

## Demonstrations



Protesters lie on the pavement, blocking access to the Detroit-Superior Bridge on Friday during a march through downtown to protest recent police shootings. PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS ONDREX | THE PLAIN DEALER

# Protesters take to Cleveland's streets

Peaceful march disrupts traffic to send message

MARY KILPATRICK  
mkilpatrick@cleveland.com

Dozens of demonstrators disrupted business and traffic in downtown Cleveland Friday afternoon, joining a growing national outcry over police violence against civilians.

The disruption came on the heels of a damning report from the U.S. Justice Department that was the culmination of a 21-month investigation into the Cleveland Division of Police's use-of-force practices.

The demonstration forced the city officials earlier in the day to encourage workers at downtown businesses to clear out early to avoid the traffic problems that occurred during the Nov. 25 protests. Those protests came in the days that followed a Cleveland police officer's fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice outside the Cudell Recreation Center.

Protesters on Friday marched through the city for more than two hours. Cleveland police followed their path, keeping their distance and blocking off major roadways in rush-hour traffic.

Their signs and slogans referenced a growing group of high-profile incidents that galvanized the frustration and outrage of Americans, including the Rice shooting, the death of Michael Brown who was shot and killed by a suburban St. Louis police officer, and the death of Eric Garner, who died after he was placed in a chokehold by



Marchers carrying signs that spelled out "Black Lives Matter" make their way on Ontario Street from Public Square during a downtown protest on Friday that continued for more than two hours.

a Staten Island police officer.

The protesters grabbed pieces of cardboard with letters that spelled out "Black Lives Matter," and lined up across the street. Some carried one of 137 pink carnations that symbolized the number of shots fired by Cleveland police at Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell after a massive 2012 police chase through downtown that ended in

East Cleveland.

They marched from Public Square to the Cuyahoga County Justice Center. They stormed to the top of the steps, and rapped and stomped their feet to tunes about fair treatment at the hands of police.

They weaved through traffic to the Detroit-Superior (Veterans Memorial) Bridge. They lay down

and shut down the span across the Cuyahoga River.

They looped past The Q and paused under the Playhouse Square chandelier. No one complained when the cold rain started.

The scene in Cleveland Friday stands in contrast to the protests that erupted earlier this week in New York after the announcement that there would be no indictment

in the Garner case. Protesters clashed with police officers in fiery protests in Times Square and dozens were taken into custody. Protests in Ferguson were also marred by violence in looting in the hours and days after Brown's death in August.

Protest organizers said they plan to hold more demonstrations.

**Police lawsuit  
City paid  
\$100,000  
in use of  
force case  
Officer involved  
in Rice shooting**

JOHN CANIGLIA  
jcaniglia@cleveland.com

Cleveland paid out \$100,000 earlier this year to a city resident to settle an excessive force lawsuit brought against an officer involved in the Tamir Rice shooting. The settlement, reached in U.S. District Court in Cleveland, involved Cleveland Patrolman Frank Garmback — who was the driver in the Rice case — and stemmed from a 2010 confrontation he had with Tameka Eaton while the officer and his partner were tracking a slaying suspect near West 112th and Clifton Boulevard, records show.

To some, the case was hardly clear, as county prosecutors charged Eaton with punching the officer and resisting arrest. A county jury later acquitted her. She filed the federal suit two years later, and the city settled with her in March.

The settlement did not appear in Garmback's personnel file. It was, however, in a listing the city gave The Plain Dealer late Wednesday stemming from a public records request the newspaper had filed months ago. The listing included payments the city made to settle lawsuits brought against officers.

Garmback has been a police officer with the city since 2008.

Eaton's attorneys, Steven Bradley and Mark Marein, said in federal court documents that the confrontation with Garmback and officer Tim Guerra happened like this:

On Aug. 7, 2010, Eaton, who was 39 at the time, returned to her home to find a car parked in front of her driveway on Clifton Boulevard. She called Cleveland police to have a tow truck sent. Eaton then got ready for bed.

Unbeknownst to Eaton, Cleveland police were sent to Eaton's neighborhood to find a suspect in a slaying. Garmback and Guerra found a man and woman walking down the street. The officers quickly arrested the man, despite the woman's loud protests, according to documents Bradley and Marein filed. Eaton came out of her home and believed that the officers were responding to her complaint of the car blocking her driveway. The lawsuit said Eaton did not want the person arrested for her complaint.

The suit said Garmback initially argued with Eaton. It said Garmback then "rushed [Eaton] and placed her in a chokehold, tackled her to the ground, twisted her wrist and began hitting her body. Officer Guerra rushed over and proceeded to punch Tameka Eaton in the face multiple times." The suit said "such reckless, wanton and willful excessive use of force proximately caused bodily injury to [Eaton]."

But county prosecutors placed the blame with Eaton. In court documents, authorities said Eaton interfered with officers as they attempted to check the homicide suspect. They said Eaton punched Garmback in the mouth.