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# Perceptions of Safety, Community, and the Criminal Justice System in Red Hook, Brooklyn

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By Suvi Hynynen Lambson

 Center  
for  
Court  
Innovation

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# Introduction & Methodology

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## Background

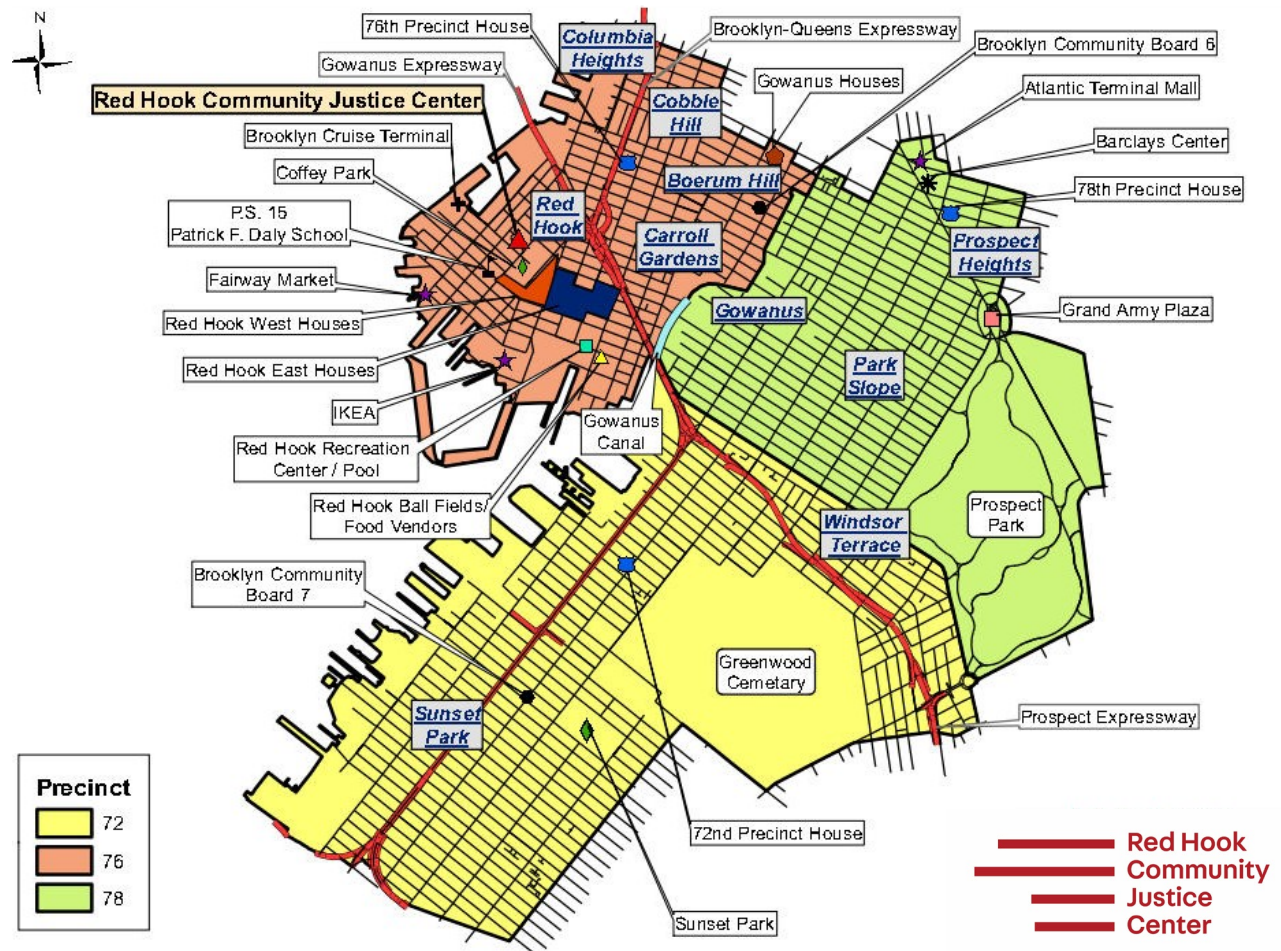
Starting in 1999, before the Red Hook Community Justice Center even opened its doors, project staff began conducting a community survey (known as Operation Data). The purpose of the survey was to give voice to the concerns of the people who live and work in the Red Hook, Brooklyn neighborhood. It also provided staff with information about how people in the community felt about the criminal justice system as a whole, and the idea of a community court in particular. The survey measured citizen perceptions of neighborhood quality of life, public safety, and satisfaction with local criminal justice agencies. The survey was administered annually from 1999 through 2004, and then in 2009. Most recently, it was administered in June 2016, when 516 Red Hook residents, workers, and merchants participated in the survey. This report presents the major findings from this most recent survey. Wherever possible, 2016 survey responses are compared to those from earlier years.

Launched in 2000 in southwest Brooklyn, the Red Hook Community Justice Center handles crime, housing and family court cases from Red Hook and surrounding neighborhoods. However, since the court is located in Red Hook and is a prominent presence in the Red Hook community, only those people living or working in Red Hook were included in the most recent survey efforts. The Justice Center seeks to improve public safety, reduce the use of jail and fines, and improve trust in justice. The presiding judge draws on numerous options for sanctions and services, such as community service, short-term educational groups, and long-term treatment, in addition to programs such as peacemaking, Pathways to Graduation (formerly GED), youth court, and arts programs (see Appendix B for a list of programming with descriptions).

