

I DON'T FEEL SAFE



**Created by: Knowledge Westbrooks
Public Safety Organizer**



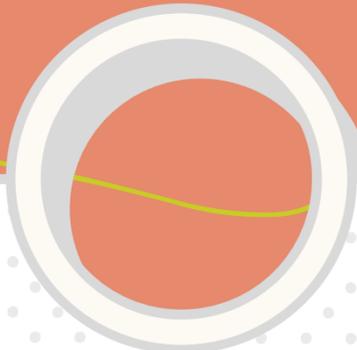


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Community Observations

Location 1: P.S. 27 School

- Afterschool
- Graffiti
- Kids rushed home or were picked up in cars
- No parking
- Police circling the block
- Gang graffiti "x" out on the wall
- Teachers pleading for kids to head home
- Children cursing
- Arguments from traffic
- Children listening to adult drill hip hop content on youtube
- People that work here leaving for the weekend
- Building not cared for



Location 2: Abandoned cab service building

- Make shift apartment next door
- Shelter for homeless
- Jehovah witness walking back and forth conversing amongst each other not the public- unbothered
- Abandoned taxi/cab service doesn't seem legitimate
- Open and inviting however abandoned
- 24 hour service (lies)
- Garbage not accumulating maybe not abandoned
- Maybe switched businesses
- Still owns property but who?
- Signs for the public
- Antagonist signs

PAY YOUR
COMMISSION
UP FRONT!!!

MAJED

COPY'S - 50¢ EACH

FAX - \$1.00 EACH

12:00pm - 6:00pm

Monday - Friday

NO SLEEPING
HERE! *

STAY OUT
THIS IS NOT
A HOTEL!!!

ATTENTION

DRIVERS IF YOU COME HERE TO MAKE 1
MIND COMING, YOU
IS OR MORE.
FREE SHOP, IF YOU
B NOT HANGING

LOOK
FOR CYCLISTS
VISION ZERO

Let's love our
CUSTOMERS



Location 3: Red Hook Houses - 426 Columbia Street

- Is distraction the first step?
- Dead mice on floor/pathway
- Non-sanitary environment
- Deep hole were memories used to be
- Residents forced to live in the middle
of a construction site

Causing more inconvenience for the
disable people of the building

- No garbage cans for the public ..
instead unsecured bags (plastic)



RECOVERY & RESILIENCE
WEEKLY COMMUNITY LUNCHES EVERY MONDAY

HEATING AND HOT WATER INTERRUPTION
Dwight Street and 414, 416, 420, 426, 428 Columbia Street

...ed that there will be an interruption to your heat and hot water service
... 2 PM on November 4, 2021.

...this shutdown is to install new steam line connections between
...work will allow for continued upgrades to underground piping for
...which will help better protect building services during an extreme

...or any inconvenience. For questions, please call 212-306-8532 between
...m to 5 pm or email disaster_recovery@nycha.nyc.gov. Email and voicemail
...a name and phone number will be responded to the next business day

INTERRUPCIÓN DE CALEFACCIÓN Y AGUA CALIENTE
35 Dwight Street y 414, 416, 420, 426, 428 Columbia Street

...en cuenta que habrá una interrupción en su servicio de calefacción y
...desde las 10 am hasta las 2 pm el 4 de noviembre.

...esta interrupción es instalar las nuevas líneas de conexión del vapor
...co. Este trabajo permitirá la mejora continua de las tuberías
...aría los servicios públicos del edificio, lo que ayudará a proteger mejor
...el edificio durante un evento meteorológico extremo.

...sa por cualquier inconveniente. Si tiene preguntas, por favor llame al
...entre las 9 am y las 5 pm o envíe un correo electrónico a
...@nycha.nyc.gov. Los mensajes de correo electrónico y de voz con
...número de teléfono se responderán al siguiente día laborable.

RECOVERY & RESILIENCE
WEEKLY COMMUNITY LUNCHES EVERY MONDAY



Interview with Tatiana H., Assistant Teacher

Date: 11/27/2021

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety
Organizer:

Please state your name , do you confirm your participation in this interview voluntarily?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant
Teacher:

My name is Tatiana. Yes, I confirm that my participation in this project is voluntary.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety
Organizer:

Do you understand this 15 minute interview will be transcribed as part of my research project?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant
Teacher:

Yes.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

What are your connections to Red Hook?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant

Teacher:

My connections at Red Hook would be my family; my family has been here for a pretty long time, I mean they lived here almost all their lives.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

How does the community look to you?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant

Teacher:

The community to me looks like it could use improvements in a few areas to keep the neighborhoods flowing and evolving; nonetheless, beautiful though, it's... it is a beautiful place to be in.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

What do you do for a living?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant

Teacher:

I am an assistant teacher in New York City public schools (DOE) and a creative director in the arts.

