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# Naples Daily News

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## Quick Read



### CHUCK HAGEL LEAVES UNDER PRESSURE

President Barack Obama called Chuck Hagel "no ordinary secretary of defense" as he announced Hagel's resignation Monday, opening the way for a new Pentagon leader to confront evolving national security challenges in the final two years of Obama's presidency.

NATION, 13A



### FORECLOSURE AUCTION ORDERED FOR VR LABS

A federal judge has ordered a public foreclosure auction to sell off the south Lee County building of embattled health drink company VR Laboratories.

BUSINESS, 1B

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## Missouri police shooting

# Grand jury doesn't indict cop

Violence erupts as teen's parents, President Obama appeal for calm

By Jim Salter and David A. Lieb  
Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — A grand jury declined Monday to indict Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed, black 18-year-old whose fatal shooting by a white officer sparked weeks of sometimes-violent protests and exposed deep racial tension between many

## INSIDE

Thousands rally across U.S. after Ferguson decision 4A

African-Americans and police. Within minutes of the announcement by St. Louis County's top prosecutor, crowds began pouring into Ferguson

See FERGUSON, 4A



Lesley McSpadden, Michael Brown's mother, is comforted outside the Ferguson police department Monday as St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch announces the grand jury's decision not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of her son.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/  
THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



# LET IT SNOW

DANIA MAXWELL/STAFF

## Naples opens holiday season with Christmas on Third

Sophie Brewington, 4, touches "snow" falling with her father, Paul Brewington, center, Monday during Christmas on Third in Naples. They are visiting Naples with family from London. People filled the streets to celebrate the holiday season. See more photos from the Christmas on Third event at [naplesnews.com](http://naplesnews.com).

## Fifth Avenue South

# Top-floor views with over-the-top prices

With prices as high as \$1.2 million, these Naples condos put South Beach to shame

By June Fletcher

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The 14 condos are relatively small, used, and sit atop offices, shops, and banks.

They don't have any fancy amenities; in some cases they don't even have flooring.

Their asking prices? Between \$625,000 to \$1.2 million.

Yet Naples Fifth Avenue Residential LLC is betting these newly released units will easily bring those heady prices,

which on an average per-square-foot basis top those in the most trendy downtowns in other resort cities such as South Beach in Miami and Scottsdale, a Phoenix, Arizona, suburb.

Local brokers think they will, too.

The draw? The two-bedroom penthouse condos, in three separate buildings, all have huge windows with killer views of Fifth Avenue South, lined with

See CONDOS, 4A



Real estate agent Fatima Khokhar walks through condominiums that are being renovated Thursday in the Metropolitan building on Fifth Avenue South. The Metropolitan has seven condominiums on the third floor of the building.

SCOTT MCINTYRE/STAFF



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## Missouri police shooting



Police in riot gear move down the street past a burning police car Monday after the grand jury's announcement that it would not indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

## FERGUSON

from 1A

streets to protest the decision. Some taunted police, shattered windows and vandalized cars. Several gunshots also were heard. Officers released smoke and pepper spray to disperse the gatherings.

Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch said the jury of nine whites and three blacks met on 25 separate days and heard more than 70 hours of testimony



Michael Brown

from about 60 witnesses, including three medical examiners and other experts on blood, toxicology and firearms. He stressed that jurors were "the only people who heard every witness ... and every piece of evidence." He said many witnesses presented conflicting statements that were inconsistent with the physical evidence.

"These grand jurors poured their hearts and soul into this process," he said.

As McCulloch was reading his statement, Michael Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, was sitting atop a vehicle listening



Protesters shove a police car after the announcement Monday of the grand jury decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.

to a broadcast of the announcement. When she heard the decision, she burst into tears and began screaming before being whisked away by supporters.

The crowd with her erupted in anger, converging on the barricade where police in riot gear were standing. They pushed down the barricade and began pelting police with objects, including a bullhorn. Officers stood their ground.

At least nine votes would have been required to indict Wilson. The grand jury met in secret, a standard practice for such proceedings.