Red Hook has two distinct districts—the “front,” referring to the area closest to the highway and trains, made up primarily of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) public housing buildings (the Red Hook Houses East and West); and the “back,” referring to the area closer to the water, mostly single-family homes, private apartment buildings, and warehouses. The racial and socioeconomic characteristics of the two areas are substantially different (i.e., people of color predominate in public housing; residents in the back were

more likely to be white and affluent). Over the last few years, the “back” has experienced significant development and change, with new boutiques, restaurants, and residents moving in. Since survey respondents were not asked to share their home address, employment, or income, “residence type” serves as a proxy for both geographic location and socioeconomic status in the report.

**Figure 1. Red Hook Community Justice Center Catchment Area**



## Methodology

Though Operation Data was conducted in previous years, research staff changed the 2016 survey in an attempt to capture perspectives particularly relevant to the Justice Center’s current work in the neighborhood. The final version, attached in Appendix A, contained 78 questions and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. For one week in June 2016,

AmeriCorps members (volunteers who provide service work in exchange for a stipend and educational award), Center for Court Innovation staff, and summer interns approached individuals in high-traffic public spaces and community locations (e.g. local parks, public housing walkways, outside grocery stores and laundromats) and asked them to participate in the community survey. In total, 516 individuals completed a survey.<sup>1</sup>

Descriptive statistics are reported for most questions, and, where appropriate, statistical tests indicate any significant changes from previous years. Additionally, some tests were conducted to examine whether the results varied based on background characteristics such as gender, race, age, or housing type. Statistically significant differences are indicated.

## Profile of Survey Respondents

Table 1 presents demographic characteristics of the 2016 survey respondents. The average age of respondents was 40 years old. The sample included more females than males (two-thirds to one-third). The majority of the respondents identified as black or African American (63%); those living in NYCHA housing were significantly more likely than those living in private housing to identify as black/African-American (75% vs. 37%,  $p < .001$ ). Survey respondents could identify as more than one racial or ethnic identity; nearly one-fifth of respondents identifying as black and one-quarter of white respondents, *also* considered themselves Hispanic/Latino.<sup>2</sup> More than half (68%) of respondents lived in NYCHA public housing (which exactly mirrors the population reported living in NYCHA housing in the 2010 census). Most respondents lived in Red Hook (80%); on average, respondents had lived in Red Hook for 19 years. The remaining 20% of respondents came to the neighborhood for work. About a quarter (24%) had not graduated from high school; another third had at least a college diploma.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to skip patterns built into the survey and questions skipped by choice, the total number of responses for some questions is less than 516. The total number of responses is never lower than 352 for any question.

<sup>2</sup> 352 respondents answered the question about race and 180 responded that they identified as Hispanic/Latinx. A total of 38 respondents identified as both black and Hispanic/Latinx; 16 respondents identified as both white and Hispanic/Latinx; and 6 respondents identified with another race and Hispanic/Latinx. The remaining 120 respondents who identified as Hispanic/Latinx did not simultaneously identify as another racial category.

**Table 1. Survey Respondent Demographics, 2016**

N	516
Average Age	39.8 years
Gender	
Female	64%
Male	34%
Other	2%
Race/Ethnicity	
Black/African American	63%
White	16%
Asian	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2%
Other	16%
Identifies as Hispanic/Latinx <sup>1</sup>	41%
Living in Public Housing	68%
Relationship to Red Hook	
Red Hook Residents	80%
Work only in Red Hook	20%
Mean years lived/worked in Red Hook	19.5 years
Education	
No High School/No GED	15%
No High School/Yes GED	9%
Graduated High School	28%
Some college	19%
Graduated College	18%
Graduate Degree	11%

<sup>1</sup>57% of those who identified as Hispanic/Latinx also identified with another race.

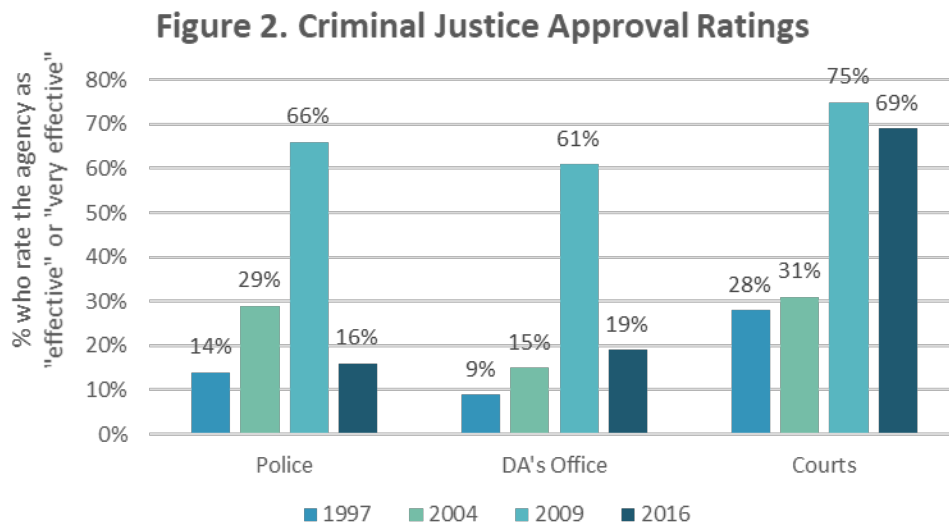


# Community Survey Results

## The Criminal Justice System & the Community

Over the prior three community perception surveys, positive feelings towards criminal justice agencies in the community steadily increased, with an especially large jump in 2009.

However, 2016 respondents presented more negative feelings towards police and the district attorney's office than in previous surveys (see Figure 2). Respondents still had predominantly positive feelings towards the courts in 2016.



