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AFL-CIO Demands Apology, Chief's Resignation

Union Representatives Meet With CIP On FTAA

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MIAMI -- Members of the powerful AFL-CIO labor union are taking aim at Miami Police Chief John Timoney.

AFL-CIO representatives met Monday with the Civilian Investigative Panel that is looking into police actions at the Free Trade Area of The Americas meetings in Miami in November 2003.

Timoney gave his own report to the CIP last month, saying that the police behaved professionally and with great "restraint."

The AFL-CIO says Timoney's report was "grossly exaggerated."

AFL-CIO representatives told the CIP that peaceful union members were harassed by police and busloads of seniors on their way to FTAA protests were denied access and denied their freedom of speech.

Union representatives said they want to know "who gave the orders to fire, who gave the orders to charge, deny access, wear riot gear," and they want an accounting of what happened to the \$23.9 million allocated for security at FTAA.

The AFL-CIO is asking for an apology from Timoney and his resignation. Timoney is out of town and not available to comment.

Meanwhile, Miami submitted its bid last week to become the official site of the FTAA headquarters. Two sites have been offered: Watson Island or the Coconut Grove Expo Center. Ten other cities are vying to be the site of the headquarters.

Diplomats are hoping to create the new free trade zone by next January.