

# RED HOOK RESENTS CRIME BOARD REPORT

**Residents Defend Brooklyn  
District as Law Abiding,  
Not Gang Rendezvous.**

**ANTI-CATHOLIC BIAS SEEN**

**Father W. L. Long Finds Report  
Unfair and Cruel—Points to  
Playground and Park.**

**JUVENILE CRIME CALLED NIL**

**Episcopal Rector Brands Findings  
“Tabloid Stuff” — Ex-Prosecutor  
Praises People of Neighborhood.**

Red Hook residents and clergymen expressed resentment yesterday over the report on juvenile delinquency in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, which was made by the subcommittee on causes of the New York Crime Commission.

The Rev. Father William L. Long, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of the Visitation, at Richards and Verona Streets, asserted that the report bore indications of anti-Catholic prejudice.

“The report is undoubtedly very strongly colored by prejudice against Catholics and it is wholly unfair to the people of the district,” said Father Long. “My parish is in Red Hook Point, a part of the Red Hook district. I cannot speak for the whole section, but it is utterly false as regards my parish and I believe it to be so regarding the rest of it. It is an ignorant, cruel, biased report. In my opinion, the authors must be stark mad.

**Points to Church Playground.**

“The report, for instance, says that we have no playgrounds. We have a seven and a half acre playground for children adjoining the very church of which I am pastor. And the children are of the nicest kind. The only complaint I would make of them is that they are too innocent, too much of the mama boy type. When I look at these beautiful innocent little children, so quiet and nice in manner, I have a feeling that they are entirely too gentle and soft for the rough world that awaits them. Those who are responsible for this report are utterly hopeless. Nothing can be done for them. The report is unspeakably false and cruel.

“As to mothers rearing large families, attending to their household duties and guarding zealously the moral welfare of their girls, I find little complaint to make as to that. If mothers in all other sections of Brooklyn would do those three things I have no doubt that crime would vanish from Brooklyn. With regard to isolation and recreation, I can only point out that outside of parish activities the women of Red Hook have social ties which bring them together frequently at their homes, they hold bazaars, euchres and the like, and they have a beautiful park right here, Red Hook Park, one of the cleanest and best kept in the city, for outdoor healthy recreation, for themselves and their children.

“Red Hook is not isolated. We are nearer to Times Square in point of time than many other sections of Brooklyn. Red Hook is a residential, manufacturing and industrial section in which live and work a good, substantial, well paid class of people. The community is safe and law-abiding, and gets its full share of the good things of life. It is better off and better morally than some of the seedy, brown stone front sections.”

**Calls Report “a Crime.”**

The Rev. George C. Groves, rector of Christ P. E. Church, Clinton and Harrison Streets, said: “Tabloid stuff is what I would call the contents of the report of the subcommittee. It is a crime that such a report should ever be issued. It is an outrageous reflection on all of Red Hook. I wish Mr. McGinnies would come down here and visit this section of the city so that we could show him what kind of a place we have. Juvenile crime is nil here. We have a good police department that takes care of the district. Red Hook will seethe with indignation when this report becomes generally circulated. The whole thing is tabloid stuff.”

Louis Savarese, restaurant proprietor, 44 Beard Street, said: “I have been a resident and business man in this section for thirty-five years and have found the residents to be orderly, decent people. The women do not lead narrow lives without healthy recreation. Three-quarters of the families in the district own their own automobiles and they go for rides on Saturdays and Sundays, and usually take along those who do not own machines. They visit each other a lot and go to the theatres and hold affairs. Every so often the church holds a bazaar or other social affair and the women take part in them. Their lives are very full. Rearing large families properly and guarding the morals of their daughters are considered very important by them. I agree with that part of the report.”

Francis L. Corrao, former Assistant District Attorney of Kings County, declared: “Red Hook is populated, in the main, by sturdy Irish people, honest and hard working. They are an honor and a credit to their race and to this country. There are persons I know living there whose families have been in Red Hook for more than 150 years and who can remember when William Street was the Fifth Avenue of the section.”