

Rhode Island Sisters Protest On Behalf Of Unhoused People



Michael Tillinghast, Sisters Mary Pendergast and Ann McKenna, and Pat Fontes from Pax Christi and Eric Hirsch from Rhode Island Housing Advocacy Project and Providence College.

The Sisters of Mercy in Rhode Island, New England took part in a protest at Providence City Hall in October to demand shelter for the city’s unhoused population and to end the raiding of encampments. The protest was in collaboration with the Rhode Island Housing Advocacy Project, the Rhode Island Poor People’s Campaign and others.

Rhode Island is typically short more than 300 shelter beds a night, so many unhoused people set up encampments hidden in the woods. Sister Mary Pendergast shared, “We are urging the mayor and the police to leave people living in encampments alone, including with the signage, ‘Don’t raid the camps!’”



Recently, the police bulldozed an encampment and threw away one person's birth certificate and medical cards, even though there was no shelter available to offer people without homes.

This article was first published in Mercy Now – the newsletter of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. For further information on the work of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, please visit their website <https://sistersofmercy.org/>