

# Neighbors protest illegal activities - TribToday.com - News, Sports, Jobs, Community Information - Tribune Chronicle

"We know what you're doing and we're watching you!," one sign read.

Protest organizer Tina Milner brought together members of the Roosevelt Area Neighborhood Watch and other interested Warren residents from 2 to 4 p.m. to stand up against drug and prostitution activity in the Roosevelt neighborhood.

## Article Photos



Tribune Chronicle / Brandon Merriman

John Large of Warren displays a protest sign Saturday during a sit-in at the corner of Vernon Avenue NW and Hall Street NW. Activists were protesting criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Prostitution is visible throughout the neighborhood, even by school bus stops and parks during the day, and used condoms and needles are

popping up too, Milner said.

Milner has been working with Warren officials to get something done, but results aren't coming, she said.

"We know things take time, but we're just trying to make (offenders) uncomfortable while we can," Milner said.

One house directly across from the protest, 558 Hall St. NW, got a lot of attention. That is where Milner said prostitutes are allowed to live.

Milner said there have been about 30 calls for police service in the past two years to that address.

Those in the neighborhood have been taking down license plate numbers and taking photos of suspected "johns" visiting the house, Milner said.

During the protest, a man Milner said was the house's owner drove by without stopping. Minutes later, he walked to a house next to 558 Hall St., got in another car and drove away. He did it all without acknowledging the protesters as they yelled to get his attention.

They also were ignored by suspected johns driving by in cars that protesters said they recognized by their make and license plate.

"They don't want any attention put on them, but we're going to do that," Milner said.

Last year, a needle was stuck into a stump nearby that had to be disposed of by a HazMat team, Milner said.

"Could you imagine if a kid picked that up?" Milner said.

A protester, Jennifer Hughes, said there was a drug overdose on her street, Rex Boulevard, last week, so she wants the city to finally get something done.

"It's getting out of hand," Hughes said. "I'm not giving up. As long as we stick together, hopefully something will get done about it."

Milner said this protest probably won't be the last. She intends to put on similar events within other Warren neighborhoods that are having trouble, including ones where protesters from nearby neighborhoods live.

"Your neighborhood's what you make it," Milner said. "You have to fight for it."