

WE

DESERVE

BETTER



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Observational Notes

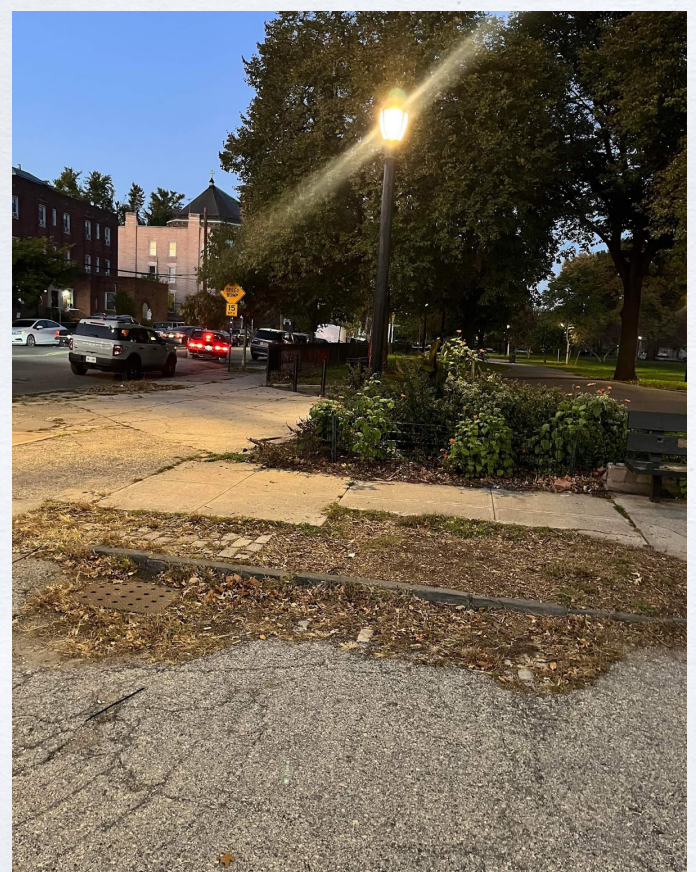
Location 1: Coffey Park

- The park is a bit empty not much kids are playing besides eight kids on the baseball field practicing / playing
- There is a Brown Skin man standing in between two trees unsure on what he is actually doing
- There is a few people walking their dog a Brown Skin women a light skin women and also a man walking two dogs in the park
- It's a lot of squirrels playing in the trees jump and running from tree to tree
- A woman walking thru the park laughing very loudly on her cell phone call
- The weather is very windy and the sun is starting to go down
- Lots of dead flowers might be due to the change in weather

Observational Notes

Continued

- Ann is too short for the citi bike
- The area is very quiet not much commotion at the time of 6:15 pm
- There are street light around the park for when it start getting late
- There is project buildings across the street on the left of where I am standing but across the street
- Behind there are also other apartment buildings but not the same story as the project buildings on my left



