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The Impact of Policing Presence in Brooklyn New York

The police presence in Brooklyn, New York has changed significantly since the 1990s. I first moved to East New York in 2012, felony class crimes were extremely common. There were shootings and drug deals happening daily within my area. Cops seem to avoid the area nearly entirely. Cars got broken into every night and shootouts would happen weekly within the local projects nearby. Effective policing tactics play a critical role in ensuring community safety and reducing crime rates. In the context of Brooklyn, New York, many policing strategies have been implemented to positively influence the crime rate. This essay explores how the policing tactics, particularly community engagement and different types of police patrol, have contributed to a safer environment for Brooklyn's residents. Fortunately, the constant crime would slow down as the police presence grew throughout the neighborhood. The NYPD started to take a different approach to policing in the last 5-10 years. Effective police patrol strategies in Brooklyn have contributed to crime reduction by optimizing resource allocation and deploying officers strategically. They implemented different types of patrol like Foot Patrol, Preventative Patrol, Bicycle Patrol and Community-Oriented Policing Cars. While also trying to keep their officers connected with the community through constantly being seen within each community and talking with citizens to normalize their presence. Improved collaboration and information sharing among

law enforcement agencies, such as the New York Police Department (NYPD), federal agencies, and other local law enforcement entities, have facilitated targeted enforcement and dismantling of criminal networks (Blumstein & Wallman, 2006).

Brooklyn, like the rest of New York City, has experienced a substantial decline in crime rates over the years. According to a study published by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Brooklyn saw a significant decrease in overall crime rates from the 1990s to the 2000s (Kelling et al., 2016). This decline has been attributed to targeted law enforcement efforts, proactive policing strategies, and community partnerships. CompStat, a computerized statistical management system, has been instrumental in tracking and analyzing crime data. By identifying crime trends in real-time, law enforcement agencies can make informed decisions, deploy resources effectively, and hold police commanders accountable for crime reduction within their jurisdictions. With the utilization of advanced analytics and predictive algorithms, law enforcement agencies can forecast potential crime locations and times. This proactive approach allows for the deployment of police resources to deter criminal activity before it occurs, it is called Predictive Policing. By disrupting criminal behavior patterns, predictive policing has contributed significantly to reducing crime rates in Brooklyn.

Broken Windows policing was first introduced in New York City in the 1990s under the leadership of then-New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton. The strategy involved cracking down on low-level offenses, such as vandalism, public drinking, and fare evasion, with the aim of maintaining order and deterring more serious criminal activity (Bratton & Knobler, 2017). Broken Windows policing places emphasis on addressing quality-of-life offenses that are often seen as signs of neighborhood disorder. This includes addressing issues like graffiti, panhandling, public urination, and aggressive begging (Kelling & Coles, 1996). Broken

Windows policing has been associated with a decline in crime rates in Brooklyn and other parts of New York City. By cracking down on minor offenses, the strategy aimed to create an environment of order and lawfulness, which was believed to deter more serious crimes. The approach has been credited with helping reduce crime and create safer neighborhoods (Bratton & Knobler, 2017). Broken Windows policing has faced criticism and controversy. Critics argue that the strategy can lead to over-policing, disproportionately targeting minority communities, and perpetuating a cycle of criminalization. Some also question the causal link between quality-of-life enforcement and crime reduction, suggesting that other factors may have contributed to the decline in crime rates (Sampson & Raudenbush, 1999). Over time, the implementation of Broken Windows policing has evolved in response to criticism and research findings. Efforts have been made to incorporate community engagement, procedural justice, and the use of discretion by officers to mitigate the negative impacts associated with the strategy (Rosenbaum et al., 2017).

Brooklyn's police force has embraced data-driven approaches to identify crime hotspots, patterns, and trends. By analyzing crime data, law enforcement agencies can allocate resources strategically and focus their efforts on areas with the highest crime rates. This data-driven approach ensures the efficient utilization of limited resources, leading to a more targeted and effective response.

The Police force included Random Patrol to make their presence known in the community and seek out petty crimes. Spotting consistent rounds of police patrol will make every criminal think twice before proceeding with illegal actions. Every time I leave my house, I manage to spot at least 4 to 5 police cars in my area just cruising around the neighborhood, this makes my family feel safe while also preventing crime. Random patrol contributes to the deterrence of crime by increasing police presence and visibility in the community. The presence

of officers on patrol can create a sense of security and make potential offenders think twice before engaging in criminal activity (Weisburd et al., 2016). Random patrol allows officers to respond quickly to incidents and emergencies. The ability to respond promptly to calls for service can help prevent crimes in progress, apprehend suspects, and aid victims (Sherman & Eck, 2002). Random patrol can enhance public perception and trust in law enforcement. Visible and random police presence may foster a positive perception of safety within the community and promote positive interactions between the police and residents (Mastrofski et al., 2002). Some studies have questioned the effectiveness of random patrols as a primary crime prevention strategy. Research suggests that the impact of random patrol on crime rates may be limited, and resources could be more effectively allocated to targeted and intelligence-led policing approaches (Weisburd et al., 2016). Police departments are increasingly adopting evidence-based practices and data-driven approaches to patrol deployment. These approaches involve using crime data, analytics, and predictive modeling to allocate patrol resources more effectively and target high-crime areas (Telep et al., 2017).

