



**MICROAGGRESSIONS: RACE**

**AND**

**GENDER**

**HS**

**IT**

**A PROBLEM?**



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# Observational Notes

Location 1: Lorraine Street and Columbia Street

- Always doing construction early morning
- It's garbage outside a lot
- No more park on the block, just a big thing of nothing but metal garbage n dirt
- It be rats occasionally swarming around outside somedays you even see possums or skunks
- Buildings are old and dirty.  
incinerator don't work inside buildings
- A lot of people in the area occasionally
- Cops always around
- School buses stop on the block dropping of school kids
- 3 delis on the block and a pharmacy
- Just one random stop light
- Buildings are unsanitary not relly taken care off

# Observational Notes

Continued

- Can see the city
- Only 6 floor buildings with 5 apartments each floor so about 35 apartments in each building & there's 5 buildings.
- One elevator in each building
- Always trouble happening around here
- Elevators sometimes broken
- Smell of weed in hall ways



# Observational Notes

Location 2: Lorraine Street & Ostego Street

- Only two bus routes the 57 & 61 on each side of street going towards downtown Brooklyn , Maspeth & Red hook
- Parked cars
- 99cent store, Fine fare, Laundromat and Santander bank are all closed so now people around this area have to carry and walk all the way to the front of Red hook to get their clothes clean or get lil stuff for themselves
- Cars in front of barbershop, chicken spot and deli
- Potholes
- Dirty streets
- Not really that much transportation in Red hook but we are very convenient to Smith & 9st if you don't wanna take the bus and need to go to Manhattan or further

# Observational Notes

Continued

- People always hang out in front of the barbershop
- Not really that much traffic around this area.
- No stop lights in this part of Red hook
- Library nearby
- People sometimes just walk on bus or occasionally ask for a ride



# Interview with Tyrone Spring, Red Hook Resident

November 18th. 2022

**Jamel:**

Hi, my name is Jamel. I'm here with...

**Tyrone Spring:**

Hi. How you doing? My name is Tyrone Spring.

**Jamel:**

We are currently at the RHI right now. So I'm basically going to ask you a few questions about yourself and the neighborhood. So first question: Are you a resident of Red Hook NYCHA Housing?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Yes.

**Jamel:**

You are? How long have you lived out here?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Probably five years now.

**Jamel:**

Five years? Where you came from before?

**Tyrone Spring:**

East New York.

**Jamel:**

East New York? How's the living difference from East New York from Red Hook like? You think there's a difference?

Tyrone Spring:

It's crowded.

Jamel:

You said it's crowded?

Tyrone Spring:

Crowded.

Jamel:

Out here?

Tyrone Spring:

Way more crowded out here.

Jamel:

What you mean by that? How do you feel like it's crowded?

Tyrone Spring:

Well, with the recent changes, cause my family been here since I was born, so I always came out here. So with the recent reconstruction and the cutting off of blocks and all of that, it make everything so congested because it's no open space for us to go to. Not really any parks. Public parks close after a certain time. So that little courtyard that was in the front kept things a little more separate.

Jamel:

Okay. Yeah, I feel you. I kind of hate that too. There are no parks, no nothing out here no more.

Tyrone Spring:

I don't like that.



**Jamel:**

How do you feel like this community has a positive effect on the kids or this area in the neighborhood?

**Tyrone Spring:**

How does this community-

**Jamel:**

Yeah, how does this community give back? How do you feel like it gives back?

**Tyrone Spring:**

There's a lot of people in the community, whether they realize it or not, that actually does youth development really well. So they probably don't even have to work at a school. But them telling kids about RHI or the Miccio or after-school programs at 15's or 27s, whatever they're doing, everybody pitching in.

So even if we seeing kids playing ball in the summertime, we going to start playing ball with them, and give them a quick lesson. That's just because we all been in that position before. So Red Hook is like... I think everybody take care of each other in Red Hook. I could say that. In terms of you being young compared to being of age. Once you hit age, you are on your own.

**Jamel:**

Right.

**Tyrone Spring:**

Underneath 12, 13 pretty much got the support of the whole neighborhood.

**Jamel:**

Do you feel like, speaking of support, do you feel everyone in the hood supports each other equally or you feel like there's a separation?

