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Streets shut down as major protest hits Martinez



Photo by Denis Shea

Approximately 2,000 individuals marched from the marina to the Courthouse steps Tuesday evening to rally for immigration reform. The protest was one of many held throughout California and the country. The demonstration included speakers, dancers and flags.

■ Martinez courthouse sets the stage for annual May Day immigration reform rallies

BY RICHARD PARKS
Staff Reporter

Joining hundreds of thousands of demonstrators across the Bay Area and nationwide, residents of Martinez took to the streets on Tuesday evening to make a statement about the need for immigration reform. The event was organized by the Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO) and was led by children and a cross-section of County religious leaders who, after a march from the marina, congregated at the foot of the Courthouse steps in downtown Martinez.

About 2,000 people in all attended the march and demonstration, which was held in solidarity with those across the nation, and in the name of raising awareness about the devastating impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids have had on the County; CCISCO and community participants endeavor to convince Congress to cease the raids. Congressional Representatives George Miller, Gerald McNeerney and Ellen Tauscher were on hand with 20 Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant clergy and faith leaders and local officials, including City Councilmember Mike Menesini, who spoke at the rally.