## Community Problems

Community members were asked what they considered to be big problems in their neighborhood. In 2016, respondents identified building repairs, guns, fighting and violence, littering, and drug use as the biggest concerns for the community (see Table 2). Change in magnitude and direction of changes tracked in Operation Data surveys since 1999 comparing them to 2016 results are presented in Table 3 below, showing, for example, that all items are considered to be less of a big problem in 2016 than in 1999. Some items added in 2009, not included in Table 3, saw sizable changes between the two survey periods, including decreased perceptions of guns (decreased from 68% to 58%) and gangs (decreased from 63% to 42%) as major problems in the community from 2009 to 2016. Other physical disrepair

items increased as a public concern since the 2009 survey (poor street lighting increased from 19% to 39%, run down parks from 4% to 29% and abandoned buildings from 6% to 16%). Notably, as physical disrepair increased as a big problem for community members, guns, gangs, and substance use items (public drinking, drug sales, and drug use) decreased, potentially indicating that as serious crime in the neighborhood decreases people are able to

**Table 2. 2016 Problems in Red Hook**

% of Respondents Rating Issue as a "Big Problem" for the Neighborhood (N=516)	
<b>Major Problems</b> (50%+ rated as a "big problem")	
• Building repairs (61%)	• Littering (52%)
• Guns (58%)	• Drug Use (50%)
• Fighting/Violence (53%)	
<b>Moderate Problems</b> (25%-49% rated as a "big problem")	
• Garbage Removal (48%)	• Assault (30%)
• Gangs (42%)	• Public Drinking (29%)
• Drug selling in public (39%)	• Run down parks (29%)
• Poor street lighting (39%)	• Theft (27%)
• Loitering/trespassing (36%)	
<b>Minor Problems</b> (<25% rated as a "big problem")	
• Vandalism (21%)	• Panhandlers (16%)
• Muggings (20%)	• Shoplifting (14%)
• Graffiti (17%)	• Prostitution (14%)
• Abandoned buildings (16%)	• Sexual Assault (14%)

focus their attention more on quality of life issues. Items that were least likely to be viewed as community problems were sexual assault, prostitution, and shoplifting.

**Table 3. Direction and Magnitude of Change in Neighborhood Problems, 1999 through 2016**

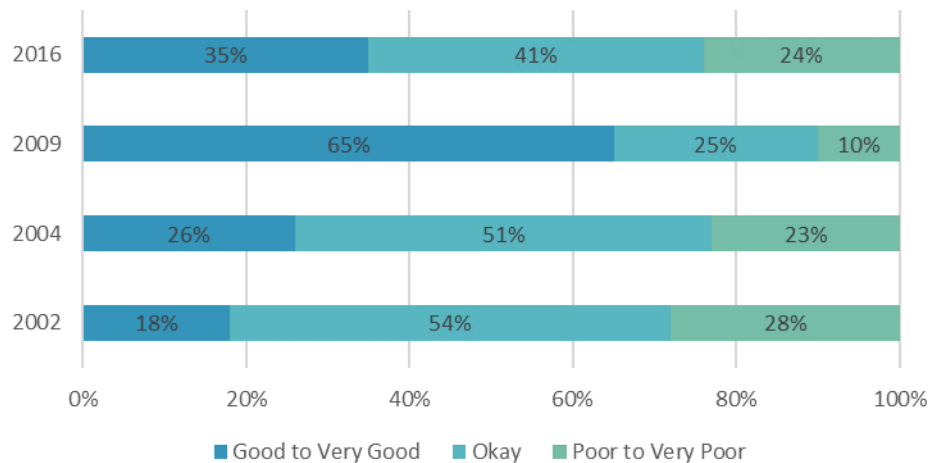
	% Change from 1999	% Change from 2004	% Change from 2009
<b>N (Earliest Survey Period)<sup>1</sup></b>	649	768	605
<b>N (2016)</b>	516	516	516
Fighting/Violence	-2%	21%	31%
Littering	-19%	5%	30%
Garbage Removal	-22%	6%	31%
Drug Use	-22%	-7%	23%
Shoplifting	-26%	-8%	10%
Public Drinking	-38%	-7%	-29%
Drug selling in public	-43%	-18%	-27%
Graffiti	-47%	-17%	3%

<sup>1</sup> N presented represents the total number of survey responses in 1999, 2004, and 2009.

## Safety & Quality of Life

Respondents' general rating of quality of life has decreased since 2009, with those rating quality of life in Red Hook as “good” or “very good” dropping 44% in 2016 (see Figure 3). In the 2016 survey, residents' perceptions of quality of life approached 2004 levels. In fact, 2009 survey responses—both in terms of quality of life and rating neighborhood problems—

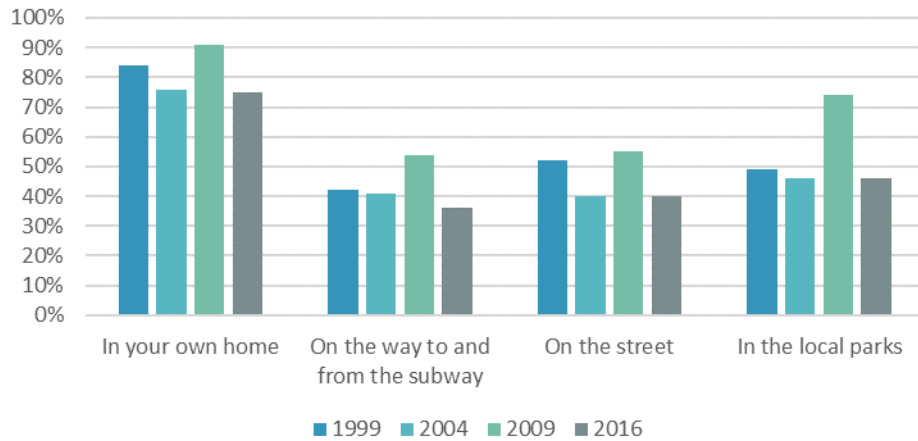
**Figure 3. Quality of Life in Red Hook**



look to be something of an anomaly, with 2016 responses looking like the extension of general response trends in the pre-2009 surveys.