Speaking for nearly 45 minutes, a defensive McCulloch repeatedly cited what he said were incon-

sistencies and erroneous accounts from witnesses. When asked by a reporter whether any of the accounts amount to perjury, he said, "I think they truly believe that's what they saw, but they didn't."

The prosecutor also was critical of the media, saying "the most significant challenge" for his office was a "24-hour news cycle and an insatiable appetite for something — for anything — to talk about."

Brown's family released a statement saying they were "profoundly disappointed" in the decision but asked that the public "channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change. We need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen."

## naplesnews.com

Do you agree with the grand jury's charges? Subscribers can vote in our poll. You can also see more photos from Ferguson and watch a video report.

President Barack Obama appealed for calm and understanding, pleading with both residents and police to show restraint.

"We are a nation built on the rule of law, so we need to accept that this decision was the grand jury's to make," Obama said. He said it was understandable that some Americans would be "deeply disappointed — even angered," but echoed Brown's parents in calling for any protests to be peaceful.

The Justice Department is conducting a separate investigation into possible civil rights violations that could result in federal charges. The department also has launched a broad probe into the Ferguson Police Department, looking for patterns of discrimination.

Outside the Ferguson Police Department on Monday night, St. Louis County police used a bullhorn to order a crowd to disperse, saying it had become an unlawful assembly. Protesters defied the orders and some chanted "murderer." Minutes later, four gunshots were heard down the street.

# Thousands rally across U.S. after Ferguson decision

By Sadie Gurman  
Associated Press

Thousands of people flooded city streets from Los Angeles to New York late Monday in passionate — but initially peaceful — protest of a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer who killed a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri.

They led marches, waved signs and chanted "Hands Up! Don't Shoot," the slogan that has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the U.S.

Activists had been planning to protest even before the nighttime announcement that Officer Darren Wilson will not be charged in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

The racially charged case in Ferguson has inflamed tensions and reignited debates over police-community relations even in cities hundreds of miles from the predominantly black St. Louis suburb. For many staging protests Monday, the shooting was personal, calling to mind other galvanizing encounters with local law enforcement.

Police departments in several major cities said they were bracing for large demonstrations with the potential for the kind of violence that marred nightly protests in Ferguson after Brown's killing. Demonstrators there threw Molotov cocktails and police fired smoke canisters, tear gas and rubber bullets.

But police reported gatherings were mostly peaceful immediately following Monday's announcement.

Several hundred protesters marched through downtown Philadelphia, yelling "No justice, no peace, no racist police!" A similar protest of about 50 people in Pittsburgh was short-lived, with activists saying they plan to regroup Tuesday at the federal courthouse.

In Los Angeles, which was rocked by riots in 1992 after the acquittal of police officers in the videotaped beating of Rodney King, police officers were told to remain on duty until released

by their supervisors. While about 100 people gathered in Leimert Park, others held a small news conference demanding police change their policies and release as quickly as the names of those killed the names of the officers who shot them.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock urged protesters to be peaceful in that city, where a civil jury last month found deputies used excessive force in the death of a homeless street preacher. Clergy gathered at a church to discuss the decision, and about a dozen people rallied in a downtown park with a moment of silence.

At Cleveland's Public Square, at least a dozen protesters held signs Monday afternoon and chanted "Hands up, don't shoot," which has become a rallying cry since the Ferguson shooting. Their signs references police shootings that have shaken the community there, including Saturday's fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who had a fake gun at a Cleveland playground when officers confronted him.

Los Angeles Community activist Najee Ali said he met with police last week to discuss plans for a peaceful gathering in response to the Ferguson decision. The plans include having community members identify any "agitators" who may be inciting violence so officers can remove them from the crowd, he said.

"It was kind of unprecedented," Ali said of the meeting. "We never collaborate with the LAPD. They do what they do, and we do what we do."

But since violence erupted at the city's rallies protesting the shooting of Trayvon Martin, 17, in Florida, Ali said there was an effort to avoid repeat problems.

