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Police deny FTAA report

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Miami-Dade police objected Thursday to a report on the FTAA demonstrations last November that portrayed police in general as violent toward peaceful protesters.

"I don't think law-abiding citizens were chilled by the police being there to protect them," said William Monihan, an attorney for the county police. "The police took care of all problems as they arose and did so in an appropriate manner."

The report, written by the staff of the county's Independent Review Panel and released in May for public comment, concluded that "police violence against non-violent protesters stained our community" and that "civil rights were trampled."

The panel is now debating changes in the report and hopes to issue a final version this summer.

Few of the complaints in the report singled out Miami-Dade police. Dozens of police agencies were involved in the protests, under the general direction of the Miami Police Department. A separate city panel is also reviewing the case.

Information on changes in the report will be posted online at www.miamidade.gov/irp