Respondents living in NYCHA housing were 51% less likely than those living in private housing (29% vs. 49%) to report that quality of life was good or very good in Red Hook. Red Hook residents were also asked how safe they felt in various locations (Figure 4). Not surprisingly, respondents report feeling safest in their own homes. Reflecting the trends reported in previous sections, feelings of safety—which had increased in the 2009 survey—were back to 2004 levels. Around 20% of respondents reported that they felt *unsafe* (not shown) on the street and traveling to and from the subway; fewer (12%) reported feeling unsafe in neighborhood parks. There were no differences between private and NYCHA housing residents.

**Figure 4. Feeling Safe in the Neighborhood, 1999-2016 (Residents Only)**



New questions added in 2016 asked specifically about gun use and gangs. The survey responses are presented in Table 4, by residence type (NYCHA or private housing). Survey respondents living in NYCHA housing reportedly experienced more gun violence than those living in private housing, having heard gunshots, or seen someone threatened with or shot with a gun. Both groups felt that gang membership was common (74%) as was gun carrying (76%).

**Table 4. Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety, by Housing Type**

	NYCHA	Private Housing	All Respondents
<b>Guns</b>			
<b>Heard Gunshots</b>	***		
Never	6%	38%	16%
1-5 Times	39%	36%	37%
5-10 Times	21%	16%	19%
>10 Times	35%	12%	28%
<b>Ever Seen Someone Threatened with a Gun</b>	36%**	17%	30%
<b>Ever Witness a Shooting</b>	43%*	32%	39%

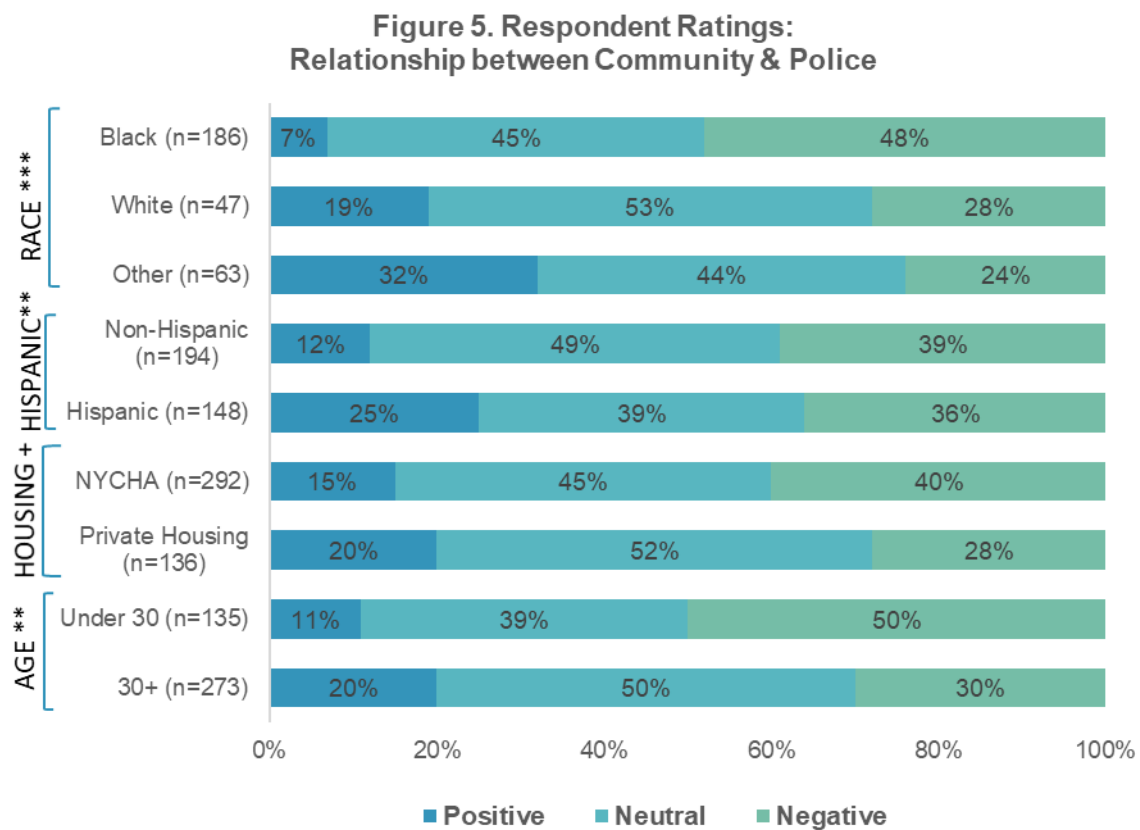
<sup>1</sup> Includes those who rated prevalence as *common* or *very common*.

<sup>2</sup> Includes those who rated prevalence as *uncommon* or *very uncommon*.

\*\*\*p > .001; \*\*p > .01; \*p > .05; +p > .10

## Community Perceptions about Police

Figure 5 delves deeper into the issue of how community members view the relationship between the community and the police, examined by race (black or white), ethnicity (Hispanic/Latinx), housing type (NYCHA or private housing), and age (under 30 or over).<sup>3</sup> The perceptions of community members who identified as black differed significantly from those who identified as white, with only 9% of black respondents considering the relationship to be positive, compared with 19% of those who identified as white. Respondents who identified as Hispanic/Latinx were considerably more likely than those who did not to perceive the relationship between police as positive (25% vs. 12%). Residents



+p<.10, \*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 .