Observational Notes

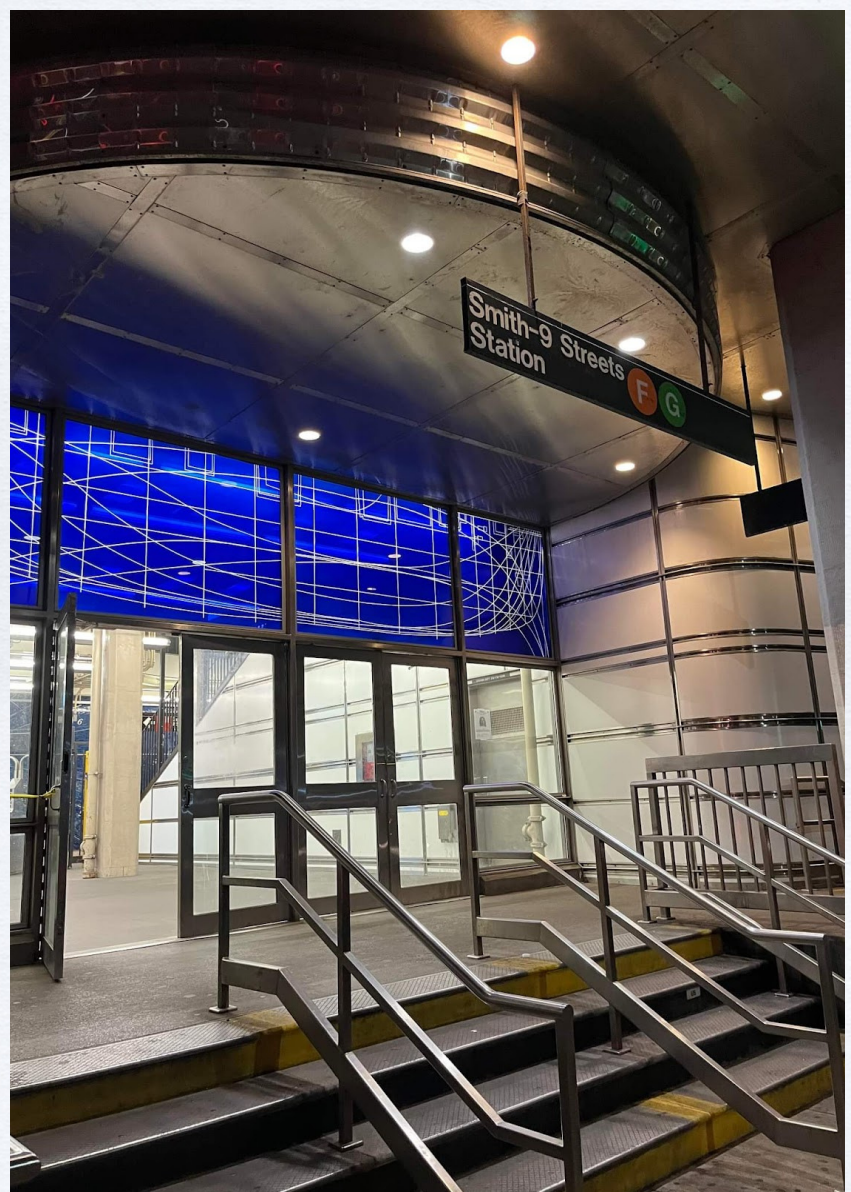
Location 2: Smith & Ninth Street Train Station

- Area is very busy due to lots of people coming from getting off the train and some are going into the train people of different genders and race
- A Mexican restaurant on the corner with very great design's on there windows
- There is also a Spanish restaurant / deli right underneath the train station there are a few people stopping there when they get off the train
- There is a junkyard of some sort with lots of old metal and old wood
- There is a river of some sort the water looks very dirty and the wanted stink really bad
- Lots of vehicles held up due to traffic and a guy showing signs of road rage at 6:55 pm

Observational Notes

Continued

- About 5 people are waiting on the bus three females and two males two of the girls are lightskin one Brown Skin and both guys are Light Skin
- This area is very loud between the train and the cars honking their horns and people speaking
- Looks Beautiful when the sun goes down



Interview with Linda, Red Hook Resident

November 16th. 2022

Raysha:

Hi, my name is Raysha. What's your name?

Linda:

Linda.

Raysha:

Okay. I would like to know, do you consent to being recorded while I ask you a few questions, if that is okay with you?

Linda:

Yes.

Raysha:

Okay. Are you ready?

Linda:

Yes.

Raysha:

All right. Question number one, what is your connection to Red Hook?

Linda:

I'm from the Red Hook community. I used to go to school out here when I was in high school, and besides that, my mom, she helps out with the food pantry by Coffee Park.

Raysha:

Okay, cool. How long have you been living or working in the Red Hook community?

Linda:

I've been living in Red Hook my whole life, 22 years.

Raysha:

Oh, okay. Okay. How does the community look to you?

Linda:

The community looks, I mean, it's a little bummy with the construction going on, but besides that, I can't complain.

Raysha:

All right. Next question. What would your vision of a safe red hook look like?

Linda:

My vision of a safer red hook, stopping gun violence, getting kids off the streets, and just making it more like home.

Raysha:

I like that one more like home. And what resources would the community need to achieve that vision?

Linda:

I mean more community centers, more activities, more gatherings to bring everybody together just as one. I feel like everybody should be bonding more. It shouldn't be too much violence that goes on within the community. If we're all a community, we should be a community.

Raysha:

Okay. I like that one. Are you ready for the next question?

Raysha:

Okay. What changes should be made in the Ride Hook community?

