

—Slug:.....COMM-0851.bratt.citizens\_bank\_protes  
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—For section.....News  
—Format.....News - byline and dateline  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....43045



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Protestors arrested at Citizens Bank branch

####END HED####

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2 Police arrest two of 15 people accusing the R.I.-based  
3 bank of engaging in 'financial crime against humanity'

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 "Today in Brattleboro, Vermont, the groundhog took a  
6 look outside and predicted six more weeks of the winter of our  
7 discontent, followed by an effervescent Peoples' Spring."

8 So declared Dan DeWalt of Newfane, one of the  
9 organizers of a series of protests at the Brattleboro branch of  
10 Citizens Bank at 894 Putney Rd.

11 The protests, which began on Jan. 26, are meant to call  
12 attention to the Rhode Island-based bank's relationship with two  
13 major operators of private prisons in the United States and the  
14 recent activities of United States Immigration and Customs  
15 Enforcement (ICE) and related agencies under the umbrella of the  
16 Department of Homeland Security.

17 In a news release, DeWalt said Citizens Bank "continues  
18 to maintain key financial relationships with CoreCivic and The  
19 GEO Group: two notorious, for-profit prison corporations that  
20 build and operate immigration detention facilities for ICE,  
21 provide transportation services to ICE, and operate prisons for  
22 mass incarceration."

23 On Feb. 2, Groundhog Day, the daily protest of the  
24 Brattleboro branch morphed into a brief blockade. Fifteen  
25 protesters gathered around the bank, while some of their fellow  
26 protesters went into the bank entryway and blockaded the doors,  
27 preventing commerce.

28 After the Brattleboro Police Department responded, most  
29 of the people conducting the blockade peacefully dispersed. After  
30 two arrests, the protesters continued their presence.

31 DeWalt said protesters "are prepared to return to the  
32 bank every day this week to continue our action."

33 "In the six days running that we have been protesting the  
34 bank, our numbers have grown each day," he said. "We are  
35 urging the general public to join us and for Citizens Bank  
36 accountholders to close their accounts and demand an end to  
37 bank funding for terrorism."

38 The protests have been organized by Patriotic Response  
39 to Renegade Government, a coalition originally founded by  
40 DeWalt in response to the Iraq war.

41 "We will no longer sit passively to the side while  
42 billionaires and banking corporations profit from kidnapping,  
43 abuse. and death, all in the name of white supremacy," said  
44 DeWalt. "Citizens Bank cannot expect to be unchallenged for  
45 this financial crime against humanity."

46 He said people can find out more information about  
47 Citizens Bank's relationship to the private prison system at  
48 [boycottcitizens.org](http://boycottcitizens.org), or they can contact the De-ICE Coalition at  
49 [de.ICE.CitizensBank@gmail.com](mailto:de.ICE.CitizensBank@gmail.com). They can also contact the bank  
50 directly at [citizensbank.com/customer-service/contact-us](http://citizensbank.com/customer-service/contact-us).

51 A spokesperson for the bank declined to comment.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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