But I do dabble in skin care.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

What are your current goals?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant Teacher:

I think my goals would be to have a safe environment in and out of these schools. Lately, the schools have been unsafe because kids aren't safe at home, or outside, really. It's only so much that one person can do about keeping all the communities safe. I can help my personal community and the schools around me, but I can't do much but spread... kinda spread the word to other schools and other communities and hope, like, they get the message.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

What does a safe Red Hook look like to you?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant Teacher:

Um, I think a safe Red Hook would be better structures for homes.

Better ways to, like, collect garbage; more resources and less infrastructure, you know? We have a lot of pollution going on in the neighborhoods and stuff because a lot of things aren't being built in time. A lot of things are just collecting garbage and, you know, they're messing with the air quality around the buildings and people around them, you know, the elderly coughing and all these fumes up in the air. It's pretty, like, damaging.

**Knowledge Westbrook, Public Safety
Organizer:**

What do you think Red Hook would need to achieve this?

**Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant
Teacher:**

I feel like in order to really achieve those things, like, you have to have safety in your homes in and out. You have to have economic health, because if we don't have jobs, businesses, shops and restaurants around, you know, we won't flourish as a community.

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant Teacher:

Um, I feel we need, you know, educational enrichment because better schools and education and educators, you know, they help us and help this generation, you know, learn more, learn better so when they go out and into the world they actually know what's really going on, they're using actual beneficial resources too themselves.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

How can we bridge the gap between different generations in our community?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant Teacher:

We need a natural environment, we need better relationships with our neighbors, with everybody around us because, you know, the worst relationships we have is with each other, the more we fight, the more violence there is in the streets.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

How can we make public housing better?

Tatiana H, Red Hook Resident, Assistant

Teacher:

I think lastly would be the health and wellness, you know, the community; the health and wellness of the community and us. We need health, we need better institutions, better hospitals, better doctors, more resources, more insurance, more ways to get, you know, things going in the community so that the community can really flourish.

Interview with Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident

Date: 11/28/2021

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety
Organizer:

We're working as organizers to, you know, potentially make the community a safer place. You know, stuff like that. So getting your perspective on things is how we attempt to get to that point. Okay, so first things I have to ask you. Please state your name, or what you go by.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:
My name is Anthony Curry.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety
Organizer:

Do you confirm that your participation in this research project is voluntary?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:
Yes.

Knowledge Westbrook, Public Safety

Organizer:

Do you understand that this interview will be transcribed and published as a part of my auto-ethnography project for RHI?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yes.

Knowledge Westbrook, Public Safety

Organizer:

Do you confirm that this research interview will last approximately 10 minutes of your time?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yes.

Knowledge Westbrook, Public Safety

Organizer:

Um, I know you're a professional artist. If you want to give me some background on that before we start; that'll be cool.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

I'm a professional artist still local. been doing a lot videography, some people call it, photography. Engineering. Art design; we do as much as we can and, most importantly, we stay artistic, so we're doing the thing that we're most passionate about.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Right.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

And, it's simple, it's just nothing but family and motivation. So, for the most part, I'm saying we are doing real good for ourselves and I just don't want it to be left unsaid that I'm proud of everybody in my camp.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

What would you say your connection to Red Hook is?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Resident. I've been here for all my life so, I don't know if certain people consider me important but I feel that I am a part and important to a piece of Red Hook.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Shed some more light on that.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Like what?

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Like your importance to Red Hook and stuff like that, and, you know, what you... how you contribute. 'Cause it's important. You know, I feel like things like that can relate to the public safety of Red Hook, you know, in unspoken ways, if you will. But, feel free not to talk about things like that either.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

I just feel like I rarely like to speak on the things that I do because I mean I've done so many things but also like I'm not the only one that done things. when I do do things for my community, I look at it like this, Red Hook is a place where a lot of people that's not from here don't understand the chemistry in it, but when you start to become a person that is gonna spend time here, you'll start to see the chemistry in it.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

So, it's not morally just a self thing, you know what I'm saying? So when I hear things like what did you do? It's not really, like, what did I do, it's like, what did we do? You know what I'm saying? So, if I was to answer that question, it'd have to be me and more people here to answer that question.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Right. And I love how you just built on the sense of community, like, that Red Hook holds and, you know, values and stuff like that, and how people pull things together.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Essentially, that's something that we're doing right now and stuff, you know? So that's- that's a great answer.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

From back in history. Just one instance, like, even down to you playing in the Spike Lee movie, you know, in Red Hook and how that felt for the community.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

I definitely did that. Well, I definitely did do that.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

You know what I'm saying, stuff like that, or times where you gave back

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

like Hurricane Sandy, when I was putting out flyers and- and going around to different apartments and making sure-... people had food and essential things that they needed for their homes when the power was off.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

