

Bianka De Las Nueces

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ECE 410

### Mini Ecological Study Part II

In my neighborhood, there are pros and cons in the living situation in uptown Manhattan. Since I moved here everything has changed every day of the year. Regarding supporting the individuals living here, there are some support systems for people with necessities and at the same time systems that lack support. In my observation around where I reside, there have been changes throughout the years of the covid crisis. Before the pandemic, everything seemed to be under control.

However, I have noticed that a lot of business has been closed due to bankruptcies or other financial issues, and mostly due to the pandemic. For example, retail businesses such as dollar tree and other clothing stores were shut down and many medical clinics are still in the same condition since the pandemic. Many restaurants, bars, and clubs have been moved out to the streets because of the capacity of people inside. I have noticed that the streets are getting tighter and uncomfortable for vehicles because of the local business. So, it makes it even worse to drive and worse with more overpopulation. However, in my observation, I have noticed many things that caught my attention in my neighborhood. Due to the pandemic, many support systems for people have been provided. For example, while I was walking, in many public schools and churches, there has been an increased

number of individuals with families lining up to receive food and water that other people donate for those who are in need in this crisis, as well as clothing. As we all know, many of us have lost our jobs due to the pandemic, it is hard to support and provide for our loved ones and ourselves. But with the help of our community, many support systems have assisting people who are struggling. With the help of the city, a big help has been given to those who lost their jobs. Many individuals had been receiving the money from those who were affected. I also noticed the state has provided people with resources and assistance such as medical help and employment.

Living in Washington heights can be comforting to others yet uncomfortable. For us residents, it is hard to believe that we are lacking in humanity and respect towards our city, and it keeps us thinking about why there are not enough good people in the world. While I was observing, I noticed an incredibly increased amount of trash around every block I walked around. This puts everyone at risk every day. It is sad to know that we are living in a neighborhood where no one cares for the sake of our health and safety. Even though the sanitation does their job, we can still see people littering and it is not good for the environment and our safety. Instead of working as a community they can care less. It is also sad to know that many people are struggling with those who need shelter and food. I have observed that every day walking around, there have been many homeless people living in such crisis begging for money. Of course, we cannot judge others because of their living situation but most of the people who are living in that condition are those who were affected by drugs their whole lives. Because of many homeless people around each block, the NYPD has been strict and supervised each and everyone around. Unfortunately, Washington heights does not feel safe anymore for the residents due to many violent crimes and severe cases that have been seen such as sexually assaulting, robbing, and some other rare cases such as shooting and stabbing involving gangs that happens not so often but we still we have to still be aware of our surroundings. It was

very rare to see something like this before, but the crimes have been increasing and it is dangerous for everyone who lives here. It is hard for the NYPD to keep everyone safe if there are many unhappy people in the world. Overall, I have lived in the same place for years and slowly I've been noticing changes that's making everyone wants to move out of the state.

For others who have lived in the same place for years, they would get used to where they are living and start to like the environment each day. Others may find it overwhelming and exhausting of seeing what's happening in the world and would start to plan their next move. Little by little this neighborhood would be at total risk, this is because not just humanity is lacking but the fact that our community depends on us, and we must make it better and better each day. Instead, we are making it worse. In our diverse community, mostly Hispanics and American people have been living in our neighborhoods. I have noticed that on specific avenues most of the American individuals reside. I also noticed that they maintain a very healthy and clean environment while others in certain avenues are the total opposite. Some people may believe it is a racial issue while others think it just depends on how we were raised. This does not only affect adults but children also. Children are our future, and we must maintain a healthy environment for them. For many of us in this time of crisis, it is difficult to understand for what's happening now. We must stay together as a team and make our best effort to make a safe and healthy environment.

Work cited

Washington Heights and Inwood Development Corporation (n.d) Retrieved from [Washington Heights & Inwood Development Corporation - Local Resources \(whidc.org\)](#)