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Demonstrators Demand Compensation in Front of Goldman Sachs Building

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NEW YORK—Wednesday, protesters demonstrated in front of a Goldman Sachs building in Lower Manhattan, demanding that Wall Street financial institutions donate the \$150 billion in bonuses they have received to help Americans.

The demonstration in New York is one of 24 protests in cities this week around the country, according to a press statement from Public Citizen. Public Citizen is a nonprofit advocacy group "to represent consumer interests in Congress," according to a statement on their Web site.

Organizers of the protests demand that large Wall Street firms who got bonuses use the money to compensate "families, small businesses, and state and local governments" as well as preventing "cuts to mass transit, restore schools funding, and stop foreclosures."

According to a press release, the bonuses given to Wall Street financial institutions will be able to prevent every foreclosure in America for the next four years, as well as give unemployment benefits to workers for as many as seven months, produce jobs for several million people, and grant medical insurance to 31 million people.

A Public Citizen report released on Monday says that the CEO's of 10 Wall Street firms received bonuses of \$28.9 million a piece.

April Tyler of the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP) said in a statement that it is "outrageous" that Goldman Sachs and other Wall Street financial institutions are "taking trillions in bailouts from taxpayers" and "are getting ready to reward themselves with the biggest payout in history." NEDAP is a community advocacy group in New York City.

Goldman Sachs released a statement on Dec. 2 saying they would invest \$61 million to preserve approximately 500 low-income houses in New York City.

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