

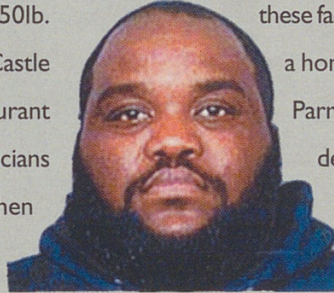
# Cincinnati again subject of national attention.

Is it the officer's job?  
Is it racism?

By: Sam Pollak

**N**ATHANIEL JONES, 41, dies in police custody after a violent encounter with Cincinnati police. 350lb.

Jones had been spotted asleep in his car outside a White Castle restaurant. Paramedics were called to the scene by restaurant staff, and later the police were called by the medical technicians who reported that Jones had become "a nuisance". When officers James Pike and Baron Osterman arrived, Jones was found dancing in the grass beside the White Castle parking lot. When police attempted to subdue him, Jones swung at the officials who then hit Jones repeatedly with their nightsticks. The officers yelled commands such as "Put your hands behind your back! Sir! Sir!" and others. After receiving many blows from the officers, Jones was finally taken down and handcuffed. Jones later died in police custody after being admitted to the hospital for his injuries. The report from



NATHANIEL JONES, 41

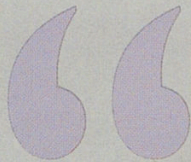
courtesy of Cincinnati.com

Hamilton County Coroner Carl Parrott proclaimed that Jones suffered from an enlarged heart, obesity, and had traces of PCP and cocaine in his body. While these factors may have played a role in Jones's death, it was still considered a homicide because it did not fit any other category. Because of this, Parrott wanted to create a new category of deaths that would include deaths in police custody.

Jones's death caused tension all over the city. Arguments over whether the officers involved in the struggle were to be held accountable for the death or if they were just doing their job.

According to Cincinnati Police Chief Tom Streicher, the tape was "by the book". "Even though it's ugly, even though it looks terrible, when I compare it to our policies, I don't see anything wrong there," said Streicher.

The Cincinnati Police department has redesigned their policies regarding violent suspects in response to angry citizens. Some citizens claim that racism played a role in this case while others agree with the police officers' actions. Some, however, have gone as far as to say that they will not stop protesting until Streicher as well as Cincinnati Mayor Charles Luken resign.



"He was a walking heart attack waiting to happen."

> Nick Philpott, 9

"Even though he retaliated and deserved to be in custody, they didn't need to beat him."

> Andrew Hancher, 9

"The cops were just defending themselves."

> Todd Whitman, 10



## OFFICERS STRUGGLE TO SUBDUE

350lb Nathaniel Jones. After sustaining several blows from the officers' nightsticks, Jones was finally taken to the ground and handcuffed. This video shot from the dashboard camera of one of the involved officer's cruisers has become the main leverage for both sides in the case regarding Jones.

