

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/8636257.htm?template=content>

Modules/printstory.jsp

Posted on Tue, May. 11, 2004

## **FTAA SUMMIT**

### **Panel examines weapons police used in protests**

Miami's Civilian Investigative Panel saw an arsenal of "less-than-lethal" weaponry Monday as part of the group's investigation into police conduct during the 2003 Free Trade Area of the Americas summit.

Some groups have complained the police were heavy-handed when treating even nonviolent FTAA protesters. But police Chief John Timoney defended Miami police again Monday, saying their use of taser guns, bean-bag projectiles and tear-gas squirting "pepper balls" was both restrained and targeted.

"Here's the choice," Timoney said during a three-hour meeting. ``You use [weaponry] like that, or you have the cops whaling into the crowd with nightsticks."

Timoney and his command staff answered 41 questions submitted last week. Their answers portrayed a well-planned and executed operation -- in stark contrast with lodged complaints.

Committee Chairwoman Janet McAliley said the panel still needs the police department's ``operational plan."