



SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT

AND



CONDITIONS

FOR

OUR

COMMUNITY

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Observational Notes

Location 1: Van Brunt Street

- Clean, Quiet.
- Trash at the end of every block
- 2 people walked by.
- Red car, 2 black cars drove by
- A white man is sitting on the bench
- Pizza shop. Houses with gates. Nice apartment. Restaurants. Bars. Winery
- Deli store across the St. Smoke shop next block
- People sitting across the St. dining
- White girl walking her dog
- Old couples with 3 kids walk
- A man jogging with shorts, it's
- cold
- Somebody's on a Citi bike
- 2 cars drove by
- 1 car drove by

Observational Notes

Continued

- 7 cars drove by
- A white lady walked by and looked at me like I'm crazy
- 2 girls walked in the deli
- Family walking with a Husky
- Ms. Tiffany and a man is unpacking something from the car
- 2 girls walked out the deli
- They're having something for the elementary school 2 blocks down
- A man walked by, 2 old heads walked by
- 3 cars at red light
- Delivery man on a mode pad



Observational Notes

Location 2: Van Lorraine Street

- Folks are posted in front of stores or just on the sidewalk standing around talking
- It looks dirty, garbage on the floor
- People are watching me like I'm crazy
- A man is smoking cigarettes
- Another man is drinking a nip of Paul Mason
- A bunch people are walking by
- 12 people went into the liquor store
- 8 went into the candy shop
- No white people, just Hispanic and African American
- Lost count of cars that drove by
- Bus stopped, 6 people got on & 4 got off
- 6 people walked into the liquor store
- 3 people went into 99 Cents store
- Car parked at the bus stop
- Cars keep driving by
- Lots of traffic going on

Observational Notes

Continued

- People keeping walking into the liquor store and deli store at the same time, I lost count
- A man is selling weed to 2 girls
- Couple arguing over who's watching their baby
- Public housing across the streets, people are sitting on the stoops listening to music, smoking and drinking
- Two old men are arguing in Spanish with beers in their hands
- A group of friends are walking by with speaker jamming "Last last"
- A grandma and a boy walked out of the Spanish restaurant



Interview with Shanell, Red Hook Resident

November 19th. 2022

An:

Hi, my name is An, I work with Public Safety at the RHI. We are talking to the people in the neighborhood to get their perspective on the Red Hook community. To start off, I want to let you know that your participation is voluntary meaning you can leave at any given time. Second, the interview will be recorded, transcribed, and published. If you wish to not be recorded, let me know and I can just take notes. With that being said do you confirm that your participation in this research project is voluntary?

Shanell:

Yes

An:

Do you understand that this interview will be transcribed and published

Shanell:

Yes.

An:

Alright. I confirm that the interview will last about seven to fifteen minutes, okay? What is your connection to Red Hook?

Shanell:

My connection.. I lived here for a while.

An:

How long have you been living in Red Hook?

Shanell:

For 22 years.

An:

How does the community look to you?

Shanell:

It looks bad due to the circumstances.

An:

Okay.

Shanell:

Of the construction.

An:

So what will your vision of a safe red hook look like?

Shanell:

More playgrounds for the kids and no construction.

An:

How can we make housing more accessible?

Shanell:

Hire new workers.

An:

Okay. To do what?

Shanell:

To do their job, and actually do the job. (clap)

An:

Okay. Are you talking about as far as like ??

Shanell:

I'm talking about maintenance in the building, and everything else.

An:

Okay. So how would you describe your living conditioning Red Hook?

Shanell:

Well.. I mean, besides the outside of it it's good.

An:

How do you feel about the food access in Red Hook? As far as like you know grocery shopping or like eating out? Takeout?

Shanell:

The food access.. What do you mean?

An:

Like you know is it easy when it comes to food shopping..

Shanell:

Are there a lot of resources?

An:

Yes.

Shanell:

There aren't a lot I mean the supermarket has a lot of varieties of things, but as in takeout there is not a lot.

An:

What do you believe the role of the police should be in terms of community safety?

Shanell:

The role of police ...

An:

Do the people feel safe around them or are they bringing more negative tensions?

Shanell:

Yeah, I don't think the people are safe around them, police are just like regular people. They don't abide by their job anymore.

An:

Okay. And how do you view the Red Hook social community as far as the people that you see in your community? Whether it's being around the people and stuff, or the people you grew up around?

Shanell:

Wait, what did you say?

An:

How do you view the Red Hook social community as far as the people you grew up around?

Shanell:

It's a few people that are good people.

An:

So what are some pros in Red Hook? The good things that you see in Red Hook.

Shanell:

The good things are the people like some people are nice, not everybody is so willing.