**Tyrone Spring:**

No, of course not.

**Tyrone Spring:**

Of course not. Of course, there's separation.

**Jamel:**

Speaking of separation, do you feel like there's a way to get people to come together in the neighborhood, where everyone feels more comfortable to interact with each other and do friendly things with each other like they used to do back in the day?

**Tyrone Spring:**

For everybody to come together around it has to be probably a severe situation or just got to be conversations got to be had in a public setting where everybody can speak their peace without feeling the weight. That's really the issue.

It's a lot of internal problems that never got spoken. So it created the division and the separation between each other. So even with the blocks, Lorraine Street, Ave, Dice, Paul Block, the Back, the Front, they all try to separate themselves as being, "This is where I'm from," even though everybody all from Red Hook.

**Jamel:**

Nah. Yeah.

**Tyrone Spring:**

You go down south into Atlanta, you don't see that. When we lived on the west side of Atlanta... I'm from the west side of Atlanta ain't really no... I'm not from here. They don't try to specify a block.

**Jamel:**

Do you feel like police play a role in how people who live out here act?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Yeah, because it's over-policing, especially when I first got here. They lightened down in terms of who they go after. But the presence of police is not helpful to a minority community unless it's a minority officer that's doing the policing.

**Jamel:**

Have you experienced or seen anyone going through police stuff around here?

**Tyrone Spring:**

In Red Hook?

**Jamel:**

Yeah that was going through harassment with the police and all?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Yeah, when I first came back out here, they had beaten somebody up. They had beaten a couple people up. It was like 20 of them, probably 30.

**Jamel:**

Forreal?

Tyrone Spring:

Yeah, two, three of them.

Jamel:

I didn't hear about that.

Tyrone Spring:

That was four years ago.

Jamel:

I probably heard about that.

Tyrone Spring:

2018, 2019 during the summertime. Remember, they beat everybody up by the flag?

Jamel:

I do remember that yeah.

Jamel:

That was crazy

Tyrone Spring:

I was right there the whole time like, "Nah, y'all buggin."

Jamel:

With the police, do you feel like they do bad for the community? They don't do nothing, or

Tyrone Spring:

Not that they do that, it's just a lot of them, so there's nothing to do. That's just like how they look at us in the hood. If it's a lot of us with nothing to do when we sit on the block, they're going to think we up to something.

**Jamel:**

And how do that make you feel as a Black person?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Well, honestly, everybody says it's normal now, especially from the hood where I come from in the east, bro. They really hop out on everybody. So it don't matter how old you are or nothing.

**Jamel:**

So you feel there's no difference between the East & Red Hook?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Nah.

**Tyrone Spring:**

Policing in New York is the same no matter what block you on.

**Jamel:**

All right, I'm going to ask one more question. What do you think you could do or what do you dream... What do you want to happen to the neighborhood? What good do you want to happen in the neighborhood? If you was able to do something good for the neighborhood, what would you be able to do to make for a positive change or anything like that?

**Tyrone Spring:**

I would make everybody realize money is more important than the day-to-day issues that they go through.

**Tyrone Spring:**

Because half of the day-to-day issues that they go through comes based around money. So sometimes people focus more on the problem instead of the solution

**Jamel:**

That's a fact. All right. I forgot to ask, do you give consent to this audio recording

**Tyrone Spring:**

You say what?

**Jamel:**

Do you give consent for me to take this audio?

**Tyrone Spring:**

Oh yeah, 100%. Yes, sir.

**Jamel:**

So I think we Gucci.

# Interview with Tameka, Red Hook Resident

November 21st, 2022

**Jamel:**

Okay, good morning. My name is Jamal and I'm here with?

**Tameka:**

Tameka.

**Jamel:**

Do you give me consent to record this?

**Tameka:**

Yes.

**Jamel:**

Alright. So how long have you lived in Red Hook?

**Tameka:**

29 years.

**Jamel:**

29 years?

**Tameka:**

Yes.

**Jamel:**

What are the pros and cons of living in Red Hook?

**Tameka:**

The pros are that this community basically has a lot of things to offer to children and young adults. The different type of programs they have, summer programs, summer opportunities. I like the majority of the schools out here. The cons, well we might all know that one. New York City Housing NYCHA..