Linda:

The transportation, being that it's limited transportation, I guess. Because it's just the F and the G and then buses wise like that. I feel like just, it should just be a little, at least two more, one more train. Cause being that the buses, they take mad long to come. I be spending mad money on cabs to get here and there and plus it's cold, so who really want to wait for a bus all day? And oh, we must not forget the stores. It's no market. It's one market. That's just not enough. There isn't really any stores, really any shopping, nothing. We got to go mad far, just to get certain things.

Raysha:

I heard a few complaints about stuff like that. How do you view the right hook social community?

Linda:

I mean, I don't feel like it's really much socializing that really goes on. Even back in the day when I was kids, I just feel like it was just more to everybody coming out. Family mothers outside together, everybody as one. Everybody is cool but now I don't know if it's because everybody getting older, but even with younger kids it's still different. It's just less of that.

Raysha:

I know what you mean. And what do you do for a living?

Linda:

Right now I'm working with Amazon in Queens. I deliver packages. I drive. Yeah, that's about it. Besides that, I just be home, relaxing, commuting to Queens from Red Hook.

It's a lot. I got to transfer to a whole lot of trains. But I mean, I make it work. I make it work.

Linda:

I mean, I love my job. It's cool. For now, they are paying, so I can't complain. It's not too much. I get to work by myself, so I don't really have to deal with too much people wise; it's just drop and go. So it's actually kind of easy. It's like less than when people make it to seem as Amazon slave's people. But I mean, I guess that's the warehouse. But as far as I could say, as a driver, it's pretty cool. It's pretty calm.

Raysha:

Okay. That's all the questions I have for you. Thank you.

Linda:

No problem.

Interview with Ahmadi Fowler, Red Hook Resident

November 20th. 2022

Raysha:

Hi. My name is Raysha What's your name?

Ahmadi Fowler:

I'm Ahmadi Fowler.

Raysha:

I would like to know, is it okay if I can record you while I ask you a few questions, if that's cool with you?

Ahmadi Fowler:

Yes.

Raysha:

Are you ready?

Ahmadi Fowler:

Yes.

Raysha:

Question Number One is, what do you do for a living?

Ahmadi Fowler:

I am currently unemployed, but I recently took a test for the MTA.

Raysha:

Okay. Good luck. Next question. What do you believe the role of public safety should be in terms of community safety?

Ahmadi Fowler:

Well, maybe some things that the police can do in terms of community safety is actually care about the community, overall. Because it's like they cut a check. They work just to get they check. And they really don't care too much about the people who live in the community.

Raysha:

How have you seen Red Hook change?

Ahmadi Fowler:

Honestly, I don't see too much change in the Red Hook community because there's still violence. It's also still a lot of construction. But I guess it's a small start for them to try to make a bigger change.

Raysha:

What are the barriers you face in pursuit of your goals?

Ahmadi Fowler:

One of the main barriers I face is choosing the right career path. I want to have a career path that suits me. And I also want to help others in the community succeed in life.

Raysha:

I like that one. Help the people in the community.

Okay. How do you feel about the food access in Red Hook?

Ahmadi Fowler:

I feel like the food access is horrible. There's not too much stores we can go to and shop. There's no good fast foods around us, like Chick-fil-a, Smashburger,

or even Five Guys. It's like we have the same Uber East Options and Door Dash.

Raysha:

Okay. How do you feel about Red Hook's social community?

Ahmadi Fowler:

I feel like Red Hook socially is horrible because nobody really cares for each other. And also, I feel like that's just New York itself, because I feel like no one in New York help each other, and we don't try to do better even just the air quality itself. I feel like no one comes together unless if it has something to do with something that's benefiting them, like free food or money.

Raysha:

Well, yeah, I could also agree with that, too. I feel like people only come up when stuff is free. Because, yeah, I would come if something was free. Are you ready for the next question?

Ahmadi Fowler:

Yes.

Raysha:

What would you consider your current goals to be?

Ahmadi Fowler:

My current goal for me is to make \$100,000 a year to support my family. And I'm just really not trying to go back to being broke from where I first got out of high school a couple years ago and I was having to ask my parents for stuff.

Raysha:

Yeah. I definitely can agree with that. Thank you for your time.

Ahmadi Fowler:

You're welcome.