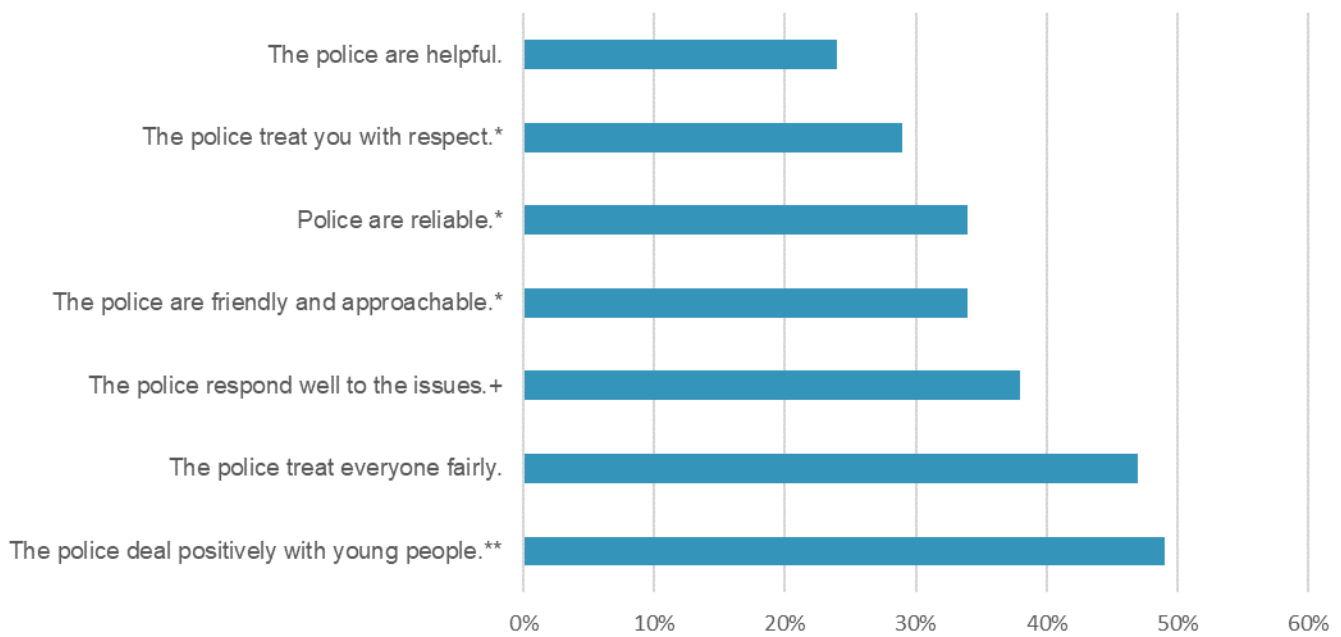
Note: Sample Ns are based on the number of respondents in the subgroups who answered the relevant question and therefore are not identical across categories.

living in NYCHA housing were somewhat more likely than those living in private housing to rate community relations with police negatively (40% vs. 28%), as were younger respondents (50% vs. 30%).

<sup>3</sup> Missing responses and responses of “don’t know” were eliminated from the analysis.

Figure 6 presents perceptions about the police, with percentages representing respondents who disagree or strongly disagree with a range of statements. Significance flags highlight differences by residence type (i.e., NYCHA versus private residence). Respondents were most likely to agree or strongly agree that police would be helpful, treat them with respect, and be reliable. Residents living in NYCHA housing were less likely than those residing in private housing to feel that police would treat them with respect (39% v. 47%), are reliably available (29% v. 33%), and deal positively with young people (17% v. 21%).

**Figure 6. Perceptions about the Police in Red Hook**  
**% of people who disagree or strongly disagree with the statement**



+p < .10, \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01.

Percent of respondents who disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. P-values indicate a significant difference between residents who live in NYCHA housing (n=301) and those who live in private residences (n=135).

## The Red Hook Community Justice Center

Overwhelmingly, community members reported positive feelings about having a community-based court in the neighborhood (83% in 2016, similar to 86% in 2009). Awareness of the Red Hook Community Justice Center is high in the community. Most respondents (84%) had heard of the Red Hook Community Justice Center (compared with 93% in 2009 and 77% in 2005). Of those who had heard of the Justice Center, the majority (71%) said that they felt

the Justice Center was effective or very effective at dealing with crime in the community (26% felt neutral; only 3% felt it was ineffective).

While many people knew about the Justice Center as a community court, the additional programming at the Justice Center had less recognition. Of those who knew of the Justice Center more generally, just over half (53%) were aware of at least one of the specific programs noted in the survey; only 21% had used Justice Center services. Table 5 presents respondent awareness of Justice Center programming. Awareness of the additional services offered at the Justice Center was more widespread among respondents living in NYCHA

**Table 5. Red Hook Program Awareness<sup>1</sup>**

N	416
Aware of Any Program	53%
Youth Court	48%
AmeriCorps	45%
Housing Resource Center	42%
GED/TASC	38%
Peacemaking	28%
Photography/Summer Internships	22%
Red Hook CARES (victim services)	20%
Women in Touch	17%
Neighborhood Restoration Crew	16%
Clinic	12%

<sup>1</sup> Percent of respondents reporting that they had *heard of* each of the listed programs.

housing (results not shown). Very few respondents who had used Justice Center services reported a negative experience (2%).<sup>4</sup> See Appendix B for a more detailed description of the programs listed.

Respondents with Justice Center experience were asked about their treatment there—in particular, whether they felt that they were treated fairly by court actors. Of those who had a case processed at the Justice Center, 78% reported that they had been treated fairly. This is a particularly important metric for Justice Center staff, given research indicating that defendants who feel that they are treated fairly are more likely to comply with court mandates and obey the law in the future.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the Justice Center specifically strives to implement elements of procedural justice (understanding, respect, voice, and fairness)

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<sup>4</sup> 57% of service users reported a positive experience at the Justice Center; 41% rated their experience as neutral.

