

**Red Hook Initiative, Public Safety Organizer - Shooting Response**  
**June 15, 2022**

Recently current events have taken place in Redhook, two shootings and someone got stabbed. There has been an increase in violence and there's a threat to the security of the families who live nearby. The reason why I believe there is more violence in the neighborhood is because of new families and more people are moving into Red Hook, so much of today's gang violence is influenced by music, young adults like to splurge in stereotypes. Throughout the years no one has control over who moves in what building and who the person is, specifically young teens around Redhook gossiping that new faces are coming out and creating problems with the ones who have been here, you can almost say it's a "territory" problem. Young adults and young teens who are artists and create music stay "in tune" with their friends, artists who might dislike their music or the artist. Sometimes "drill/rap music" acts as its own radar for violence and influences populations to feel a certain way and to behave towards someone, the public or a certain neighborhood. For example, let's say there's a song that says Red Hook is not cool with Prospect Lefferts, and a gang affiliated male or female move into Red Hook, it's automatically going to cause the person to have a certain attitude with the neighborhood and the people in it. Young people splurging into stereotypes is saying that the younger the generation, the more gullible and the more energy young men and women spend buying bingo rumors or following a blindness and meaningless cause. These men who bring the violence outside think it is normal to act in the manner they do and continue to behave this way because it is "their way of life". There needs to be a change in activities, behavior in the influencers around the neighborhood because the violence and all these stories are all the community hears and pays attention to and is only becoming a toxic cycle that needs to be broken.

Endiya Beard, Public Safety Organizer, 20