Hell Square: Contested Space on the Lower East Side (LES)
Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Major Issues
4. Secondary Data
5. Primary Data
6. Recommendations
7. Selected Sources
1. Introduction
Our client

L.E.S. DWELLERS
Research & Strategies

Shaping Neighborhoods By Valuing What Came Before, Redefining What Is Now, And Investing In What Tomorrow Can Be
2. Background
Fundamentals

**What?**
A Needs Assessment addressing
  - Crime
  - Perception of public safety
  - Quality of life

**Where?**
  - Hell Square

**Why?**
  - “Entertainment zone”
  - Gentrification
3. Major Issues
Three major issues:

• Crime
  Rape and assault

• Perception of public safety

• Quality of life
  Noise pollution
  Sanitation
Neighborhood Character

Photos: Gretchen Bank
4. Secondary Data
Crime data (NYPD Crime Statistics)

Precinct 7 (includes Hell Square)

- Rape
  - 366.66% increase
- Assault
  - 117.64% increase
State Liquor Authority (SLA) Licenses
Scholarly Research
“Overall alcohol establishment density was positively associated with violent crime, indicating that neighborhoods with more alcohol establishments tend to have more assault, rape, robbery, and overall violent crime than neighborhoods with fewer alcohol establishments. This relationship was stronger and more consistent for on-premise establishments than off-premise establishments.”


Person crimes [assault and rape] decreased as the distance from each 3 a.m. bar increased.

Source: https://publichealth.wustl.edu/projects/study-explores-possible-relationship-crime-3am-bars/
5. Primary Data
Primary Data: Methods

**Surveys**
- Neighborhood residents and business owners
- Sample size: N = 123
- Electronically distributed

**Focus Groups**
- Mix of occupations
- Three focus groups totaling 19 participants
- Recommendations from focus groups

Map: Francisco Sandoval
Primary Data: Limitations

- Incomplete public health data
- Walk-up buildings problematic
- Scheduling constraints
- Incomplete surveys
- Not all crimes reported
Selected Survey Results

Do you live or work on the Lower East Side

Live

Work

Both

n=123
Selected Survey Results

How long have you lived or worked on the Lower East Side?

- Less than a year (Enter number of months)
- 1 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 10 to 20 years
- Over 20 years

n=123
Selected Survey Results

Opinion of change over the last five years

- Theft
- Robbery
- Assault/battery
- Rape
- Property Damage
- DUI/DWI (Driving Under the Influence/Driving While Intoxicated)

n=123
Focus Groups: Crime

On a Sunday...at noon...outside Libation during brunch the fight spilled out. Some guy slashed another guy across the neck. While the ambulance and cops are there, the whole street is filled with people but the bar stays open. – a 25-year resident of the LES

There was this belligerent fight between some locals and some white guys here to drink in the neighborhood. The visitors were drunk screaming “get out of our country.” Turned into a huge mob fight. – a 19-year resident of the LES
Selected Survey Results

How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at the following times?

n=123
Focus Groups: Public Safety

I won't even walk through the neighborhood. It's so dangerous on Thursday Friday Saturday, almost every night. I mean it's not just dangerous but it's just offensive. I've never been called a fag**t more in my life than in the last three years in this neighborhood. – a 20-year resident of the LES

The other day this drunk guy cat-called me on my own doorstep then he said ‘What you fucking bitch you don’t want me?’ I send my daughter to self-defense classes because of guys like this. - an 18-year resident of the LES
Selected Survey Results

Top Problems

- Noise (Daytime)
- Noise (Nighttime)
- Sanitation
- Delivery & service truck schedules and routes
- Blocked bike lanes
- Blocked sidewalks
- Sidewalk cleanliness
- Traffic
- Crime
- Other

n=123
Focus Groups: Quality of Life

We've had **concrete pumper trucks on Orchard Street now come at 4:00 in the morning** - can you do construction at 4 in the morning? Well, they’ve started here.” – a 22-year resident of the LES

I **sleep with the AC on in the winter** because of the noise. – a 16-year resident of the LES

I don’t even share a wall with the lounge... **there’s no reason that it should sound like Drake is in my living room, but it does.** – a one-year resident of the LES
Selected Survey Results

Least favorite bar/lounge/night club?
Selected Survey Results

Why?

Word Cloud:
- loud
- block
- drunk
- care
- because
- bar
- worst
- above
- people
- time
- police
- criminal
- call
- 311
- community
- complaint
- neighborhood
- live
- crowd
- line
- apartment
- bathroom
- cocaine
- 4am
- coke
- drugs
- courtesy
- body
- closest
- division
- decade
- basic
- attempt
- disrespectful
- business
- clandestino
- amount
Focus Groups: Conclusions

“You’re in an *entertainment zone*... within that entertainment zone concept, you now have more *bars*.”
- Clayton Patterson, neighborhood activist & local historian

“We’re just small people and the city and state have treated the neighborhood as a circus. *We exist for the benefit of others’ pleasure.*” – Neighborhood resident

"I've had to kick so many f**king frat bros out of this place...you have no idea...it's like Mardi Gras and not in the fun way. *People come here [to the LES] for the sole purpose of getting f**ked up.* I drink plenty but it’s not the same as this bulls**t.” – Restaurant owner
6. Recommendations
Recommendations

• Awarding half as many liquor licenses

• Developing low-tax/tax-free zones or incubators for small businesses, makers, etc.

• Revising the composition of Community Board 3 to gain appropriate support

• Increasing law enforcement presence during bar opening hours

• Developing appropriate projects
7. Selected Sources
Selected Sources

**Online News Sources**

**Client-provided Sources**
Noise 3-1-1 Data (2010 - present): [https://nycopendata.socrata.com/Social-Services/311-Service-Requests-from-2010-to-Present/erm2-nwe9](https://nycopendata.socrata.com/Social-Services/311-Service-Requests-from-2010-to-Present/erm2-nwe9)
DEP Data (2010 - present): [https://nycopendata.socrata.com/browse?q=noise&sortBy=relevance](https://nycopendata.socrata.com/browse?q=noise&sortBy=relevance) (all data sets); [https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/DEP-311-Service-Requests/vwtg-azuw](https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/DEP-311-Service-Requests/vwtg-azuw) (noise)
NYPD CompStat: [https://compstat.nypdonline.org/2e5c3f4b-85c1-4635-83c6-22b27fe7c75c/view/89](https://compstat.nypdonline.org/2e5c3f4b-85c1-4635-83c6-22b27fe7c75c/view/89)
New York State Liquor Authority, map of liquor licenses in NYC: [http://lamp.sla.ny.gov/nysla/index.htm](http://lamp.sla.ny.gov/nysla/index.htm)

**Academic Sources**
Questions?
Thank you