<sup>5</sup> Tyler, T. 2007. “Procedural Justice and the Courts.” *Court Review* 44:1/2.

throughout the building and train all staff on it.<sup>6</sup> Respondents with Justice Center experience were asked in an open-ended question why respondents felt they had—or had not—been treated fairly. Below are a selection of their response:

- *...[M]y story was heard. I wasn't guilty by association.*
- *I felt the judge and [his] legal advice was sound and sympathetic to the residents and not to just enforce police summons.*
- *Judge Calabrese and his staff try to help the community.*
- *They did what they said they would do.*

Respondents were also asked about their unmet needs. Response to this item was low. The most often-reported need was housing assistance (18%), followed by employment (8%), and health care (6%). Responses to an open-ended question about the types of programs and services respondents would like to see at the Justice Center fell primarily into three categories: (1) employment services, (2) youth programs, and (3) adult GED or continuing education (the Justice Center currently offers GED only for those 21 years and under).

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<sup>6</sup> For more on procedural justice, see [www.courtinnovation.org/areas-of-focus/procedural-justice](http://www.courtinnovation.org/areas-of-focus/procedural-justice)



## Chapter 3

# Moving Forward

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The 2009 survey results presented a picture of a community that was steadily improving and a justice system succeeding in increasing public trust and safety. The 2016 survey, while still generally positive, revealed gaps in satisfaction with the justice system. The neighborhood violence and drug use that were so prevalent in the 90s and early 2000s have largely disappeared from public view, but there is plenty of room for improvement in other areas. The Red Hook Community Justice Center itself enjoys a solid reputation in the community as a court *and* a positive representative of the justice system as a whole; its role as a service provider in the community is less familiar. As such, there is an opportunity for the Justice Center to expand its role in the community. This chapter outlines some of the new work undertaken by the Justice Center based on the survey findings and areas of interest for future outreach, as well as a discussion about study limitations and future research

## Response to Findings

In response to the information compiled through this survey, the Red Hook Community Justice Center has taken a number of steps since the survey was conducted, outlined below:

- 1) Police-Community Relations** The most notable change in perceptions since the 2009 survey relates to police-community relations. In response, the Justice Center has undertaken two important initiatives that seek to build trust and improve relations between police and community, thereby making Red Hook safer and stronger.
  - a. In the summer of 2016, the Justice Center launched its *Bridging the Gap* initiative, which brings together police, youth, and community members to build meaningful dialogue and positive interactions in a safe space. The goal of this initiative is to build trust and improve relations between police and the community, in particular the youth. Some of the activities in this initiative have included team building activities, opportunities for youth and police officers to ask each other questions in small groups, and police from the local precinct sharing information about the training that they receive as officers with the youth.
  - b. The Red Hook Peacemaking program trains community members to become peacemakers, who in turn help to resolve disputes between their fellow community

members. In the fall of 2016, the program expanded its training cohort to include not only community residents, but also active duty police officers. In December 2016, four Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) from NYPD Housing Police Service Area (PSA 1) graduated alongside 20 community members to become our first group of active duty NYPD officers to serve as peacemakers. Since then, an additional group of eight officers from the 76<sup>th</sup> precinct or PSA 1 have graduated in two cohorts of peacemakers and can now participate in peacemaking sessions to help resolve disputes such as conflicts between neighbors.

**2) Violence and Victimization** Since 2012, the Justice Center has operated an onsite victim services program, Red Hook CARES (Counseling and Restorative Services). This program serves anyone from the community who has witnessed, or been the victim of, crime or violence. In response to the survey results concerning community violence, the CARES team increased outreach efforts to raise awareness and encourage those who have witnessed or experienced violence to take advantage of the services, regardless of whether they have reported these instances to law enforcement. These outreach efforts have included trainings for community partners and residents, and a Red Hook peace walk with inspirational speakers in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2017.

The CARES program is currently renovating its satellite office at 135 Richards Street, within the Red Hook Houses, to serve as an additional service site and safe space for client meetings and group counseling sessions. The CARES program also continues to serve as a critical resource and support for clients working with other departments within the Justice Center, such as Peacemaking and the Housing Resource Center.

**3) Housing** The Justice's Center's onsite Housing Resource Center works in partnership with Red Hook public housing residents, the Justice Center's housing court, and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to aid distressed tenants facing eviction or severe housing repair needs to navigate the housing court process and access arrears assistance, legal counsel, and social services. One apparent trend gleaned from these survey results is the disparity in perceptions between public housing residents and other residents living in Red Hook. In an effort to ensure that public housing residents have access to the appropriate services and resources, the Justice Center's Housing Resource Center has undertaken new and expanded outreach methods. These have included budgeting and financial empowerment workshops on NYCHA grounds as well as within the Justice Center; outreach and educational workshops surrounding health-related issues

such as mold and lead paint; and the recruitment and training of four “neighborhood navigators”—NYCHA residents tasked with reaching out to neighbors who may face barriers to accessing services due to language barriers, age, or physical or other impairments. The Housing Resource Center also utilizes the services available through other onsite programs, such as Peacemaking and Red Hook CARES, by referring clients where appropriate and working collaboratively with other staff members in these programs.

## Discussion and Future Research

The 2016 Red Hook Operation Data study has some obvious limitations. The survey relies on a convenience sample of street intercept surveys conducted during the summer, primarily during week days. Despite efforts to reach out to community members on a single designated weekend, the sampled population (those people on the street during the week willing to participate in a survey) may not be representative of the community as a whole. Additionally, the survey itself was quite brief, was based on questions in previous Operation Data surveys, and was not conducive to respondents providing context or deeper explanation for their responses. While researchers and Justice Center staff can hypothesize about the reasons for changes in community perceptions towards the justice system and feelings of safety between 2009 and 2016 (e.g., longstanding effects of Hurricane Sandy, nationally prominent police shootings, the start of the Black Lives Matter movement, the decrease in police use of stop, question, and frisk citywide, the opening of Ikea, and changing community demographics) only residents can accurately explain their responses. Next steps for research should include looking to the community itself for further insights; specifically, conducting qualitative research further exploring findings from this study.

