

FDLE: Miami Police Changed Crime Stats

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Wraps Up Two Year Investigation

State Attorney Won't File Charges

Police Chief Responds To Findings

CBS4's I-Team has learned that a two year long criminal investigation has found that the Miami Police Department routinely changed police call signals and crime reports, making the crime picture in the city appear better than it actually was.

While the Florida Department of Law Enforcement found that the activity, in some cases, may have been criminal, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle's office will issue a "close out" memo Monday, concluding that there is insufficient evidence to bring criminal charges. Instead, sources say the State Attorney will recommend that the police department deal "administratively" with the people and issues raised in the FDLE's report.

Fraternal Order of Police President Armando Aguilar, who was briefed on the case by Joe Centorino, chief of the State Attorney's public corruption unit, told **CBS4 News** that the FDLE's report confirms a complaint brought by the union, in August, 2007, that mid-level commanders and officers in the field were under "unrelenting pressure" to reduce the reported crime rate, and that dispatch signals and incident reports were routinely altered to reflect less serious offenses than had occurred.

Aguilar said prosecutors asked that he not comment further on the investigation, because it remains officially open until the State Attorney's close out memo is issued.

"I can say that the FDLE found that our complaint was valid," Aguilar said.

The FDLE's investigation included interviews with dozens of police officers, and the review of thousands of police calls.

Sources tell **CBS4 News** that Miami Police Chief John Timoney has provided prosecutors with a response to the FDLE's findings, defending his department's practices.

In April of 2008, auditors from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting division reviewed a sampling of Miami police records and concluded that the department had accurately reported criminal activity. Chief Timoney, at the time, called the FBI's audit a "vindication" of the department. The police union, however, said the FBI relied on tabulations that were based on bad numbers to begin with, calling the audit a product of "garbage in, garbage out."

Similar allegations of under-reporting crime dogged Timoney when he was the Police Commissioner of Philadelphia. Timoney disputed figures compiled in the investigation of the Philadelphia department, saying they were the product of suspect "methodology." In Philadelphia, one of Timoney's commanders was demoted as a result of the crime statistics probe.