We have a lot of issues with the apartments, the living situations with a lot of tenants and it seems that some of the workers or whomever, the managers, they are not on point as to what they need to focus on as far as the tenants and getting things done.

**Jamel :**

Do you feel like housing does their job correctly or not?

**Tameka:**

They can only do what they can do, but I feel like they can do more. I feel like they really are slacking and lacking in certain areas when it comes to tenants in these NYCHA apartments.

**Jamel:**

Okay, okay. How do you feel about the police in the neighborhood?

**Tameka:**

I never really had issues with police issues. I feel it's pretty decent. I mean, they pretty much get along with the community and they do participate.

I do see sometimes where they do partake in community activities that we do have that Red Hook do give in the summer activities and things like that. So I mean, I guess you could say it's kind of fair. Right?



**Jamel:**

Yeah. Do you feel like they do right by the community or they make it worse?

**Tameka:**

I feel like they're doing their best. I do not judge. I feel like they're doing their best because we all have to work together. It's a 50-50.

**Jamel:**

Are you personally feel like they're doing their best?

**Tameka:**

I personally feel they're doing that.

**Jamel:**

You think they help everyone out?

**Tameka:**

As I said I think they try their best to help whom they can and it's a 50-50 because in order to help, the person has to want the help, right? And that's how I look at it.

**Jamel:**

What significant changes have you seen? Changes around the neighborhood? Since the years you've been living here? How was it before compared to now? Neighborhood. Like connections or how does it look. Anything?

**Tameka:**

I noticed that housing is not here. In the past when I lived here, there were more housing workers where they were able to do more of the work and deal with tickets a little more quicker. Whereas now it's just a lack of workers now.

So a lot of tickets are not being done and like I said, there's hardly really any work getting done in these apartments. That's why a lot of these apartments are falling apart. There's a park across the street where I live from my building, which is called Coffee Park.

There's been changes made to that because when I was living here some years ago, it was just the actual playground. So now we have a beautiful greenery park where you can have picnics and barbecues and enjoy your dogs and relax on the green grass and just sit on the benches and just enjoy the summertime.

There's now construction being done and new piping being done in every building because of Hurricane Sandy. So there are changes as far as now we have a lot of construction workers and it looks kind of crazy around here now because you have a lot of scaffolding and construction workers and dirt being pulled up everywhere and as where before, we didn't have that issue, but that's only due to Hurricane Sandy. So they're just trying to make it better. Basically, that's it.

**Jamel:**

How long did Hurricane Sandy happen? How long ago?

**Tameka:**

I believe Hurricane Sandy happened in 2011, if I'm not mistaken. Yes, it was a really bad one.

**Jamel:**

You feel like Red Hook has got enough resources for food or we have a lack?

**Tameka:**

I do feel they have enough resources. They have a lot of pantries and a lot of the churches help out and a lot of the independent organizations like a place called Red Hook Initiative where they definitely help out a lot of the tenants in the community. Just for the community. So I do like the resources they do have in this community.

**Jamel:**

Yes. If there was one thing that you could do for the community or want to help with the community, what would it be?

**Tameka:**

Hire more people to work in these buildings so we can get things fixed for these tenants because it's just sad to see that tenants are suffering for certain things that I feel that the city or the government should really be focusing on. I mean, the outside has to be focused on, do not get me wrong with that, but I feel like they're letting the inside go

**Jamel:**

Talking about living conditions?

**Tameka:**

Yes, living conditions. I wish I could change the living conditions on how a lot of these NYCHA tenants are living here in Red Hook. Yes.

**Jamel:**

Is the transportation good in Red Hook?

**Tameka:**

The transportation is excellent. I love it.

**Jamel:**

You don't feel like you need more transportation?

**Tameka:**

I do not feel like we need anymore. I think what we have right now, I'm pretty much satisfied with that. I love how I can get to this place or that place without a problem. Yeah.

**Jamel:**

How's your interaction with the people in Red Hook? How do you interact with people?

**Tameka:**

Oh, I've been out here 29 years. I pretty much, everyone likes me. I like who I like. I mean, I get along with everyone. Pretty much, I guess you could say stay to myself, me and my children. I have a friend or two, but I get along with everyone. I have no issues and I think most people here are very nice and they're just trying to live, just get by every day, get through life. Because life can be crazy. We all know this. Yeah.

