

# Cincinnati mayor recommends stun guns for cops

CINCINNATI (AP) - Cincinnati's mayor on Sunday urged the city to buy stun guns for its police force in response to the death of a man following a struggle with six officers a week ago.

"I am looking for any avenue to avoid another struggle," Mayor Charlie Luken wrote in an e-mail to City Council members Sunday that asked them to find \$1 million in the 2004 budget to pay for the non-lethal weapons.

"While it is unclear whether the incident would have changed if our officers had the latest technology in Tasers, I believe we must equip our police with the very best equipment," Luken wrote.

Nathaniel Jones, 41, died Nov. 30 after the scuffle in a restaurant parking lot. A po-

lice cruiser videotape showed the 350-pound man lunging at one officer before he was brought down and struck repeatedly with metal nightsticks.

The coroner ruled Jones' death a homicide but cautioned that the designation did not imply police used excessive force. The direct cause of death was the struggle, the autopsy showed, but Jones also had an enlarged heart and had drugs in his blood.

Jones' family and activist groups have said they will commission independent investigations, adding to probes by police, prosecutors and a citizens' panel. The Justice Department also is gathering information.

About 500 people attended a memorial Saturday for Jones, who was black.

His death has focused attention on the racial divide in this city torn by riots in April 2001 after a white police officer shot an unarmed black man who fled arrest.

A new model of the Taser was demonstrated to city officials about five months ago, Luken said at City Hall on Sunday.

"We have been waiting on a federal grant," Luken said. "Because of what happened a week ago, the city manager and I have concluded that we cannot wait."

Malik Shabazz, president of Black Lawyers for Justice and national chairman of the New Black Panther Party, denounced the proposal on Sunday, calling it an empty gesture.

"It's too little, too late," Shabazz said. "It's also evidence that they did not have

proper procedures in place."

Shabazz spoke at a rally that drew about 100 people in front of police headquarters, then led a march to the poor, predominantly black Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, the epicenter of the 2001 riots.

Police Chief Thomas Streicher told council members on Wednesday that he stopped use of the older Tasers because he considered them unreliable. They required an officer to touch a person to activate the stun capability - not practical in a case where the suspect is lunging and swinging at officers, he said.

The newer models fire small, needlelike projectiles that can shock a person who is up to 25 feet away, Luken said.

The mayor said enough money to buy 1,000 of the

new stun guns for the 1,050-officer department could come from not filling 34

middle management city vacancies that he expects within the coming year.

## AKAs, Omegas hosting Money Matters seminar

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Theta Theta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are hosting their fifth annual Economic Summit-Money Matters Seminar at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The forum, to include a handful of sessions on money management, including components directed toward youth, will take place in Building "D" at the Charleston campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd.

The seminars are 2003 Tax Update, Credit and Debt Management, Employment Skills and Scholarship and Financial Aid.

Admission is free and open to the public. Prizes, including books and magazine subscriptions that will be awarded during the seminar.

# Nine companies to finance AIDS programming in Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - Nine major international companies initiated an effort last week to expand treatment and prevention programs for Africans with HIV, starting in some cases with their own employees.

The companies will run the programs with their own money and with funds from the Geneva-based Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, on a four-nation tour of Africa, welcomed the initiative by Anglo American, ChevronTexaco, Bristol-Myers Squibb,

DaimlerChrysler, Eskom, Heineken, Lafarge, Pfizer and Tata Steel.

"We have not done enough to incorporate the business community" in the fight against AIDS, Thompson said.

"We need everyone to join us in this fight. ... The continent of Africa has been ravaged for far too long."

Officials from the companies and the Global Fund did not say how much money they would put forward for the projects.

Some 30 million of the world's 40 million HIV patients live in Africa, where many countries don't have the health care infrastructure

to cope with the disease.

Thompson, who is accompanied by top U.S. health officials, lawmakers and business leaders, began the trip in Zambia before moving on to Rwanda and Kenya. The final stop is in Uganda.

"Business has a vital role to play in the war on AIDS," said Richard Holbrooke, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and now the president of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS.

"Most companies still don't see that it is their responsibility," he said.

"These companies, however, are doing their part and have offered to do more."

In Cameroon, Paris-based Lafarge SA, the world's largest cement maker, has already trained health workers who will run HIV and AIDS treatment programs for employees and their families in the central African country.

