

**PROPOSED
RESOLUTION**
for submission to the
2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly

Must be received by: Jan. 14, 2013
Return to: Office of the President
NYSUT
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

If this is a reaffirmation of a prior resolution, please check here.

Resolution title: Support the "Central Park Five" and Urge NY City to Settle Their Lawsuit

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council Name

(See format and guidelines on last page of this document.)

WHEREAS, on April 19, 1989, a woman, referred to in the press as the "Central Park Jogger," was raped and brutally assaulted in Manhattan's Central Park; and

WHEREAS, this rape, one of 3,254 that occurred in New York City that year, provoked unprecedented public outrage, fueled by the New York City Police Department's naming releasing to the press the names of five teenaged boys of color to the press as suspects, a procedure contrary to standard procedure with juveniles; and

WHEREAS, Yusef Salaam, Anton McCray, Raymond Santana, Kharey Wise and Kevin Richardson, who admittedly had been in the Park that evening with a larger group, were arrested, convicted and sentenced on the basis of inconsistent, coerced confessions—the the police telling one, for instance, that his fingerprints had been found on the victim's clothing; and

WHEREAS, the DNA of none of the defendants was found on the victim; and

(over)

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly by the:

Executive Council at a meeting held on 1/10/13
(Executive Board, General Membership, etc.) (date)

Please print name: Barbara Bowen
(President)

Signature: _____
(President) Local 2334
NYSUT Local or Retiree Council

Local or Retiree Council name: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council President's email address: bbowen@pscmail.org

(Reverse of Resolution Form)

WHEREAS, in 2002—after the defendants had spent seven years in prison—a convict, Matias Reyes, serving a life sentence for other crimes, confessed to the rape and assault of the “Central Park Jogger,” and an examination of his DNA substantiated his statement; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2002, New York State Supreme Court Justice, Charles Tejada, vacated the convictions upon the recommendation of then-District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, who cited Reyes’ confession, the DNA evidence and the questionable confessions of the five men; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, three of the young men sued the City of New York, charging malicious prosecution, racial discrimination and emotional distress; and

WHEREAS, nine years after the initiation of the lawsuit, the City has not settled the case; and

WHEREAS, no amount of money can make up for the loss of youth and opportunity or the extreme suffering experienced by the boys’ families, nevertheless, the settlement of the case would represent an important step toward justice; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge the City of New York to settle the lawsuit by the “Central Park Five” with a fair settlement that acknowledges the severe harm done to the young men, their families by the New York City criminal justice system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its downstate affiliates call for an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice to determine why this injustice occurred, and that the investigation both recognize the importance of a free press and examine the role the media played in this tragedy.