We Deserve Better

What does Public Safety mean to me? Public Safety to me, is making sure that people are safe and taking actions to make sure that we can ensure our safety. One thing I can say is I never really paid attention to the safety issues we have going on in the world until I joined the Public Safety program with RHI (Red Hook Initiative). RHI made me open my eyes to so many things that are happening around me. One of the acts we were a part of was, put an end to the gang's database. I never had a clue that the police even had any such thing, but our PS team joined families, advocates, and elective officials on the steps of borough hall, as we had to support a city Council built to abolish the NYPD's gangs database and prevent the creation of a replacement.

There are so many people out there on the gang's database who aren't even in a gang. Guess what? Nine times out of 10, the police put you on the gang's database just for hanging with people in a gang or associating with gang members. The NYPD will do anything to incriminate people. This is exactly why we need to learn the law. The police are known for abusing our rights until they run into someone educated on the law, they wouldn't even try it. It's time for the world to wake up!

We also pointed out some of the police brutality, how biased the police are, and target the people of the black communities; police in the US shoot and kill about 1000 people every year about 91% of us are being racially profiled, and it's so much more going on that we need to stand up and fight for another rally I enjoy participating in and was very happy to support. There was a rally at City Hall to close down Rikers Island. There have been 19 deaths at the jail this year alone, which has been the most deadly since 2013; stuff like this is unacceptable.

I have friends who have been to Rikers Island, trust me things I've heard about that place are nothing good, and even the families of the people who have passed Rikers Island this year, hearing their stories and things they are facing now that their loved ones are gone is just heartbreaking. My heart really goes out to those who lost their loved ones and are still fighting for justice and trying to gain closure for their deaths. Honestly, it's just sad how people won't care until it's them or someone they love who is in these kinds of situation or predicaments; so much more can and needs to be done to ensure our safety.

I feel that no matter what we do to attempt to try and make a change in the public safety issues going on it will never be enough mayor Adams and his administration team need to get together and really pay attention to the issues that us people are trying to bring to their attention, we can't even have protest or rallies without seeing groups being sent to canvas when we are just stretching our "rights" me being a young black mother living in the projects.

I'm scared for my baby being with all the gun violence and police brutality I have witnessed and experienced in my life. All I can do is pray that this world treats my baby right cause no matter what we do, it's like they set us up for failure. There's no point in saying innocent until proven guilty. It's more like guilty until proven innocent. That just isn't how life should be; we deserve better from our judicial system.

The police and the system wonder why people don't feel safe coming to them for help for certain situations. Yes, some people do use the police as a source for help, but I mean, how much help are they really giving us? There are so many young people, and just people overall, out here in the world dying from gun violence, but what are the police doing to make them feel safe?

Nothing! From what I hear and witness, it seems that the local Police Department is just here to come after the people of the community instead of making the community better. How can I, or anyone for that matter, feel safe chilling in their neighborhood when the police are so worried about going after the people of the neighborhood instead of stopping outsiders from coming and shooting up the neighborhood? Without the police really doing anything to stop or prevent it.

A friend of mine just last week explained a story to me about some people from another neighborhood coming over to ours and chasing him down with guns, explaining his exact words "I Was Scared For My Life" He also explained how if he would had gotten shot he would have died because officers didn't come til 30 minutes after the shots. That, right there to me, is just a prime example of how much the system doesn't care.

Let's be real, and these aren't people who care about us more than our safety; they are just regular people like us trying to make a living. It's all about arrest rates and money. You can't even send your kids to the store or to the market without knowing if your son, daughter, aunt, uncle, sister, mother, or father is the next victim of gun violence. This year, the NYPD received a 10.4 Billion dollar budget while the City defunded public schools and social services for our communities. If you didn't know the NYPD budget goes up yearly, why can't we share the funding?

Our communities need it just as much as the NYPD "Needs It. We need more healthcare services and healthcare resources and more homeless shelters, but not only has the NYPD received the funding, but mayor Eric Adams has also even used community tragedies of police violence as propaganda to justify further constant police surveillance of our neighborhoods and transit system.

That's exactly why communities aren't social anymore. Every time the community tries to get together and have a good time, we are harassed and heavily watched by the police. You can flip a burger on the grill now you are being suspicious just so they have "probable causes "to unlawfully search and harass us.

Another issue that always bothered me was housing living conditions; we are all human, and we are all people; why is it that people of housing communities have to live like this? I've been staying in this house, an apartment, my entire life, and not to say it just recently, but the ceiling has been leaking for years for the last two years; it's been it's worse, leaking in every room from the kitchen to the bathroom in our house and all they keep doing is temporary fixes. All of the furniture and the TVs are destroyed.