Right.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Uh, and I was one of the, uh, I'm looking for- I'm looking for the perfect word. Um, I don't, I guess I don't know how to really say it, but I was... I'm very important, you know, I would say I... that I've done enough things to say that. I'm a person that is spoke about and spoken good things of, you know what I'm saying, uh, not only Hurricane Sandy but, um, like you said, I was in the Spike Lee movie, uh, voluntarily

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

Yeah. So you can you tell us a little bit more about what role you played when, uh, Spike Lee had casted you in that movie about Red Hook?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah, Red Hook Summer.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

So this film was, um, directed and written by Spike Lee and he wanted to depict the sense of community that Red Hook had-

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

... and Spike Lee overall was just trying to show the sense of community that Red Hook had. That's why he chose to shoot here and chose the cast, uh, members of the community to be in it. So, can you tell us a little bit about how he put you into that role you had in

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah. I'm kinda important, so when I got the information that he was going around and asking certain people to be in it I didn't think that I would be in it. But one morning came when they was shooting and I happened to take my nephew to the place where they was gonna set up all the kids you know, get ready and everything, and I was supposed to be there anyway 'cause I actually worked there at the time.

I actually didn't know this was going on. My grandmother told me that he was outside filming and she said that if I wanted to be in it to just talk to somebody. I talked to somebody about it and they said that they actually had me in mind. So basically, it went from me not knowing anything about it to me being a youth leader and leading the kids. You know what I'm saying?

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

How do you think we can bridge the gap between older and younger generations in Red Hook and within the community?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

I'm sorry, repeat that one more time?

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

Okay. Like, how- how do you think we can bridge the gap between older members of the community and younger members of the community?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah. Um, I don't know, I would say motivate everybody to work together at whatever they're doing. that's the best way to me because that's obviously important to everybody. So. Yeah, I would say just everybody motivates each other. The ones that can and do see it from a birds eye view, just, you know what I'm saying, trying to motivate the ones that they can to connect with everybody in Red Hook and make sure that that's staying within the cycle.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

Right. And I love that answer. I'm glad you said lead through motivation and stuff like that

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

... ultimately, that's what leads to things being done and people working together and stuff.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah. Right.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

What do you believe the role of the police should be in terms of community safety? What do you think NYPD's approach should be to the community of Red Hook, in your opinion?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

I'm not really sure. Can't really give too much insight on that, I don't really know.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

That's a great answer, it sounds like it's almost out of control, and that's something I believe also.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Yeah.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

I like that answer. What barriers do you face in pursuit of your goals within the community of Red Hook?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Like, generally speaking?

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Yeah. Just in general. It could be big, small.
Anything.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Transportation is bad, definitely in New York.

I would say we definitely have a slow
transportation system; trains, especially.
Even with cleanliness. All that, like- hard to
get to work

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Right.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

New York City subways are bad. I think we
have to do a lot of upgrading in New York,
period, with everything that we're doing

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

See a lot of construction going on, so. But,
definitely transportation is one. Probably,
like, stuff like littering and the whole Go
Green thing. People are not really focused on
that so we're kind of losing a lot as a planet.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Right. And it's kinda getting dirtier in areas that were already dirty before.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

Right.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

You know what I'm saying. I feel like New York is a place that needs to upgrade and focus on upgrading more than we are.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

What would you consider your current goals to be?

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

To be a better leader. Especially for my kids. Find stability and just keep doing what I love to do, those are really the keys to me; I want to keep my family connected. Without that, ain't nothing.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety

Organizer:

Thank you for that. The strong sense of family and community. I guess that kind of wraps up my questions. Thank you for sitting with me through that, I appreciate you a lot.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

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Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

Thank you for that. The strong sense of family and community. I guess that kind of wraps up my questions. Thank you for sitting with me through that, I appreciate you a lot.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

No problem. I appreciate you having me.

Knowledge Westbrooks, Public Safety Organizer:

And good luck to you in all your endeavors and in the future. I wish you future success.

Anthony Curry, Red Hook Resident:

You too; I wish you well too. Thank you
for having me again

I DON'T FEEL SAFE

An Auto-Ethnography of a young person of color from/working in Red Hook.

Research Question: What does public safety mean to me?

There are systematic effects on the public safety of neighborhoods like mine. Through this fathers of black and brown children are targeted by NYPD enforcement. Through this New York believes they can maintain a better control of the "self destructive ghettos."

However, these plans and systems keep the members of these communities anything but safe. For example , jails are made for rehabilitation. Essentially these facilities do the opposite; and are a major public safety concern. Rikers Island is no place for the elderly!

New York City should revise the day to day operations at Rikers Jail facility to insure the natural safeties of inmates housed there. The high stress of the environment makes the elderly age faster. Rikers Island has major humanitarian issues that date back dozens of years. Inmates are regularly treated like animals; with no access to regular healthcare. It is the primary jail of NYC. The facility is crumbling and suffers from mold and building decay. In 2020 14 inmates died due to conditions, Four of them ended their own lives.

