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## Residents in Antioch neighborhood plea for nonviolence

By Paul Bugarino  
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ANTIOCH -- Residents fed up with constant gunfire and violence in their neighborhood near Sycamore Drive rallied to drum up support Wednesday afternoon.

About three dozen people, including many small children, waved signs on the corner of Sycamore and Dogwood Way sharing a message of nonviolence to drivers passing by.

"Hopefully, this is a wake-up call to the community," said Andrewnetta Marion, a 32-year Antioch resident who moved to the apartments on the north side of the intersection two months ago.

The area, which Marion said some people refer to as a black hole, has had three reported incidents of shootings in the past three days, including one two blocks away at Spanos Street and Magnolia Drive

just two hours before the peace rally.

Arieanna Rivers waved a sign that read "Stop the violence" because she said shots were fired near her apartment March 31 while she and her young children were outside.

"It's scary here," she said.

The Rev. Nicolas Alexander of Do the Word Ministries organized the rally after an uptick in violence.

"We have to do something," he said.

A 19-year-old man was paralyzed from the chest down in a shooting Monday that sent bullets into a nearby child's bedroom, officials said. The 9-year-old was not in his room at the time. Police think the

shooting was gang-related.

A drive-by shooting five hours earlier two blocks away that same day injured a 24-year-old man who said

he had been with his family. The shooting was preceded by a fight involving several men.

Sycamore Drive is too dark at night and needs more streetlights, Marion said. The area could also use some recreation activities such as basketball courts, Alexander added.

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

**Contact Paul Bugarino at 925-779-7164.**  
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