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CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Antioch shooting paralyzes man, stray bullets go into child's bedroom

By Robert Salonga Contra Costa Times

Posted: 04/05/2011 06:46:35 AM PDT

Updated: 04/05/2011 02:19:36 PM PDT

ANTIOCH -- A shooting that police say was gangrelated left one man paralyzed and sent bullets into a nearby child's bedroom Monday night, officials said.

It was the second shooting in a day on a short stretch of Sycamore Drive, one of Antioch's most violent streets.

The shooting occurred about 9 p.m. in the 1700 block of Sycamore, where residents reported hearing as many as 20 shots, acting Lt. Diane Aguinaga said.

A 19-year-old Antioch man was struck several times, Aguinaga said. He was conscious when he was taken to the hospital but unable to talk with police. He will likely be paralyzed from the chest down because of his injuries, she said.

Residents reported that they saw a burgundy Jeep speeding away after the shooting. Investigators found several shell casings at the scene, from both a handgun and a rifle, Aguinaga said.

Several cars and buildings were hit by gunfire, including the bedroom of a 9-year-old boy. Three bullets hit the wall behind where the child would have normally been sleeping on his bunk bed, but police and his mother said he was in another room when the gunfire erupted.

"I feel really, really insecure. This is my son's room; this is my child's room. How could there be gunshot through a child's room? I don't care what it is; maybe in my room, but not in my son's room. So I really, really feel scared and insecure to even live here anymore," the boy's mother told KGO-TV.

The mother of two

also told the television station that she recently moved from Hayward, thinking it would be safer to live in Antioch.

Earlier in the day, about a block from this shooting, a 24-year-old Antioch man was wounded in the leg in what police think was a drive-by attack. That shooting, reported about 4:05 p.m. in the 1500 block of Sycamore, was preceded by a fight involving several men.

Shots rang out, and the victim, who said he had been with his family playing with children, heard a pop and saw a small black car speed away. He immediately felt pain in his leg, Aguinaga said. He was taken to a hospital and is expected to recover.

The victim was unable to give any more details about the vehicle or anyone inside.

Police ask anyone with information about Monday's shootings to contact them at 925-779-6926.

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