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Homeless Tent Camp Under Route 10 Draws Concerns

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Kate Nagle, GoLocal News Editor



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A homeless camp that has been erected under the Route 10 overpass by the Cranston Street exit has drawn concerns from both the Coalition for the Homeless as well as the State Police, for the safety and welfare on the individuals who have set up shelter there.

Roughly six to eight tents were clearly visible on Monday afternoon at the busy offramp that leads to the intersection of Cranston Street and Niantic Avenue, at the Providence-Cranston line.

"We have an outreach meeting this evening, I know they'll be addressing this," said Karen Jeffreys with the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless. "With the winter coming, we want to make sure there's enough shelter space, we want to get [a] head count."

Superintendent of the State Police Colonel Steven O'Donnell said that while he hadn't seen the encampment personally, that the police would be monitoring the situation.

"Given its proximity to the highway, safety's always our number one priority," said O'Donnell.

The former tent city under the overpass at the old 195 in Providence had garnered local and national attention in 2009, when the [New York Times featured the community](#) that grew to close to 80, before being dismantled when the former highway was torn down.

On Monday, one of the residents in the tents spoke with GoLocal on the condition of anonymity, about being in and out of drug addiction recovery on the streets - and currently living under a highway overpass.

One Resident's Story



An offramp onto Cranston Street passes close by to the tents.



The tents under Route 10 by Cranston Street have drawn concern in the community.

Greg* spoke with GoLocal about the circumstances that brought him just feet from the highway.

On Monday afternoon, one of the inhabitants of the camp had gone off to the sidewalk and close to the road, and Greg warned about getting closer.

"Please don't go over there right now, she's in a really tough place," said Greg.

"There's about ten of us right now. It changes," said Greg. "I was at the [Providence Rescue] mission for a while, it was bad. They kick you out in the morning, so you have all day to try and fix your life, but it's hard. It's not easy."

Greg spoke about what his plans were moving forward.

"I want to try and get back into detox, and a sober house, and start all over again," said Greg. "I've been through this before. Some people here are OK, some aren't. Some people just have their skeletons."

Alluding briefly to what had brought him to the camp at Cranston Street, Greg said it was a number of factors that had brought any of them there.

"A lot of people were doing OK, then they get to the point where they can't take it anymore, so they use," said Greg. "As an addict, it's where your mind goes."

A representative at CODAC located on Park Avenue in Cranston said that if any individuals wanted to seek treatment, to come to their facility.

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"If anyone has issues there, they should go to CODAC. We have clinicians and doctors. We encourage them to seek help," said Ileana Santiago.

**Editor's note: The name of the source at the camp has been changed, based on his concerns for safety and request for anonymity.*



Another tent structure can be seen on the other side of the road as well under the highway.

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