

RED HOOK  
YOUTH  
COURT

88 Visitation Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

P: 718 923-8260

Fax: 718-923-8221

[rhyc@courtinnovation.org](mailto:rhyc@courtinnovation.org)

[www.courtinnovation.org/rhyc](http://www.courtinnovation.org/rhyc)

## YOUTH COURT OVERVIEW

All hearings take place at:

**The Red Hook Community Justice Center**  
**88 Visitation Place**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11231**

Hearings take place every Tuesday from 4:00pm – 7:00pm and Thursday from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Families and guests should arrive promptly at 4:00pm. See directions on other side.

Red Hook Youth Court hearings are open to the public. If you are interested in visiting the youth court please call a member of our staff to schedule a visit.

## YOUTH COURT OVERVIEW

The Red Hook Youth Court is a program for young people aged 10 – 18 referred by referred by local schools, police officers, probation officers and criminal court for offenses such as curfew violations, vandalism, disorderly conduct, larceny, assault and truancy. These young people appear before a judge and jury of their peers – other neighborhood teens – who determine fair and appropriate responses.

Before the youth court hearing, the referred youth – the “respondent” – meets with a “Youth Advocate,” a young person who represents the respondent throughout the case. During the hearing, the describes what happened and is questioned by members of the jury. Unlike in a traditional court, the purpose of the jury’s questioning is not just to learn more about the offense, but to understand better what led to the incident, how the respondent feels about the experience, and to prompt the respondent to reflect on past behavior. After considering all of the information and the respondent’s personal strengths, the jury decides on a fair and appropriate sanction that holds the youth accountable, restores harm done to the community, and assists the youth to avoid trouble in the future. Youth court staff members monitor the completion of sanctions and then report back to the referral source. Most cases move through this process, from intake to resolution, in one or two months, depending on the respondents’ ability to complete sanctions in a timely manner.

The Red Hook Youth Court is a restorative justice program that emphasizes:

Responsibility: Youth court teaches young people that actions have consequences. Because this message comes from other young people, it is more likely to be heard and understood. The youth court process asks respondents to reflect on their actions and understand how their behavior affects others around them.

Restoring the Community: Respondents are often sanctioned to restore the harm done to their community through service, apologies and other actions. For example, youth have been sanctioned to help plant trees in local parks, help community groups set up for local events, and assist in local activities for younger children.

Help: The youth court links young people and their families to services such as counseling, and provides workshops to help youths make better decisions and avoid future involvement with the justice system.

Leadership: Youth court teaches young people how to be leaders. Members are trained in group-decision making, critical thinking and public speaking. The program provides a positive opportunity for young people to engage with judges, lawyers, criminal justice officials and the court system. In addition to this, former respondents are encouraged to become members.

## **DIRECTIONS**

### **By Subway and Bus**

#### Downtown Brooklyn

**A or C train:** Take the A or C trains to Jay Street/ Borough Hall. Wait for the **B61** bus at the northwest corner of SMITH ST & LIVINGSTON ST or Court St. and Atlantic Ave in downtown Brooklyn. Take the bus to Van Brunt and Verona St stop. Walk one block further south on Van Brunt St. Visitation Place will be your first left.

**F or G train:** Take F or the G train to Carroll Street. Walk 1 block over to Court Street a few blocks down to Court Street and West 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Take the **B61** on the corner (in front of Marshalls office) to Van Brunt and Dikeman. Make a left at the corner of Van Brunt. Walk 5 blocks on van Brunt and make a right at Visitation Place.

#### Sunset Park/Bay Ridge

**R, F or G train from Sunset Park / Bay Ridge:** Take the **R, F or G** train to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and 9<sup>th</sup> St. Take the **B61** on the corner (in front of St Thomas Aquinas Church) to Van Brunt and Dikeman. Make a left at the corner of Van Brunt. Walk 5 blocks on van Brunt and make a right at Visitation Place.

### **By Car**

From Downtown Brooklyn: Head west to the end of Atlantic Ave (towards the river). In the last block, you will pass under the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. Just under the expressway, take a left at the traffic light onto Columbia St. After 7 blocks on Columbia, take a right on Degraw. After one block, take a left onto Van Brunt Street. Follow Van Brunt across Hamilton Ave and continue for another 5 blocks. Take a left on Verona, followed by a right on Richards. Visitation Place will be the first street on the right.

From Sunset Park/Bay Ridge: Take the BQE (I-278) towards Manhattan/Queens. Take exit 26 Hamilton Avenue, merge onto Hamilton Avenue and turn left onto Van Brunt Street, drive straight and make a left onto Verona Street. Make the first right on Richards Street and make another right onto Visitation place. 88 Visitation Place will be on the right.