

Hundreds rally in name of slain kids - Kilpatrick calls on community to act to end the violence

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DETROIT -- **Hundreds of** Detroiters and civic leaders gathered Saturday on Belle Isle for a **rally** to end violence that has taken the lives **of** 13 children **in** the city this year.

Among the crowd were families **of** several **slain** children, including Victoria Seldon and her children Alexia Ware, 4, and Andrayus Ware, 3 -- whose 20-month-old sister, Amari, is the latest victim, allegedly shot late Thursday by their father, Antonio Ware.

With 13 striped tents representing each city police precinct pitched **in** a circle around a mobile stage, and with impassioned prayers **in** English, Arabic and Spanish, the **rally** organized by Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick took on the flavor **of** an old-fashioned revival meeting.

The mayor introduced Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan, Police Chief Jerry Oliver Sr., U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Collins and county community justice director Jeriel Heard. They took turns at the microphone, exhorting the crowd to sign up for neighborhood programs to protect children.

"It takes a few ordinary people to do extraordinary things," the mayor urged.

To rousing applause, Duggan announced progress by a Project Safe Neighborhood program aimed at removing abandoned houses and other drug sites and prosecuting gun-carrying criminals more forcefully.

Some 1,300 abandoned houses near schools will be demolished within six months, he said. And **in** conjunction with the police department, legal action to seize 500 drug houses is under way.

?!--Detroit Children Under Fire--?

Caption: Flyers handed out to residents feature **names** and ages **of** children killed **in** Detroit this year. So far, violence has taken the lives **of** 13 children. The family **of** the latest victim, 20-month-old Amari Ware, who was allegedly shot by her father Thursday, attended the **rally**, including sister Alexia, 4, and brother Andrayus, 3.

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