

Fresno protesters demonstrate over recent police slayings of African-American men

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Protesters gather on the southwest corner of Blackstone and Shaw avenues in Fresno on Friday night, Dec. 5, 2014 to demonstrate against recent police actions in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York in which African-Americans were killed. RORY APPLETON — THE FRESNO BEE

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About 20 Fresno residents took to Blackstone Avenue between Shaw and Gettysburg avenues Friday night to protest the recent police actions in Ferguson, Missouri and New York.



Protesters marched south in the middle of Blackstone Avenue towards Gettysburg carrying signs and chanting “hands up, don’t shoot.” Fresno police followed closely behind the group and blocked traffic along its chosen route.



Before the march, the group hung plastic wrap on the traffic lights near Blackstone and Shaw and spray painted a sign that contained an expletive and said “hang killer cops.” A passerby ripped the sign down shortly after it was posted.

Protesters said the idea for the walk was circulated through social media. They said they aim to spread awareness of violence throughout America, including the Valley.

Fresno City College student and protest leader Jakeyla Barbin said that people shouted both words of encouragement and obscenities from passing cars, but the group had not been physically harassed by citizens or police.

Fresno Liberty Movement member Brian Sumner led the group, chanting profanity-laced maxims as they headed back to Shaw — blocking traffic as they went.

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