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Occupy protesters march through city

By **Evan Allen and Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS JANUARY 30, 2012

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Between 80 and 100 protesters calling themselves activists of the Occupy movement chanted as they held signs and marched from Copley Square through downtown last night, rushed onto Dewey Square and briefly paused there before proceeding back toward Copley.

Marchers said they were protesting in solidarity with the Occupy movement in Oakland, where more than 400 people were arrested Saturday after clashes with police.

In Boston, no arrests were made last night, said Officer James Kenneally, spokesman for the Boston Police Department. Officers on foot, on bicycle and several in police vehicles followed the protesters and directed traffic along the three-hour roundtrip, which took place before today's four-month anniversary of Occupy Boston's birth.

“This is not dying. We are not going away,” said Danny Manriquez, who stood by a tent he briefly set up on Dewey Square. The 25-year-old from Long Beach, Calif., said he has been traveling to cities that had Occupy sites. “Class warfare is what’s going on here,” he said.

The march began at Copley Square at about 7 p.m. The crowd’s slow movement through the Back Bay and downtown streets turned into a sprint just before reaching Dewey Square.

There, some protesters shouted “Welcome home, Occupy” and others planted a flag reading “Occupy Boston at Dewey Square” as they filled the section of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway from which the protest group was removed from in the early morning of Dec. 10. The 72-day encampment was, at the time, the longest continual Occupy demonstration in the country.

Protesters in Oakland clashed with police yesterday following a midday rally and march that deteriorated into violence. Protesters threw rocks and bottles at police. Officers responded with volleys of tear gas. Protesters broke into City Hall and smashed glass cases, spray-painted graffiti on walls, and burned an American flag. At least three officers and one protester were injured.

The Boston protesters carried signs that expressed support for the Oakland Occupiers: “Occupying is not a crime;” “Occupy Oakland, occupy everything;” “We are Oakland;” and “Stop the brutality.”

The marchers, some of whom wore masks, shouted several anti-police chants laced with profanities, and yelled in unison “banks got bailed out we got tear gassed” as they moved through Boston.

A few protestors, including Bill Lewis, 59, said they noticed that protesters were targeting police more specifically with their taunts.

“We are so lucky in Boston that we have good relations with the police,” said Lewis, who said he has been an Occupy Boston member since its first week. “They let us march the hell all over the place and by god we do it.”

“Some people think all police are evil and the minions of the one percent, but they are the 99 percent, too,” he added.

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After the demonstration, a protest organizer, Anne Wolfe, 20, a student at Tufts University, described the march as a success.

“We’re still here,” she said.

A protest against banks is planned in Boston’s financial district this afternoon, according to a flyer handed out at the rally.

Other protesters said the Occupy movement is planning to reoccupy Dewey Square on April 1st.

Material from The Associated Press was used in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mjrochele@gmail.com. Evan Allen can be reached at evan.allen@globe.com.

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