**Jamel:**

All right, last question. Do you plan on still staying around or moving out anytime soon?

**Tameka:**

For right now, I'm planning to stay, but eventually I do want to leave the state of New York eventually. But as of right now, I'm okay being here in Red Hook. I have no issues with Red Hook. The only issues, as I stated in the beginning, were just, I feel that is just really not taking care of the tenants as they should. As far as anything else, I have no problems with it. Red Hook is a very nice community. They just need to do better when it comes to tenants. Thank you very much.

Jamel:

No problem. You have a good day.

Tameka:

You too.

# Microaggressions: Race and gender, is it a problem?

After learning and seeing with my own eyes how the justice system works and how they go about their procedures that they use, I believe that cops are not here to protect and serve and that no one feels safe around them anymore.

A microaggression is basically another version of racism. It's one example of why cops act how they act. Microaggressions are the everyday slights, insults, putdowns, invalidations, and offensive behaviors that people experience in daily interactions with individuals who may be unaware that they have engaged in demeaning ways and it could be in many ways.

There's micro assault, microinsult, microinvalidation, even something called environmental microaggressions. They target young colored people in broken down neighborhoods already and just watch us everyday hoping that something worth an arrest will happen. It also happens outside the neighborhoods like train stations , schools, and work.

Microaggressions can happen anywhere anytime. The reason for that is they expect us to do something because they assume we are a certain way because of our skin color. You could be so innocent and they arrest you. So what happens after? It's on your record now you can't get a job because of a random suspicion of you having possession of something illegal or you being part of criminal activity.

Microaggressions can happen anywhere anytime. The reason for that is they expect us to do something because they assume we are a certain way because of our skin color. You could be so innocent and they arrest you.

So what happens after? It's on your record now you can't get a job because of a random suspicion of you having possession of something illegal or you being part of criminal activity.

In Red Hook you will see a lot of this but not just only Red hook, there was a time where I've seen my friend getting a ticket for walking his dog in the park after a certain time whereas I saw a white person in the park same time as my friend and the cops strictly just ignored him and didn't give the white person no ticket at all. So How is that fair?

Another example that I've personally been through, cops will literally follow my friends and me around in a car or on foot just expecting us to say something to them or for us to make a mistake and do something where they now could arrest or give a ticket for. I don't at all feel safe and that's abuse of power.

Gender discrimination is Sexism and a form of microaggression I see in the community. Sexism is biased or discrimination against one's gender. Who does this include? It includes our mothers, our nieces and nephews and children who aren't old enough to tell the difference. This generation is being brought up on a repetitive cycle of violence and the police do contribute some of that energy.

Gender discrimination started up based off power, it differentiated according to cultures, religion, and politics. Furthermore, leading to the violence and inequality targeted toward our community. Red Hook is an eventful place. Targeting and sentencing innocent people to a cycle that can't be broken. We as a community need to understand the generations around here so the violence will stop. No profiling, no gendered violence and nor more ruining the name of innocent people. Instead come together, get to know some names and life stories of the people in the area you are assigned to ensure safety.

Being convicted of crimes you didn't commit could turn you down towards that path. Without someone correcting the system it could happen to multiple people. When innocent People go to jail; they have no choice but to get tough so they can protect themselves because of the violence that occurs in the facilities. If the problem with innocent people being convicted doesn't get solved the same pattern is going to keep happening.

Fixing and moving on from this problem the police work and investigations need to be handled a lot more stricter than how they handle cases now. False testimonies and unreliable evidence that may have a potential to be wrong shouldn't be used in a court of law in the future. The most important solution to stop these innocent convictions from happening is to have honest and reliable police officers or coworkers, lawyers, and investigators because the policing now is corrupt. The policing are corrupt now because police officers would either lie on a case due to personal connections with someone and they're involved or they could receive compensation.

I had found two cases with articles that showed the bias between the races of black and white, also including discrimination. In this article "Teenager Accused of Rape Deserve Leniency Because he's from a 'Good Family', I found out that this case was about a 16 year old boy who raped a 16 year old girl. This boy recorded him having intercourse with the girl and according to the article the boy led her into a dark space and that's when it all happened. During the first trial the judge didn't believe it was rape even though the boy sent around a video, which his friends also sent around saying "when your first time having sex was rape."

