

Cleveland demonstrations

10 hours of citywide protests largely peaceful

Argument with driver, closures, but no arrests

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No major incidents occurred and police made no arrests Saturday during 10 hours of protesting over the fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice.

Protesters from here and Ferguson, Missouri, demonstrated at several locations across Cleveland. Only three minor incidents occurred during the 10 hours of protesting.

The first happened between protesters and a driver at West 130th Street and Lorain Avenue. About 5 p.m., police blocked access to the Shoreway on East Ninth Street. And officers blocked protesters from going up to Mayor Frank Jackson's home.

"No incidents, just people blocking traffic," Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams said during the final protest.

Williams attended most of the protests on Saturday and spoke one-on-one with angry protesters.

Dozens of protesters demonstrated on Saturday, including about 40 from Ferguson.

They arrived late Friday at a Middleburg Heights Motel 6, where an off-duty motel manager slapped four protesters according to Middleburg Heights Police Chief John Maddox.

Maddox said the protesters were doing nothing wrong and not protesting at the time.

The manager was charged with four counts of assault, Maddox said.

Saturday's protests began about 10:30 a.m. at Cudell Recreation Center, where Cleveland Patrolman Timothy Loehmann fatally shot Tamir on Nov. 22 while investigating a complaint of someone with a gun.

The gun turned out to be an airsoft gun, and the shooting has



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER
Demonstrators gather to protest the fatal police shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice near Playhouse Square on Saturday. Tamir was fatally shot on Nov. 22 by Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann seconds after police arrived to investigate a complaint about someone with a gun. It turned out to be an airsoft gun.

since sparked about a month of protests.

Saturday at Cudell Recreation Center, members of Tamir's family spoke to the crowd. Tamir's brother, 16-year-old Tavon Rice, told the crowd that kids should discard fake guns.

"If you have BB guns, throw them away," he said. "They're not safe anymore."

Protesters then migrated to Cleveland police's 1st District headquarters, where some stormed into the building and shouted chants while standing on chairs and tables.

The group that topped out at about 250 people then walked to West 130th and Lorain. A man driving a van rolled through a

line of protesters, causing some protesters to kick and punch the man's van.

The man exited his van and yelled at protesters. Police separated him from the group and ordered him to leave, which he did.

No one was arrested or reported being injured in the incident, officials at the scene said.

The group of protesters then went to the Steeple Commons Walmart, where they blocked the entrances and prompted the store to close for several hours.

Williams was surrounded outside one entrance. At one point he told Tavon Rice that he was going to "make sure you guys are safe today," and told another



A protester holds a sign outside Tower City, one of several places across the city where people gathered to protest. Police and security closed Tower City, and no one was allowed in or out until the protesters left.

"You have every right to be doing what you're doing, as long as you're doing it peacefully."

Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams

Protester that "you have every right to be doing what you're doing, as long as you're doing it peacefully."

The group then went to Public Square, where police and security closed Tower City.

No one was allowed in or out of the building until the protesters left.

The group walked to Playhouse Square, where traffic was blocked.

They then went to East Ninth Street, near the entrance ramps to the Shoreway.

About two-dozen Cleveland police officers and some 15 cruisers blocked protesters from going onto the highway. Protesters, after shouting at police officers for several minutes, eventually left and went to the nearby Justice Center.

During the final protest of the day — in the neighborhood around East 40th Street and Community College Parkway — about 17 police officers and 10 police cruisers blocked the road that led to the mayor's home.

The 50 protesters that remained during the final protest never crossed the police-car barricade and eventually ended the protest about 8:30 p.m.

More demonstrations are scheduled for today. The group said they plan to meet in Public Square about 3 p.m. and protest outside Quicken Loans Arena before the Cavaliers host the Memphis Grizzlies.

Northeast Ohio Media Group reporter Eric Heisig contributed to this report.