As this study presented, there are many sides to the Red Hook community and the experiences of community members vary widely. Future research should take into account the varied voices in the community, the relationships between the different communities, and how each interacts with the criminal justice system. Race and economic disparity in relation to feelings of safety within the community are not to be ignored and present an opportunity for study that could inform criminal justice strategies throughout the diverse neighborhoods of New York City and beyond.

# Appendix A

## RED HOOK OPERATION DATA

### Community Survey, Spring 2016

*Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I work for/am an AmeriCorps member at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. We're conducting a survey to learn about the quality of life in Red Hook, your perceptions of the justice system, and any areas of concern. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Your responses will be kept confidential. This information is for research purposes only.*

*The survey will be about 7-10 minutes and is only for individuals who work or live in Red Hook and who are at least 18 years old. Does that describe you? If so, do you agree to participate? (If they say yes, then start the survey, if not, say "thank you and have a nice day" and move on.)*

#### **The Community**

I'd like to start with a few basic questions about what you think about the Red Hook neighborhood.

1. What is your relationship to this neighborhood? (Choose all that apply)
  - ☐ Resident
  - ☐ Work in the neighborhood
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the closest street intersection to your home or work?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many years have you lived/worked in the neighborhood? (If less than 1, put 0)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. How would you rate the quality of life in the neighborhood?
  - ☐ Very Good
  - ☐ Good
  - ☐ Okay
  - ☐ Poor
  - ☐ Very poor
  - ☐ Don't know

#### **Community Problems/Safety**

*Now I'm going to ask you some questions about issues in the neighborhood. After each issue I state, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, minor problem, not a problem, or you don't know.*

	Big Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Don't Know
5. Public Drinking	1	2	3	4
6. Drug Use	1	2	3	4
7. Gangs	1	2	3	4
8. Drug selling in public	1	2	3	4
9. Theft	1	2	3	4

10. Assault	1	2	3	4
11. Sexual assault	1	2	3	4
12. Muggings	1	2	3	4
13. Guns	1	2	3	4
14. Fighting/violence	1	2	3	4
15. Garbage removal	1	2	3	4
16. Run down parks	1	2	3	4
17. Littering	1	2	3	4
18. Poor street lighting	1	2	3	4
19. Abandoned buildings	1	2	3	4
20. Graffiti	1	2	3	4
21. Panhandlers	1	2	3	4
22. Shoplifting	1	2	3	4
23. Prostitution	1	2	3	4
24. Vandalism	1	2	3	4
25. Building repairs (i.e., broken locks, poor lighting, etc. <b>for NYCHA only</b> )	1	2	3	4
26. Loitering/trespassing	1	2	3	4

*If the respondent is a resident:* Please tell me whether you feel safe, neutral or unsafe in the following locations:

	Safe	Neutral	Unsafe
27. In your home	1	2	3
28. On the street	1	2	3
29. On the way to and from the subway	1	2	3
30. In the local parks	1	2	3
31. In your building	1	2	3

32. In terms of street violence (fights or confrontations that happen outside or on the streets), how do you think Red Hook compares to other neighborhoods in Brooklyn?

- ☐ Better
- ☐ Worse
- ☐ About the same

33. In the last year, how often have you heard gunshots in your neighborhood?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Three to five times
- ☐ More than five times

34. How common would you say it is for people to belong to gangs, sets or crews in the neighborhood?

- ☐ Very Common
- ☐ Somewhat common
- ☐ Somewhat Uncommon

- ☐ Very Uncommon
- ☐ Unknown

35. How common do you think it is for people to carry guns in this neighborhood?

- ☐ Very Common
- ☐ Somewhat common
- ☐ Somewhat Uncommon
- ☐ Very Uncommon
- ☐ Unknown

36. Have you ever seen someone threatened by a gun in this neighborhood?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

37. Have you ever seen someone shot by a gun in this neighborhood?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

38. If a fight were to break out near your home, how likely is it that your neighbors would break it up?

- ☐ Very Likely
- ☐ Somewhat Likely
- ☐ Somewhat Unlikely
- ☐ Very Unlikely
- ☐ Don't know

39. If a fight were to break out near your home, how likely is that your neighbors would call the police?

- ☐ Very Likely
- ☐ Somewhat Likely
- ☐ Somewhat Unlikely
- ☐ Very Unlikely
- ☐ Don't know

*I'm going to ask you about police in your area this past year. Remember, your answers will remain anonymous. For each statement below, please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree or strongly disagree.*

The Police...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
40. Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them	1	2	3	4	5
41. Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	1	2	3	4	5
42. Are helpful	1	2	3	4	5
43. Are friendly and approachable	1	2	3	4	5

44. Can be relied on to be there when you need them	1	2	3	4	5
45. Respond well to the issues in the community	1	2	3	4	5
46. Deal positively with young people	1	2	3	4	5

47. Would you characterize the relationship between the police and your community over the past year as...

- ☐ Positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Negative
- ☐ Don't know

48. Have you called the police for help in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

49. Have you been unfairly treated by the police in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

50. Have you been stopped by the police in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

51. *If yes*, how many times in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

52. How did you feel about the interaction? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

53. In the past year, how effective have police been in responded to community issues?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Very Ineffective

54. In the past year, how effective has the District Attorney's Office's response been to crime and issues impacting the community?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Very Ineffective

55. In the past year, how effective has the court system's response been to crime and issues impacting the community?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Very Ineffective

### **Red Hook Community Justice Center**

56. Have you heard of the Red Hook Community Justice Center?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

***Describe the Justice Center:*** The Red Hook Community Justice Center is a community court located on Visitation Place between Richards and Van Brunt Streets in which one Judge hears cases from criminal, family and housing court. At the Justice Center, the court has an array of services and programs available on-site to address the underlying issues that led to an arrest and provide alternatives to jail sentences. Beyond the courtroom, the Justice Center also a GED classroom, youth programs, crime victim's services, Peacemaking, a Housing Resource Center, a Neighborhood Restitution Crew and a social services clinic.