My cousin & I went down to her housing court to try to see if they can reimburse us or somehow replace the damaged items. There wasn't much that they could really do to satisfy our needs besides the fifth temporary fix, not to mention that all of the walls are peeling from the leakage in the apartment and there hasn't been any gas or heat in the apartment for about four months, maybe five the whole building. No one was able to cook; it's just like, what's the point of even living there if the whole apartment is messed up, but housing doesn't care. They only care about you paying your rent on time. They are so fast to evict someone and slow on fixing maintenance issues. Just this summer, a friend of mine's bathroom door has been broken all summer. She just recently got a bathroom door about a month ago.

How can anyone live comfortably and can't even use the bathroom with the door closed? It's like, what's the point of even paying rent, and you can't even get the things that need to be fixed?

Another friend of mine's faucet water has a white substance or a white-powered type floating in the water. He never really paid attention to it until I pointed out the substance. It can be anything in that water, lead poisoning, anything, and how many more people have the same substance in their water?

But hey, what do they want us to drink, cook and bathe in that water? We need more help; we need to get the word out more that we need more resources in the local communities. The elderly and disabled need more accessible buildings and wheelchair-fit elevators. Not to mention three trees fell down in the middle of the project, and that is just crazy to me. A few people were hurt, and no one was killed but let's be real.

The three trees that fell across the street from the neighborhood school are a very big safety hazard. Anyone can obviously tell that those trees had been there for a while, and you can tell that they were gonna fall, but no one did anything about it until they did; once they fell, they had people come and check the trees, but it's just how can I even feel safe, and you have employees who notice stuff like this even the police notice a tree going to fall why not try to make efforts to get the trees cut professionally or even having an inspector check them out.

But they don't care about the people of the communities, not one bit, and it bothers me that this is how we have to live. Because I live in the projects doesn't mean I have to settle for less. We deserve better no matter what community, race, or gender we come from.

One of my main concerns is that mayor Adams directed the police and emergency medical workers to hospitalize people they deemed too mentally ill to care for themselves, even if they posed no threat to others. elf, they can just hospitalize me without my consent.

It's very crazy to me, and I'm sorry, but even if that isn't the case, why can't the homeless have the right to decide whether or not they want to be hospitalized? These hospitals don't care enough to find out what the real issues are. They will give you "their best-educated guess" on your issues; yes, don't get me wrong. I understand there are crazy homeless people out here and even those who aren't homeless.

A homeless person on the train has assaulted me, but even so, there are other resources to help people with their problems besides hospitalizing us; we are human, and also we should have a say whether we want to be hospitalized or not; this going back to when I stated that we need more resources.

Instead of hospitalizing people, we need to open more homeless shelters, rehab centers, and mental health centers. We must get homeless people the resources they need to get back on their feet. A lot of homeless people are victims of COVID-19 and victims of the war going on. Life is getting harder every year, prices are rising, and bills are getting higher. You can't get a job unless you look at the part or have to be experienced to get the job.

It's just so much more we can do for the homeless, and the only solution the Mayor came up with was hospitalizing the homeless. That's just so pathetic. We deserve better, we do. Those are just a few things I've learned and noticed through my 22 years of life and the time I spend on the PS team. There are so many things going on, not just the things I've mentioned happening to us and jeopardizing our public safety. I want you guys to know that I understand not paying attention to the public safety issues and even those who are paying attention to the issues happening today.

We all need to come together as a unit and at least try to make things better or do our best to work on getting these issues addressed and fixed. We need to fight! fight! fight! For our rights! I believe that if we as a community and just us people and youth in the US can do this, we can get this right and win our fight. I'm not going to pretend I have everything figured out about what's happening.

I'm still learning as I go, but I have faith that once we become a team, the mayor, all elected officials, and so forth, will see that we are serious about our public safety. Hopefully, reading this, you get an eye opener on the things going just like I've got my eyes open on how the world is. Still, as I said, these are just a few of the things bothering me about public safety issues and you understand these things are happening.

This is neither a game nor a joke. It needs to stop. Let's put an end to all of this. We need to end things before a loved one is the next victim and consider what we can and need to do to help! Our public safety doesn't have to be at risk if we make the steps toward change.