

# Anti-violence marchers want youth programs

Recent shootings inspire call for police protection

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More after-school programs and police protection were among the goals for Saturday's "March Against Violence" in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Close to 200 people marched through the city streets Saturday in the wake of several shootings that have claimed the lives of at least two people in the city since the first incident on June 28.

Police have declined to say whether the shootings are connected or related. Several people have been injured, while two victims, Shameik Floyd, 21, and William Trotman, 37, were killed in separate incidents.

On Thursday, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik announced a string of measures

aimed at increasing safety, including increasing police patrols, seeking funding for anti-violence programs and collaborating with other law enforcement agencies. "We've lost too many and we won't tolerate another death," said Wappingers Falls resident Luz Morales.

In response to the shootings, many residents Saturday called for more federal, state and county funding toward youth programs.

After the "March Against Violence," began at Mansion Square Park, residents and public officials marched to the city's Family Partnership Center to discuss ways of improving the lives of young people.

Morales, who runs the C.O.L.O.R.S. Foundation, which supports racial and religious unity, said after-school and outreach programs are key to keeping youth off of the street and away from guns.

See MARCHERS, Page 5A



COURTESY OF LUZ MORALES

Representatives of C.O.L.O.R.S., a group that promotes religious and racial unity, participates Saturday in a march to against violence in the City of Poughkeepsie.