An:

Okay. Thank you for your time and participation.

Shanell:

You're welcome.

Interview with Ash, Red Hook Resident

November 19th. 2022

An:

Hi, my name is An, I work with Public Safety at the RHI. We are talking to the people in the neighborhood to get their perspective on the Red Hook community. To start off, I want to let you know that your participation is voluntary meaning you can leave at any given time. Second, the interview will be recorded, transcribed, and published. If you wish to not be recorded, let me know and I can just take notes. With that being said do you confirm that your participation in this research project is voluntary?

Ash:

Yes.

An:

Do you understand that this interview will be transcribed and published?

Ash:

Yes.

An:

Okay, I confirm that this research interview will last about seven to fifteen minutes. Okay?

Ash:

Okay.

An:

Okay.. so what is the connection to Red Hook?

Ash:

I live here.

An:

Okay. How long have you been living.. here?

Ash:

I left. I was born here, and I left, and I came back.

An:

Okay, so umm. How does the community look to you as far as like you know the living environment, building?

Ash:

Yeah. Nycha need to a little better with the fixing, the remodeling and the cleaning up garbage.

An:

So what will your vision of a safe Red Hook would look like? Whether it's less policing or like

Ash:

Oh yeah less policing.

An:

Okay. And why is that?

Ash:

They don't make the community safe. They just.. they build up a lot of tension ..

Ash:

And BAD energy.

An:

okay.

Ash:

Doing a lot of harassment.

An:

So what do you believe the role of the police should be in terms of community safety? Like what can they do to make the community feel safer?

Ash:

I don't think that they can make the community feel safer. Like I said, they bring the level of like tension, so how can you make the community safe when it's bad energy around?

An:

You stated that you've been living in Red Hook for a while and you moved out and you came back. How have you seen Red Hook change from when you grew up to now?

An:

Like any positive changes?

Ash:

Yeah. I believe it's more activities and stuff for the kids. This construction is terrible. They're not doing nothing

An:

So they haven't changed, and you said you feel like it was like that before?

Ash:

It has changed as far as with stuff for kids to do. I think it's more stuff now.

An:

Okay. So you feel like what changes should be made in the Red Hook community?

Ash:

I think they need more activities for kids. I think they need more like... They need to fix this up, have some playing environments with kids you know.. sprinklers, things like that.

An:

How do you feel about the food access and Red Hook, whether it's shopping for grocery or-

Ash:

I think we need more restaurants. I even think grocery or bigger grocery stores.

An:

Okay better food, better products

Ash:

Organic shit and stuff like that.

An:

So how does the Red Hook social community affect you, meaning that as far as the people that you're around, does that affect you?

Ash:

Yeah.

An:

What are some pros in the Red Hook community?

Ash:

We.. A lot of people know each other, so it's like a family, I believe. A lot of people grew up with each other.

An:

Like a community.

Ash:

Yeah. Everybody like, somebody knows mothers, sister, brother, everybody. A lot of people are related. That's the pros.

An:

Okay. And what are some cons?

Ash:

Cons? The negative police, dirty ass garbage, and like I said, the fact that this is not fixed up for the kids.

An:

Okay. Well thank you for your time and participation.

Ash:

Thank you.

Ash:

Yeah.

An:

What are some pros in the Red Hook community?

Ash:

We.. A lot of people know each other, so it's like a family, I believe. A lot of people grew up with each other.

An:

Like a community.

Ash:

Yeah. Everybody like, somebody knows mothers, sister, brother, everybody. A lot of people are related. That's the pros.

An:

Okay. And what are some cons?

Ash:

Cons? The negative police, dirty ass garbage, and like I said, the fact that this is not fixed up for the kids.

An:

Okay. Well thank you for your time and participation.

Ash:

Thank you.

Safer Living Environment and Conditions for Our Community

Public safety to me means having security, access, and resources that aren't sacred, especially where you and your loved ones reside. The type of neighborhood you live in, your backgrounds or your status shouldn't be a factor as to why you're limited to resources. Anybody that has passed through Red Hook or works in Red Hook knows that the neighborhood is one way in, one way out, meaning the only close by transit are the buses on Lorraine Street and the train station on Smith and 9th, which is a 15 minute walk away. Red Hook is deserted and geographically segregated from the rest of Brooklyn.

However, you have to live in Red Hook to understand or experience the inconveniences in one's daily life. One of the major issues is the living environment and conditions within Red Hook; whether it's food access, resources to more healthcare centers, better sanitization systems, better housing or security when it comes to relationships between the community and the police. All these factors contribute to the meaning of public safety.

