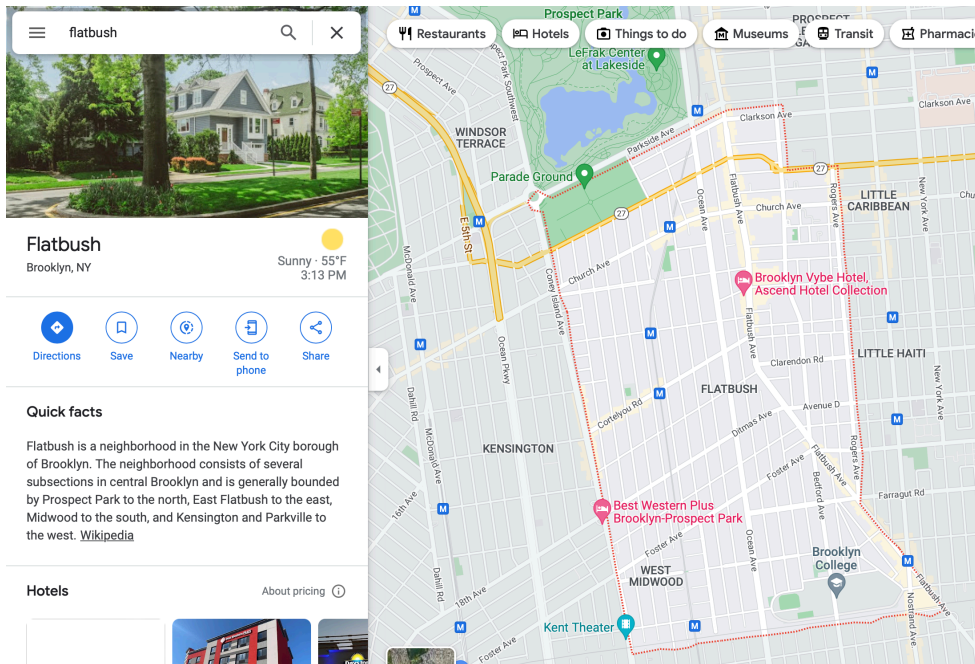


Lina Matute Vargas

Step 3: Flatbush

Flatbush is all I have ever known since birth, I have lived in other places but never for more than 1 year therefore in my heart Flatbush is my home. My parents have lived here for about 25 years and decided to start a family here because it was close to everyone in my family, they all lived in Brooklyn so they had friendly faces. Flatbush was never a luxury but to my parents it had everything they needed. People of the same culture, was very centric in terms of transportation, schools are less than a 15 minute walk, and rent was affordable. Over the course of the years Flatbush is not the same Flatbush that I knew growing up, lots of new residents moving in, new buildings are being made creating a dislocation between the neighborhoods, and it's being to have a whole new environment. All these new 'improvements' are creating a problem in the neighborhood resulting into the families leaving the neighborhood, including mine. My family was accustomed to the nuances of Flatbush- and we liked it because we were comfortable- but since these new projects have been going on around us, we think its time for a change.

Flatbush is home to many different cultures, not just a specific group of people and I think that's what politics want to take advantage of. According to the Historical District Council, Flatbush was not always called 'Flatbush', during the 20th century they often referred to it as 'Midwout' meaning middle. We can see this still being used today because the area Flatbush Junction is sometimes referred to as 'Midwood'. Flatbush Ave runs from Dumbo all the way till reaching the Belt Parkway but the area Flatbush consist of Flatbush Ave to Coney Island along Ave I up until Flatbush Ave to Coney prior to reaching Prospect Park.



Even though Flatbush is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Brooklyn, it was not always known to have such a large amount of White people around. During this process of gentrification the population of Whites living in Flatbush grew tremendously. According to the popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov, Flatbush is home to 68,576 people. Of these 68,576 people, Black/African American and Hispanic Latinos are the bigger population with them making up 74% of the population in 2020. In the chart below we can see that Black/African American and Hispanic Latino population still dominate but if we look at the change from 2010 to 2020 in the White Non-Hispanic column we see an increase of 6.5%. During the 10 years from 2010-2020 modern-day gentrification was at it's peek, there was now new store commercials being built and new people were staring to move into the neighborhood.

