



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 0129-2004, **Version:** \*

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Res. No. 129

Resolution calling upon the City Council to strongly condemn the Cincinnati police officers involved in the vicious beating death of Nathaniel Jones and calling upon state and federal authorities to launch a thorough and immediate investigation into the Cincinnati police department's use of excessive force and continuous disregard and disrespect for the black citizens of Cincinnati.

By Council Members Barron, Baez, Clarke, Jennings, Koppell, Lopez, Martinez, Rivera, Sanders, Seabrook, Stewart, Vann, Foster and James

Whereas, Cincinnati has had a troubling history of its police force using excessive force against certain black residents of Cincinnati; and

Whereas, In 2001, Cincinnati erupted in three days of protests after officers fatally shot an unarmed 19 year-old black man, Timothy Thomas, who was fleeing arrest; and

Whereas, The shooting death of Timothy Thomas was the 15<sup>th</sup> time a person died while in police custody in six years, all the victims of such violence being black men; and

Whereas, A federal investigation into the 2001 shooting death of Timothy Thomas resulted in an agreement by Cincinnati to tighten policies regarding use of force and to improve handling of citizen complaints against the police force; and

Whereas, On Sunday, November 30, 2003, Nathaniel Jones, a black male resident of Cincinnati, died shortly after a confrontation with Cincinnati police in which he was repeatedly struck by two white police officers wielding aluminum nightsticks; and

Whereas, The beating of Nathaniel Jones was captured by a camera mounted on a police cruiser and such video shows the police officers repeatedly striking Mr. Jones with their nightsticks; and

Whereas, There is a 97-second gap near the beginning of the videotape, which critics of the Cincinnati

police contend may show damaging evidence of the police officers inappropriately responding with excessive force; and

Whereas, The six officers involved in the incident, five white and one black, have been placed on administrative leave; and

Whereas, The Cincinnati police have launched two investigations and the Citizen Complaint Authority, the Department of Justice and the NAACP have all, additionally, launched investigations into this matter; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York strongly condemns the Cincinnati police officers involved in the vicious beating death of Nathaniel Jones and calls upon state and federal authorities to launch a thorough and immediate investigation into the Cincinnati police department's use of excessive force and continuous disregard and disrespect for the black citizens of Cincinnati.