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Protesters hope to pump up volume this May Day

Staff report

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Recent May Day marches in Chicago have been largely sedate affairs by labor and immigration groups, but Occupy demonstrators want to turn up the volume today as they -- and city authorities -- get tuned up for the May 20-21 NATO summit.

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Occupy Chicago is a lead organizer of this year's May Day demonstration, which is scheduled to begin with a noon rally at Union Park on the Near West Side, 1501 W. Randolph, and proceed with a 1 p.m. march to Federal Plaza on Dearborn Street in the Loop.

Federal authorities announced last week that they are stepping up security outside the complex of federal courthouses and office buildings as part of their preparations for the NATO meetings that will bring world leaders here later this month.

Chicago police are likewise increasing their preparations for handling protesters in anticipation of large downtown demonstrations on NATO weekend.

In addition to the march, Occupy has called for a demonstration at 10 a.m. today against banks in the heart of city's financial district along LaSalle Street.

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