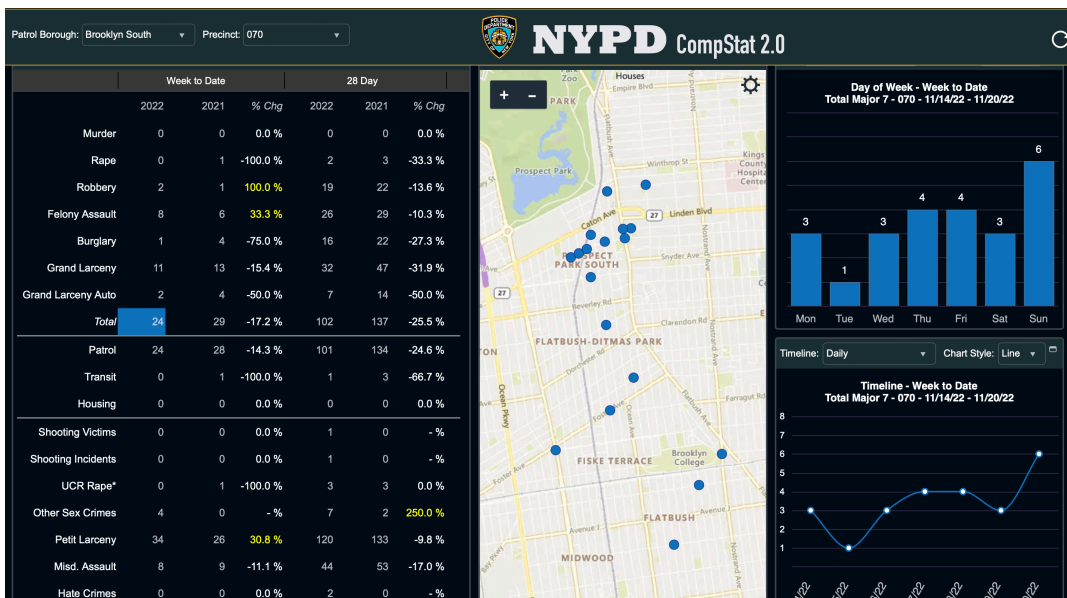
NYC PLANNING Population FactFinder About Map Data Explorer

Data Source: Change Over Time (2010 to 2020) | Select Topics: 4 Selected

	2010		2020		Change, 2010 to 2020		Pctg. Pt.
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Mutually Exclusive Race / Hispanic Origin							
	2010		2020		Change, 2010 to 2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	69,947	100.0%	68,576	100.0%	-1,371	-2.0%	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	13,861	19.8%	13,279	19.4%	-582	-4.2%	-0.5
White nonhispanic	5,529	7.9%	9,893	14.4%	4,364	78.9%	6.5
Black/African American nonhispanic	46,537	66.5%	37,431	54.6%	-9,106	-19.6%	-11.9
Asian nonhispanic	2,262	3.2%	3,460	5.0%	1,198	53.0%	1.8
Some other race nonhispanic	529	0.8%	878	1.3%	349	66.0%	0.5
Nonhispanic of two or more races	1,229	1.8%	3,635	5.3%	2,406	195.8%	3.5

When these new people were coming into the neighborhood landlords seen that they were willing to pay the current rent prices and after time passed they increased. According to zumper.com, the current average rent price for a studio in Brooklyn is \$3,350 and have increased 18% over a yearly change. Low income residents will not be able to pay this price, and if neighbors keep getting gentrified than prices will only go up.

The 70th Precinct is the one that covers my neighborhood, located at 154 Lawrence Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230. According to the NYPD ComStat, the most seen crime in my area is larceny- grand larceny and petit larceny. This is a problem that the community has to battle day by day from residents to store owners but in this case the new building that are being put into place can help reduce this issue. Because the newer building will have more cameras in the area this can lower crime rates. From the Prison Policy website Flatbush 11210 our 2020 census population was 62,805 of which for every 100,000 people, 159 are incarcerated.



Although, these new commercial stores being built may bring good for the neighborhood crime rate, how long until they are built? For Example, across the street from my building there is construction going which is said to be completed by the summer of 2023. I am certain hat when this building is done that there will be a very modern security system and will make sure that the residents or store owners

belongings are kept safe. But what does that mean for current neighborhood residents? During the day there is no issue with lighting and having people around the area but this particular construction sight has no lights. During the night time this little passage is only laminated by the street lights across the street. When I walk through this, I'm always conscious of my surroundings because it is so dark. If politicians want to build new sky rise buildings to 'better' the community they have to take into consideration the process not only the outcome because this makes room for crime rates to go up.



To add on, Flatbush is not an area similar to Downtown Brooklyn where there are many sky-rise modern day building in place. Flatbush still feels homey, we have our buildings, houses, local pharmacies, local supermarkets, and a variety of food options. The residents of Flatbush feel comfortable in this space and to see a new modern building come along, it dislocates the neighbors from interacting. In my personal opinion, this building will look out of place in because it will be the only building that looks pretentious and it's the start of gentrification in Flatbush.

Our representative in the city council is Farah N. Louis, she was born and raised in Brooklyn so she can speak on issues have first hand knowledge about the issue. When it comes to gentrification, having a people who have first hand knowledge about the community is vital because we would have representation and people who are fighting for the best interest of the neighborhood. I also want to

mention an organization called Equality for Flatbush, they want to bring awareness and stop gentrification negatively impacting our Black and Brown Communities. They specialize in anti-gentrification, police/ICE accountability work, and affordable housing. (<http://www.equalityforflatbush.org/>) Gentrification is something that overtime will become inevitable, we just have to make sure that the the gentrification happening is beneficial for all but most importantly existing community residents.

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