57. In general, how do you feel about having a community court in your neighborhood or nearby?

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Bad
- ☐ Very bad

***If the person has heard of the Justice Center, continue. If not, skip to question 68.***

58. How effective do you think the Red Hook Community Justice Center is at dealing with crime in your community?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Very Ineffective

59. Have you ever had a case processed through the Red Hook Community Justice Center? (check all that apply).

- ☐ Criminal Court
- ☐ Family Court
- ☐ Housing Court
- ☐ Youth Court
- ☐ Peacemaking
- ☐ No case (skip to Question 62)



60. If yes to 59, was your case handled fairly?

☐ Yes

☐ No

61. Why/why not do you feel that way? \_\_\_\_\_

62. Which programs have you heard of at the Red Hook Community Justice Center? (Circle all that apply). Red Hook Youth Court AmeriCorps Photography/Summer Internship  
Red Hook CARES (victim's services) GED/TASC program Housing Resource Center  
Peacemaking Neighborhood Restitution Crew Women in Touch Clinic/ATI  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

63. Have you used any of the services available at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in the past year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

64. If yes to 63, which services? \_\_\_\_\_

65. If yes to 63, what did you think of the services? \_\_\_\_\_

66. How would you describe your overall experience at the Justice Center?

☐ Positive

☐ Neutral

☐ Negative

67. In your opinion, what is the primary purpose of the Justice Center in the community?

68. What kinds of programs and services would you like to see the Justice Center offer?

### Civil Legal Services

69. Do you need legal assistance with any of the following (check all that apply):

☐ housing (rent owed or maintenance)

- ☐ family matters/child custody
- ☐ immigration/naturalization
- ☐ divorce
- ☐ domestic violence
- ☐ government benefits
- ☐ medical/health coverage
- ☐ employment
- ☐ home or auto insurance
- ☐ consumer/credit card debt
- ☐ law enforcement

70. Do you know where to go to get access to these legal services?

- ☐ Yes (If yes, where \_\_\_\_\_).
- ☐ No

### **Neighborhood Strengths/Problems**

71. What would you identify as the greatest strength(s) of your neighborhood? \_\_\_\_\_

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72. What do you see as the biggest problem(s) facing the neighborhood? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Demographics**

73. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other

74. What racial group do you identify with?

- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ White
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

75. Are you Hispanic/Latino?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

76. What type of housing do you currently live in?

- ☐ Privately owned home, co-op or apartment
- ☐ NYCHA (public) housing complex: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Shelter/temporary housing
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

77. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

78. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- ☐ Did not finish high school; did not get GED
- ☐ Did not finish high school, did get GED
- ☐ Graduated high school
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ Graduated college
- ☐ Graduate school

## Appendix B

### Red Hook Community Justice Center Program Descriptions

#### **Youth Court**

Youth courts handle cases involving young people, ages 10 to 18, who have been cited for low-level offenses such as vandalism, fare evasion, assault, and truancy. Teen volunteers lead hearings or restorative circles, assign sanctions, and provide mentoring to youth offenders. The Red Hook Youth Court receive referrals from schools, the New York City Police Department, the New York City Department of Probation, Family and Criminal Courts, and local District Attorney's offices.

#### **AmeriCorps**

AmeriCorps is a national service program with a long-standing tradition in Red Hook since 1995. Members in Red Hook perform service projects, serve as mentors for local youth, and worked with clients and community members as frontline staff for onsite programs including victim services, peacemaking, ATI, and the Housing Resource Center, all with the goal of making Red Hook a safer, stronger, and more resilient community.

#### **Housing Resource Center**

The HRC provides assistance to NYCHA residents with cases in the Housing Court for non-payment or HP Actions, who need help with getting repairs done, or would like help connecting to additional housing resources.

#### **Pathways to Graduation (formerly GED)**

The Pathways program runs classes at the Justice Center for students who over the age of 18 and under 21 who have not completed high school and are preparing for the high school equivalence exam. The program is open to anyone interested but especially geared towards justice-involved youth.

#### **Peacemaking**

Red Hook's peacemaking program builds on Native American tradition to offer an alternative form of dispute resolution for select cases referred from the court and community.

#### **Photography/Summer internships**

Open to all youth in the community, the Red Hook Youth Programing staff provide opportunities for youth to connect with other community arts organizations for arts, theater and photography programs in the summer and throughout the school year.

**Red Hook CARES (victim services)**

The victim services program for survivors of crimes serves child and adult victims of assault, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other forms of victimization. These clients received criminal justice support, personal advocacy, and counseling services, amongst others.

**Women in Touch**

The Women in Touch program is one of the first created at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. It provides business attire and other support for women in the community.

**Neighborhood Restitution Crew**

The Neighborhood Restitution Crew is the Red Hook Community Justice Center community service crew that is made up of defendants who have been mandated to community service. With the restorative justice lens, the Crew is tasked with projects within the local community, including cleaning graffiti and working in the parks.

**Clinic/ATI**

The Clinic provides long-term counseling services for court mandated clients, while the ATI office assigns clients to community services or social service classes. Social workers and other staff identify needs that the clients may have and make referrals to outside service providers.