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City of Cleveland Transfers Tamir Rice Investigation to Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department

At the Direction of County Executive Budish, Chief Clifford Pinkney will Lead Investigation

CLEVELAND – The City of Cleveland announced today that it has formally transferred the Tamir Rice investigation over to the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department. At the direction of Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish, the investigation will be conducted by Chief Clifford Pinkney. The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department will then present the completed investigation to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office for determination of possible charges.

"This decision to turn the investigation over was made to ensure that transparency and an extra layer of separation and impartiality were established," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. "I believe that the best way to ensure accountability in a use of force investigation is to have it completed by an outside agency."

"Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department is well-prepared to conduct this investigation. We have some of our most experienced Detectives working this case and I'm confident that the investigation will be extensive," said Chief Pinkney. "I intend to lead this investigation with an understanding of the importance and gravity of a thorough and systematic resolution."

In 2013, Sheriff Frank Bova promoted Clifford Pinkney to Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department Chief, 2nd in Command. Chief Pinkney, who started with the Sheriff's Department in 1991 and has 24 years of service, is the county's first African-American Chief.

During his career, Pinkney has worked in the Detective Bureau, Narcotics Bureau, Sex Offender Unit, Internal Affairs, and served on the FBI Task Force that dealt with gangs, drugs and wiretaps. He attended the U.S. Marshall Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia in 2009, and graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy at Quantico, Virginia in 2012.

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