Moreover, during my observations of two different locations in Red Hook I learned that even the community itself is segregated between public housing and Van Brunt Street. To illustrate the segregation within Red Hook, I did a 15 minute observation on each Lorraine Street and Van Brunt Street. I discovered that although they are only 5-10 minutes away from each other, there is a significant difference in the settings. Despite the fact that both streets had busy traffic, there were noticeable differences.

As previously stated, public safety means having more and better access to a variety of food. Lorraine Street has a supermarket, 99 cent stores, deli store, Spanish restaurant, Chinese restaurant, the liquor store, and the buses. That's why it has more traffic and that's the most access the residents have when it comes to food, which is terrible, besides C town supermarket located on Hicks Street.

I feel like the community needs more supermarkets that offer better quality food, more options for take out or eat out, and overall more resources. During my interview with two residents who were born and raised in Red Hook, they both expressed how there is limited access when it comes to grocery shopping or take out. They both feel like the neighborhood needs healthier food products, as I'm sure many other residents would agree. From my own personal experience, I know that sometimes the quality of the products is bad. I also believe that we need different supermarkets that sell different products and brands because the supermarkets in the neighborhood sell the same exact products.

The neighborhood also lacks healthcare centers and better living conditions. There is one healthcare center I know of that's located across the street from Coffey Park. I'm confident that it's the primary healthcare center for the majority of the residents, especially the elders. It is a small health center.

Hence, why it might be booked up when trying to schedule an appointment. That's why I feel like it's important to have more healthcare centers so that the residents can have better and more convenient access when it comes to taking care of their health.

In addition, the living conditions in Red Hook are challenging and both of the residents who were interviewed expressed the same feelings whether its housing or the sanitization.

During my first interview, the resident expressed how they lack support when it comes to housing. She explained that a lot of time NYCHA workers aren't taking care of their responsibility as workers whether it's keeping the neighborhood clean or fulfilling the tickets the residents put in.

The second interviewee expressed the same feelings. He also feels that NYCHA workers need to do a better job at keeping the neighborhood clean or keeping up with maintenance within the buildings. Personally, I feel the same. I've witnessed in many situations that NYCHA doesn't always follow up or fulfill the tickets residents filled out. They let it sit and cancel it. Many times when you call back to follow up they have to put in another ticket because they canceled the ticket. NYCHA workers can provide public safety for the community by following through with the tickets, as well as do their daily cleaning.

Another thing both interviewees strongly expressed was the need of public places and entertainments for the kids which I strongly agree with. Red Hook definitely needs more places and outdoors for kids without them having to travel and leave the neighborhood every time to enjoy themselves.

Public safety to me, means more than just providing living essentials or resources for the adults. But it also means having fun, comfortable, and safe spaces for our kids to grow up in. In many neighborhoods within Brooklyn, you're most likely to run into a variety of places that are kid friendly when you are walking around the neighborhood, unlike Red Hook. Most streets contain housing buildings in the projects and on Van Brunt are few bars, mostly houses and condos, warehouses, and local businesses.

Most importantly, the policing in the neighborhood is contributing to the lack of public safety. The elders in the neighborhood are most likely to have better relationships with the police compared to the young adults. I believe this is because the main target of the police work are the young adults as well as the elders are more likely to be wiser and have better communication with the police.

During my interview, both residents expressed the lack of community policing in the neighborhood. The first interviewee who is a mother explains how police don't abide by the law while trying to enforce laws on civilians. The second interviewee, who is an older man, expressed how the over policing in the community brings more tensions in the community because he feels as though they are being harassed and monitored. When asked what can police do to better provide safety to the community he explains how it's almost impossible if all they are doing is bringing bad energy by how they communicate and treat the young adults.

I strongly agree because I feel like the over policing in Red Hook is overwhelming and could be intimidating. I believe that the way to work through this is by having less patrol because police actually spend more time patrolling, which isn't effective when it comes to maintaining orders or controlling crime rate. A lot of time it actually causes miscommunication, tensions or altercation between residents and the police. Another way this issue can be improved is if the police are trained and held accountable for community policing.

With that being said, public safety in Red Hook to me would look like having more supermarkets and having better food products. It's also having more places to eat out or order from besides the Chinese restaurants and the pizzeria. As well as having more and better health centers, pharmacies, and entertainment places for the neighborhood. We also need more responsible NYCHA workers who actually want to help and support residents with any issues they have regarding their housing condition.

Last but not least, public safety would look like the residents of the community being able to walk down the street freely or have gatherings in public places without being harassed. I feel like it is important to target these factors because these are the roots of many issues residents have to face on a daily basis. The goal is to provide public safety for the residents who have to live there, raise their children there, and not just for people who are passing by or working in the neighborhood.