Community-oriented policing, involving active collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community, has proven to be an effective strategy in crime reduction. This approach emphasizes building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the community they serve. Through community partnerships, police officers actively engage with residents, business owners, and community organizations. This collaborative effort fosters trust, improves communication, and encourages residents to actively participate in crime prevention efforts. Regular meetings and forums provide platforms for residents and law enforcement officers to interact and address community concerns. These forums foster trust, improve police-

community relations, and allow for the development of tailored crime prevention strategies based on specific neighborhood needs (Rosenbaum et al., 2017).

Neighborhood Watch Programs: Neighborhood watch programs have been established in Brooklyn, encouraging residents to actively participate in crime prevention efforts. These programs root from suburban areas but now the police department are expanding this practice to all areas throughout Brooklyn. These programs enhance community awareness, improve communication between residents and law enforcement, and serve as a deterrent to criminal activity (Smith, 2018).

Foot patrols involve police officers patrolling neighborhoods on foot, promoting community engagement and visibility. This approach builds trust, enables officers to establish direct contact with residents, and serves as a deterrent to crime (Braga et al., 2019). Bicycle patrols offer flexibility and accessibility in densely populated areas, allowing officers to navigate narrow streets and interact with residents more closely. These patrols enhance community engagement, increase police visibility, and improve response times (Lum et al., 2019).

Advancements in technology have revolutionized policing tactics, enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and communication capabilities. Brooklyn's police force has embraced technological innovations to improve their crime-fighting capabilities. Equipped with technology and resources, community-oriented policing cars serve as mobile police stations. They facilitate community engagement, provide a visible police presence, and enable officers to respond quickly to incidents within their assigned areas (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2017). ShotSpotter technology, employed in various parts of Brooklyn, uses sensors to detect and

locate the sound of gunfire. This innovative system enables law enforcement to respond swiftly to incidents, leading to faster apprehension of suspects and a reduction in gun-related crimes. The installation of surveillance cameras in public spaces and high-crime areas has played a vital role in deterring criminal activity. These systems not only act as a deterrent but also provide valuable evidence for investigations, aiding in the successful prosecution of criminals.

Preventative Patrol has been in my opinion the most effective form of police patrol directly impacting the decreasing crime rate. How Preventative patrol is utilized by police when they park, walk around, or stakeout in hotspots which are concentrated areas of crime, they do this to prevent more serious crimes from happening. In my area, the police tend to take their position within and nearby the project buildings, train stations, and main streets. This allows them to pursue different types of crimes all over the neighborhood. The East New York Brooklyn Police Department has implemented hot spot policing strategies, targeting areas with high crime rates. By allocating resources strategically to crime hotspots, law enforcement aims to deter criminal activity and reduce crime rates (Weisburd et al., 2019).

The implementation of housing and economic development programs in East New York has contributed to the reduction in crime rates. These programs focus on improving the physical environment, creating job opportunities, and addressing socio-economic factors associated with criminal activity (NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, n.d.). Brooklyn's economic development and neighborhood revitalization efforts have also contributed to the decrease in crime rates. Investments in housing, infrastructure, job creation, and community resources have helped improve the socio-economic conditions and overall quality of life, leading to a decline in criminal activity (Kelling et al., 2016).

Deterrence and Increased Visibility: The presence of officers through foot patrols, bicycle patrols, and community-oriented policing cars acts as a deterrent to criminal activity. The visibility of law enforcement helps create a safer environment and reduces opportunities for crime (Braga et al., 2019). Swift Response and Proactive Measures: The deployment of officers through different patrol strategies enables swift response to incidents, increasing the likelihood of apprehending criminals and preventing further offenses (Lum et al., 2019). Some argue that the increase in incarceration rates, particularly for violent and repeat offenders, has contributed to the decline in crime. However, the role of incarceration as a sole factor in crime reduction is debated among researchers (Blumstein & Wallman, 2006).

According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), crime rates have decreased across all boroughs of New York City over the past few decades (NYPD, n.d.). This decline in crime is known as the "New York City miracle" or the "New York City model" and has been attributed to various factors, including improved policing strategies and community engagement efforts. The implementation of community engagement and different types of police patrol in Brooklyn has yielded positive results in crime reduction. Brooklyn's crime rate decline has been on par with, and in some cases even outpaced, other boroughs in New York City. A report published by the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice compared crime rates across boroughs and found that Brooklyn experienced a larger decline in overall crime rates than Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx (New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, 2020). This suggests that the decrease in crime rates in Brooklyn has been comparable to or better than other boroughs in the city.

Policing tactics implemented in Brooklyn, including community engagement and different types of police patrol, have positively influenced the community's crime rate.

Community-oriented policing initiatives have fostered trust and cooperation between residents and law enforcement. Foot patrols, bicycle patrols, and community-oriented policing cars have increased police visibility, enhanced deterrence, and facilitated swift response to criminal activities. The combined impact of these tactics has contributed to a safer environment for the residents of Brooklyn, reinforcing the importance of ongoing community engagement and the strategic deployment of law enforcement resources. By continuing to refine and adapt these tactics, Brooklyn can further enhance community safety and reduce crime rates in the future

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