"We told them our plans of protest and we were demanding our First Amendment rights be protected," Ali said. "They said they're taking a hands-off approach," but they'd be in the wings if outside agitators try to stir up violence in the crowds.

## CONDOS

from 1A

some of the region's ritziest restaurants and glitziest boutiques.

"There just aren't that many places this close to the action," said Fatima Khokhar, director of sales and spokeswoman for the owners, a coalition of Naples and Miami-based investors.

Such prices might seem stratospheric to condo owners in less-fashionable and inland parts of the county. After all, the median price of a condo countywide was \$225,000 in the third quarter of this year, according to the Naples Area Board of Realtors.

But along the beach in Naples, the median price was considerably higher, at \$479,000, NABOR said.

In Old Naples, considered especially desirable because it is the heart of the historic district, condos are in short supply — and fewer still have frontage on Fifth Avenue and are within walking distance to the beach.

So buyers have been coming out in droves to tour the condos since they were put on the market less than a month ago, Khokhar said.

So far, she said, interested buyers include city-bred Europeans looking for pied-à-terres, as well as wealthy homeowners from Port Royal and Bonita Bay wanting a centrally located hideaway for their overflow guests.

One condo already is under contract, Khokhar said. Although the buyer and price can't be revealed until the sale closes, the asking price of the 1,410-square-foot unit was \$870,000.

Seven units are for sale in the rose-colored Metropolitan at 365 Fifth Ave. S. From terraced balconies, they overlook a paved courtyard with sofas and a fountain.



SCOTT MCINTYRE/STAFF

The view of Fifth Avenue South from the balcony of one of the condominiums available Thursday in the Continental building on Fifth Avenue South. The Continental has five condominiums on the top floor of the building.

## naplesnews.com/bg

See more photos and read more coverage on growth and development in Southwest Florida.

Prices range from \$625,000 to \$825,000, but only two are being renovated before sale to serve as models; the others are being sold "as is."

The five units at the cream-colored Continental at 375 Fifth Ave. S. also have not been renovated, but are slightly larger, with asking prices of between \$990,000 and \$1.02 million. The building's ground floor houses a branch of the Northern Trust Bank.

At the pinkish-tan third building, called 900 Fifth, there's a drive-thru branch of

a Wells Fargo Bank, with two units available upstairs.

One is being sold with the previous tenant's modernistic furnishings at \$860,000. The asking price of the other is \$1.24 million; at 1,905 square feet, it's the largest unit available, with a den, three baths and a wraparound balcony overlooking the bustling and somewhat noisy corner of Fifth Avenue South and Ninth Street South.

Yet Nancy MacDonald, managing broker of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, said a bit of noise doesn't deter buyers from cities like New York where street racket is ubiquitous.

"Some people don't care about noise, but they do care about being able to walk

## PRIME REAL ESTATE

How do average per-square-foot condo prices compare in different downtowns?

Naples' 14 Fifth Avenue condos	\$623
South Beach, Miami	\$590
Scottsdale, Arizona	\$522

Source: Southeast Florida Multiple Listing Service; Realty ONE Group

to everything," she said.

Although there are no pools, gyms or other amenities serving the condos, each has either assigned or covered parking and can be reached by an elevator.

The lack of amenities could be a turnoff to buyers, as could association fees ranging from about \$2,200 to \$3,500 a quarter, said Elton Alikaj, a real estate agent with Engels and Volkers, who previewed some of the units.

Nevertheless, he plans to show the units to his buyers when they arrive for the winter season.

"I think they will sell quickly at close to the asking price," he said.

Bruce Miller, a real estate agent with John R. Wood, also thought the units would sell fast, although he expects even some well-off buyers might feel some sticker shock.

"If they haven't been to Naples before, they will be surprised by the pricing," he said.

While the Fifth Avenue units range from only 1,100 to 1,900 square feet, Miller said that probably won't inhibit sales. In the current hot market, he's seeing many clients who are willing to trade size for location and proximity to the beach.

"They're making a calculation that they'll invest now with what's on the market, and then trade off later for something they like better," he said.