

For 27 years, Albany searched for Baby Moses' killer. Now, a suspect is in custody

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The King Memorial Fountain in Washington Park in Albany, N.Y., is pictured in May 2015. The body of a newborn boy — named Moses Washington by the city of Albany — was found below the Moses statue in September 1997. Last weekend, a woman police say is the baby's mother was charged with his murder. Syracuse.com | The Post-Standard's archivesSyracuse.com | The Post-Standard's archives

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Albany, N.Y. — Workers were planting flowers in a beloved Upstate New York park on a late summer morning in 1997 when they spotted a blue pillowcase.

The partially charred pillowcase had burned matches on top of it, the [Times Union reported](#), and appeared to have something bundled inside. It was left next to a flowerbed just south of the statue of Moses in Albany's Washington Park.

When one of the workers used a shovel to nudge the pillowcase, the Times Union said a horrifying discovery was revealed: the body of a newborn baby boy.

As investigators searched for answers, the city of Albany posthumously adopted the baby and named him Moses Washington.

The boy was buried in a tiny white casket in Graceland Cemetery and given a small headstone topped by a marble lamb. The epitaph on the boy's headstone reads: "Citizen of Albany, child of God".

Now, just over 27 years later, a mother has been charged with murdering Baby Moses.

Keri Mazzuca was arrested Saturday morning by the Albany County Sheriff's Office on three charges: second-degree murder, concealment of a human corpse and tampering with physical evidence, the [The Daily Gazette reported](#).

She has been charged with killing Baby Moses, who authorities believe had been less than 12 hours old and born healthy, The Daily Gazette said.

Mazzuca, now 52, was 25 years when Baby Moses was found dead in Washington Park on Sept. 7, 1997.

Sources told the Times Union the break in the cold case came a few years ago when the FBI's DNA analysis of the baby's profile identified one of the boy's relatives. That eventually led police to Mazzuca, who the newspaper said lived about five blocks from Washington Park at the time of Moses' death.

DNA detectives found on trash taken from outside Mazzuca's Guilderland home confirmed a woman inside the house could be the baby's biological mother, the Times Union reported.

Mazzuca is being held in the Albany County Jail.

Three years after Baby Moses' death, New York enacted the [Abandoned Infant Protection Act](#) to help protect unwanted babies. As long as newborns are left in a safe space and authorities are immediately notified, the law allows parents to anonymously give up babies 30 days or younger without facing prosecution.