What does public safety mean? That is a great question! In order for me to get into that , I have to present what has put me in fear of my safety over the years residing in America as a black identifying adolescent. September of 2015 is definitely when I've felt the most unsafe. Not physically unsafe but more so mentally and financially.

In 2014 it was announced 'a new low record 23 percent of Brown 17-30 year olds had participated in higher education. As student fees were introduced in 1998 grant, sponsorship, or taking a student loan were the only ways of obtaining funds to go to college. However, in my experience unfortunately I opted out for both of these options. You see, I was born in Brooklyn , NY. I came from a low income household.

With my parents splitting up when I was 7 there was very minimal collaboration on my plans for college between them. (I mean none at all, 0 coordination whatsoever!) "This is many years away" , my parents sadly told themselves. However, I continued on to meet expectations of my parents to uphold high grade averages and to stay above reading level in grade school. To my surprise these hard academic efforts did not grant me the money I needed to attend college.

At this point in my life I had put at least 110% of my hope of a good future into the thought of attending a great college that can set me up for a successful future. (that's the American model; college will give you everything you need for your future career.)I graduated high school top of my class , extra regents and credits , Great! Accepted into my first college of choice , SUNY College Of Staten Island ; under Engineering program. At this point I remember feeling a sense of not only accomplishment but a sense of safety. I grew up in East New York, Brooklyn. In the early 2000s physical public safety was absolutely too much to ask for. With it actually being the most dangerous place to live in Brooklyn till this day; members of the community opted to focus on their future safety. Often times constructing plans to remove themselves out of the community to find safer places to live. East New York is one of the last places in NYC that has not been gentrified.

Through gentrification the city provides more funded NYPD attention to areas where the property values are expensive. In theory this protects the business and property assets of the city. But what about us? Humanity rights are being enforced at a long time low where I'm from. Government leaders are often able to evade responsibility for what's happening in local communities. Local leaders often evade questions from the public.

This leads me back into my story about my college experience. Being left with no choice but to go to college , that's exactly what I did. My parents didn't graduate college, I often connected this with why I wasn't given a safe environment to grow up in. Ignorantly I assumed if you have no college education there's no chance in making it "out the hood." "But can you really blame me? The New York City's statistics say young men of color will be incarcerated or deceased by the age 21. I'm not making this up!

There will be jobs you are ineligible for without a degree, this only reflects the importance of a university qualification to students. This is also displayed on sections of degree course's webpages, where a list almost always shows 'career paths made possible by this qualification. The average salary for graduates is 30% higher than for non-graduates. increased earnings solidify one's sense of safety.

In my opinion, financial and mental danger has the biggest effects on communities like the one I'm a part of. Through annual government neglect, neighborhoods are often disenfranchised. This leaves no hope for public safety. How can we care about the safety of our community if we don't know what it looks like yet? During my college experience , I often felt I was achieving progression. It was the end of my first semester where I had failed. Where my mental safety went out the window. "What the hell is a Bursa Office!?" I asked myself preparing for the next semester , so I began registering for classes. To my surprise I wasn't able to access my class scheduling account.

When I went to my student advisor, he told me some unforgettable news. He told me that I was on academic probation and that I would not be able to return back to school until I had "paid my balance." My past due was over \$3000 for failing one class. Clearly college wasn't as financially safe as it seemed to me before as a high school student. I was displaced from school due to this bill. My parents had no money to help me. Eventually I got a full time job often working overtime to afford to pay for expenses as well as save to pay off my school bill.

After 2 years of saving and living under budget, I had finally had enough to return to school! When I had nowhere to turn, I accessed the local non profit organizations within my community. I always felt like they were the ones who actually cared about the public safety of the neighborhood. I was right because when I got there they had a list of opportunities for me to be a part of. I was able to find work and college resources. My next trip around wouldn't be so tragic.

Public safety looks like everyone (I mean EVERYONE) in a community doing everything and anything they possibly can to pitch in words and actions. Autoethnography is an approach to research and writing that seeks to describe and systematically analyze personal experience in order to understand cultural experience. This approach challenges canonical ways of doing research and representing others and treats research as a political, socially-just and socially-conscious act. Autoethnography is both process and product. In this project, my goal is to connect my experience with the theory of autoethnography study. Through this I hope we can have a greater understanding of what public safety means, so that we recreate and uphold it.

Special Thanks to:

Laikyn Fishburne, Graphics
Designer

Christian Alfonso, Research
Mentor

Bene Coop, Film Site Owner -
Record Shop on Van Brunt

Donald Washington,
Videographer and Film Editor
Biviana Coyomani, Research
Designer

