable Acts of Parliament and policies. These include far-ranging criminal law and prison reforms. As British Home Secretary in 1829, Peel founded the London Metropolitan Police. He believed the key for policing is that, "the police are the public and the public are the police." Peel established nine principles of policing that are as relevant today as they were in the nineteenth century.

**Peel's Nine Principles of Policing**

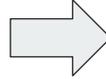
- 1 "The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder."
- 2 "The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions."
- 3 "Police must secure the willing co-operation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public."
- 4 "The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force."
- 5 "Police seek and preserve public favor not by catering to the public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law."
- 6 "Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient."
- 7 "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."
- 8 "Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary."
- 9 "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."



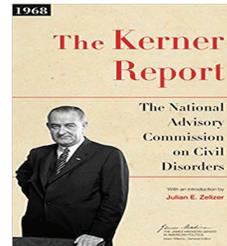
1838: 1ST ESTABLISHED POLICE DEPT. IN BOSTON



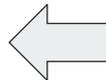
1862: Emancipation of slavery



1865: Reformation of racial control and the founding of the KKK



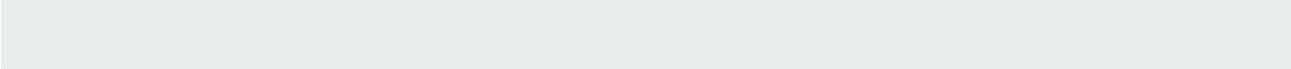
1968: The Kerner Report



1988: Willie Horton Case and racialized tough on crime rhetoric



**Now: New York City, 1989**


## Setting

- In 1989, the murder rate surged 17.8%, robberies rose 7.4%, and motor-vehicle thefts rose 9.9% (NY Times).
  - April 19, 1989:
    - 30-40 teenagers assembled in Central Park. Police reports of joggers and bicyclists being attacked.
    - Trisha Meili, a white 28-year old investment banker, was assaulted and raped in Central Park while she was out on a night run.
  - Group of teenagers arrested and taken to the police department for questioning.
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## What each Child was Charged with:



Raymond Santana(14 years old): Convicted of rape, assault, robbery and riot. Sentenced to 5 years



Korey Wise(16 years old): Convicted of assault, sexual abuse and riot. Sentenced to 5-15 years in jail (completed 12)



Yusef Salaam(15 years old): Convicted of rape, assault robbery and riot. Sentenced to 7 years in juvenile hall



Antron McCray(15 years old): Convicted of rape, assault, robbery and also riot charges. Sentenced to 5-10 years in prison. (completed 6)



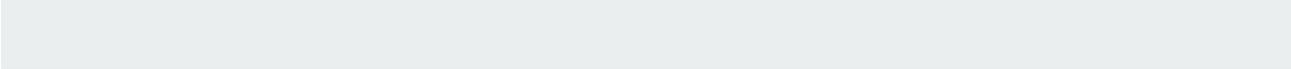
Kevin Richardson(14 years old): Convicted for attempted murder, rape, sodomy, assault and robbery. Served 5 years.

# False Confessions: How do they happen?

## “Confessions-Central Park 5” Video

<https://www.pbs.org/video/central-park-five-confessions/>




### 3 Causes of False Confessions

1. Misclassification
  - a. When detectives decide, based on their own discretion, that an innocent person is guilty
2. Coercion
  - a. This is the main cause of false confessions
  - b. Use psychological coercion
    - i. Using techniques that are coercive (ex: deprivation of food, sleep, water, bathroom facilities, false promises)
    - ii. Giving suspect the idea that they have no choice but to comply
3. Contamination
  - a. Pressure the suspects to accept a particular account by suggesting facts of the crime to them


### Risk Factors to False Confessions

1. Youth
  - a. Juveniles are highly compliant to authority figures
  - b. Predisposed to be submissive to police
2. Mental Illnesses
  - a. Can have psychiatric symptoms that make them more likely to agree with, or give false, misleading information to police

## Racial Disparities

- Black and Brown youth of color are highly represented in the juvenile justice system, and are more likely to be arrested as juveniles and be tried as an adult

October is Youth Justice Awareness Month  
TAKE ACTION

African-American youth are **9 TIMES** more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence for the **SAME CRIME**.

and Latino youth are **4 TIMES** more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence for the **SAME CRIME**.

**PUBLIC OPINION**  
3 OUT OF 4 Americans support requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the system.

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE  
[www.campaignforyouthjustice.org](http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org)

## The Role of the Media

Monday, April 26, 1999  
MADY NEWS  
TERROR IN CENTRAL PARK: VICTIM HAS 50-50 CHANCE

# 'WILDING' TEENS HELD IN RAPE

## 7 are called part of wolf pack

Seven teenagers were charged yesterday with brutally raping and nearly killing a jogger during a crime spree in which nearly three dozen youths roamed Central Park "wilding" — randomly attacking anyone they found.

The probe — aged 14 to 18 — were charged as the 28-year-old investment banker, battled for her life. Cops said the teens were part of a wolf pack that

**Going 'wilding' in the streets.**  
On the streets, where kids grope on electric bluffs of rap music, it's called "wilding."  
"You could say, 'I've wilded' and it means doing anything you can do," said Kevin Morrell, a spokesman at Crimetime Records, a Manhattan shop frequented by rap star Jay-Z.  
While cops said yesterday the teen was seen to flee, Morrell said "down" or "big beds have used" wilding, or "big" for "bigging out" or "bigging in." Morrell said they've never heard the term in

MANHATTAN • READING FINAL  
HONORING IOWA'S FALLEN SAILORS  
Reads on page C-8

DAILY NEWS  
NEW YORK'S PICTORIAL NEWSPAPER  
Friday, April 23, 1999

# CENTRAL PARK HORROR

## WOLF PACK'S PREY

Female jogger near death after savage attack by roving gang

Coverage begins on PAGES 2 & 3



### Smith v. Daily Mail Publishing Co. (1979)

States cannot restrict a newspaper from publishing a juvenile offender's name unless there is substantial state interest in restricting this information from being revealed.





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## Limited Freedom: PTSD

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## Life After Being Exonerated



Was able to receive a high school diploma from the Bronx Prep Academy in 2017. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and his two daughters.



Was the first of the accused to leave New York City. He is married with six children and now lives in Georgia.



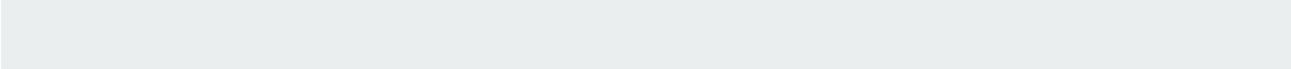
Lives in Georgia. He started an apparel company called Park Madison NYC. Has a teenage daughter.



The only member of the Five that still lives in New York City. He founded the Korey Wise Innocence Project at Colorado Law School in 2015



Salaam is a public speaker and published author. As well as an advocate for change in the criminal justice system. He is married with 10 children and resides in Georgia.


## Takeaways

1. Understanding how all these outcomes affected the lives of people
2. Each of the Exonerated 5's experience
3. Post - Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)