The judge declared that he was just being a boy playing around with his friends. It was repeated over and over that this boy came from a good house who had good grades.



The judge had given a biased opinion towards the privileged teenager so the trial went from family court to grand jury. Differences that would've made the outcome different was some evidences factors that wasn't brought up such as, a rape kit and a statement from the victim herself. Also another judge who was so in favor of privileged people and who strictly followed the law could've made a huge difference.

This case wasn't justified, it was unfair to the victim and all the information wasn't used correctly for the case in my opinion. I took my time to read the comments and one comment that stood out to me was "So he recorded the rape and shared it with friends who, according to the article, further shared it. Isn't this promoting child pornography." This person is absolutely correct because not one time was this mentioned in that court.

In the second article "The Stanford Rape Case Illustrates the Toxicity of White Male Privilege" it starts off with a boy named Brock Allen Turner. He was caught in the back of a frat house behind a dumpster on top of an unconscious, semi-naked woman. He had got caught and now the girl is pressing charges for rape.

Prosecutor asked for 6 years out of a 14 year maximum in state prison and by the judge he was found guilty for three felonies. He then registered as a sex offender from the outcome serving 6 months in county jail with probation and he could just serve 3 months if he's on good behavior. He rejected ever rapping that woman and didn't own up to what he did.

According to the article, it says "he dismissed the incident as a symptom of drinking alcohol. The decision with his case just with the last article is being biased towards privileged white men. According to the article these articles are showing us that the system "elevates the voices and experiences of white men and dismisses violence against women.

These are examples of things that happened from incidents we don't need or want in our community.

Starting to understand that the police need to clear their heads of negative decisions that affect us, being more cautious and mindful is a way to start. After weighing the possible risks against the incentive, individuals behave in their self-interest and make decisions to commit crime. They do not really think about the risk of getting caught and punished. These crimes happen by social and economic factors.

“For example, poverty is often cited as a socioeconomic condition linked to crime”. The only person whose behavior we can control is ourselves. We can't control what we look like, everyone is supposed to be born equal. In my community I believe that we need to come together. Discriminating, and taking the community or granted is a skill the police blindly use in front of our eyes.

Growing up in Red Hook has already been difficult for some families. I came across some people who explained their story to me and I know already from my own experience how the community is, including police, housing, food shortages, homeless people and more. The new generation coming up is looking at violence from all around them. The police are violent, the streets are violent, and never know what someone's home situation is like.

The new generation shouldn't be seeing cops get away with crimes and disrespecting the young ones just to prove they're the ones who have the power.

The study of mental processes such as memory, perception, problem solving and thinking process. In order for you to catch a criminal or law bender, you have to be one step ahead of them so understanding what they think and why is the first step then the next is to prevent the crime.

For example, when looking at a crime on the cognitive side you would ask yourself, what affected that person mentally, emotionally, and physically for them to commit that crime? Is there a relevance from the crime being committed to the person committing it?

In the text “Types of Psychological Theories” it states “cognitive theories of psychology are focused on internal states, such as motivation, problem solving, decision making, thinking and attention”.

Red Hook is such a big and dynamic neighborhood but also very separated when it comes to different blocks and the people living in it. Tyrone said in one of my interviews “It's a lot of internal problems that never got spoken. So it created the division and the separation between each other. So even with the blocks, Lorraine Street , Ave, Dice, Paul Block, the Back, the Front, they all try to separate themselves as being, "This is where I'm from," even though everybody is from Red Hook.

Basically what he meant by that is if one person from a block has issues with someone from another block then that relationship is not with just the person but they block they live on and don't want nothing to do with each other no more. This gives cops reasons to do what they got to do out there but the way they handle things out here is terrible. They would make a situation worse. They have arrested people on days they ain't even doing anything. They will follow you throughout your day, provoke you and all. That needs to be changed. The amount of policing needs to be changed because it is scaring the young adults. It can make them think Red Hook ain't that much of a safe space at all if we need all these cops. We still feel like we are trapped under this environmental aggression. Stop assuming and understand more, educate self because not everyone is supposed to fit the profile!