In Ghana, the Dutch brewer Heineken is building HIV treatment facilities, training health care workers and developing plans to ensure the facilities are sustainable.

In Nigeria, San Francisco-based ChevronTexaco and other companies pumping oil in the West African country will work together to consolidate their treatment networks, which include com-

pany-run hospitals and satellite clinics.

The money for the training and facilities being provided by the companies and the Global Fund will "be critical to the achievement of such global targets" as providing 3 million infected people with the latest drugs available by the end of 2005, an initiative announced by the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, the Global Business Coalition said.

"We can only beat this pandemic if we work together," said Richard Feachem, the executive director of the Global Fund. "Co-investment allows the

private sector to contribute real assets and expertise to what must be a joint public/private collaboration in local communities."

Thompson visited a Roman Catholic hospital in rural Rwanda and donated a cow, which he named Elroy, after his hometown in Wisconsin. In Rwandan culture, the gift of a cow creates an unbreakable link between the two parties.

"I'm so moved by what I've seen here today and how so much is being done with so little," Thompson said. "I'm going back to America to do everything I possibly can to help them."

## Court

(Continued from Page 1)

sentence under the law. "I feel like somebody lifted a 200-pound weight off my head. It's just a beautiful thing, and I hope now that Lionel's going to have a chance at a life," said Jim Lewis, Tate's lawyer at his trial.

Broward County prosecutors said only that they are reviewing the ruling to determine whether to hold a new trial. Tate will remain behind bars in the meantime.

The boy and his mother had insisted he was innocent and turned down a plea bargain before the trial that would have given him a three-year sentence. If he had accepted the deal, he could have been out of prison 10 months ago.

Lewis said he hopes prosecutors offer a similar plea bargain and allow Tate to be

released.

Tiffany's mother, Dewese Eunick, has said she did not think Tate should be imprisoned for life if his behavior improved. A phone listing for Eunick could not be obtained Wednesday.

Defense attorney Richard Rosenbaum had argued before the appeals court that Tate was too immature to understand what was at stake during the trial.

The appeals court said at a minimum, the trial judge had an obligation to ensure that Tate understood the plea offer and the possibility of a life sentence if he rejected it.

The three-judge panel noted that Tate had "significant mental delays" and a below-average IQ of about 90.

At his trial, Tate's lawyers argued that the boy thought he could body-slam

people and they would walk away unhurt, just like his wrestling idols on television.

"I don't think Lionel intended to kill this little girl. I don't think Lionel intended to hurt this little girl," Lewis said. "This is not somebody who goes to school with a gun and tried to kill somebody. This is an innocent 12-year-old boy who played too rough."

The appeals court judges did not challenge the law that allowed Tate to get life without parole.

"Florida courts have long recognized that there is no absolute right requiring children to be treated in a special system for juvenile offenders," Stone wrote.

When the judges heard the appeal in September, however, they repeatedly questioned the law, which allows any person, regardless of age,

to be prosecuted as an adult.

"There's no discretion exercised at all in this — no societal judgment," Judge Martha C. Warner said. "Age is not a consideration."

Judge Fred A. Hazouri asked then what is to stop prosecutors from charging a 6-year-old with murder if the child gets angry at a Little League game, picks up a bat and kills a teammate.

"At what point do we say as a society that that is just too young?" Hazouri said.

Assistant Attorney General Debra Rescigno would not answer what would be a reasonable age cutoff.

She said Tate's life sentence was deserved because he horrifically beat the girl for more than five minutes.

Alarmed by a sharp rise in juvenile crime, Florida changed its laws during the late 1980s and 1990s to make

it easier to try youths as adults and subject them to the same penalties.

Florida leads the world in prosecuting juveniles as adults, according to the Juvenile Law Center.

As of March, Florida had 121 inmates serving life sentences for crimes such as murder, sexual battery and armed robbery that were committed when they were 15 or younger.

Tiffany suffered a frac-

tured skull, lacerated liver, broken rib, internal bleeding and cuts and bruises.

The boy told police that he picked her up and accidentally hit her head against a table.

But the defense's own experts conceded that Tate's story would not have accounted for all of Tiffany's injuries, which one prosecution expert said were comparable to a fall from a three-story building.

**CANYON LAKE**  
MORTGAGE, INC

Morse Arberry Jr.  
CEO

2551 S. Fort Apache Rd., Suite 102  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
(702) 562-2323 • Fax (702) 562-1805  
www.canyonlakemortgage.com