

## Neighborhood Selection Essay

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New York City is a big city with thousands of residents in all different neighborhoods. As an individual who was born and raised in Queens, NY, I have been to all different types of neighborhoods in the city, in all boroughs except Staten Island. In this specific neighborhood you never know what you can encounter. During the summer this neighborhood becomes an attraction for residents of NYC and tourists. Far Rockaway hosts all kinds of events, parades and street parties for kids and adults. As of now about 70,000 people reside in Far rockaway.

Crossing the Cross-bay bridge, you arrive at Rockaway Beach and are welcomed by the sight of the long boardwalk that starts at Beach 9<sup>th</sup> street and ends at B 126<sup>th</sup> street. The boardwalk overlooks the beautiful sight of the ocean, but further down by B 84<sup>th</sup> street is Hammels, owned by NYCHA Housings. Hammels has about 14 developments and provides safe housing for low-income families. Only two blocks over from Hammels is the shore front, interestingly enough residents of Hammels tell a different story than the residents living in the buildings around the shore.

In this neighborhood, many news articles have reported gunshot incidents that either resulted in murder or injury and for this reason Hammels has a heavy police presence, but even with their look out cars our neighborhood remains unsafe. Some of these incidents may even go unreported such as, on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at approximately 11pm gun shots were heard around the neighborhood and minutes later 3 surveillances cars showed up to investigate the scene. There is no news coverage on this incident, however this is only one of many experiences. All the while two blocks over you'll find many people jogging on the boardwalk at around 5am and you'll be able to experience the tranquility of the breeze and the sight of the waves. Many days there is little to no police presence because of the calming ambience no incidents are ever expected to occur by the shore even during the summer.

In conclusion, although Far Rockaway has amazing shops and boutiques for visitors who decide to spend a day at the beach, residents of Far Rockaway have many stories about the neighborhood, and many feel unsafe. Throughout the years, the 100th precinct has tried to reduce the crime rate of this area by increasing the police presence in heavy crime areas, and this plan has functioned during the busiest times of the year but not through the winter.