

Public Safety team Responses to Increased Shootings in Red Hook, June 2022

In my opinion there has been an increase in these shootings because people are less aware and concerned about how these things affect the community. These shootings are mostly done by the young adults in the community who don't have a lot of family or support so that they can be something better. These young adults need something to keep them going and steady instead of being outside getting into trouble. As a young adult I've experienced being alone and not having that level of support so I know how it feels to these young adults. When you feel you have nothing to live for you're going to do whatever by any means. Maybe if people felt like they have more than just the "hood" or "gangs" to turn to the less people we would lose. A lot of things that happen in the streets over power a lot of young adults' morals and that's another reason why these young adults are so careless with guns. If everyone would just make people feel more comfortable to ask for help the shooting rate would decrease. In my opinion a lot of violence happens because of lack of communication. We as a community need to talk more with our peers no matter the age. If everyone could be there for each other we wouldn't have to worry about someone dying tomorrow. A lack of attention in people's lives can also cause irrational feelings and irrational actions as well. If we focused more on the mental health and well being of a person we would make the community a way better place.

Kiara Turner, Public Safety Organizer, 23

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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