

Dear AG James,

As another parent of West 124th Street, I too can say the situation is extremely dire. I have 14 year old twins that I cannot allow to walk one block from the Lenox Avenue train station for fear of random shootings or other violence. They don't even want to live with me anymore due to the current circumstances of our community. They would prefer to live on the Upper West Side in a predominantly white and "safe neighborhood." Is this what we want the children of Harlem to think about our community? It breaks my heart not just for my children but for the children who don't have a choice or an "out," where Harlem is there home no matter what happens. I grew up in Harlem in the 80's and I never imagined it could be worse than those days. Unfortunately, we are worse off. I see people defecating in broad daylight as we exit our building or shooting up with needles or worse, fighting over drugs and needles as I walk to the train to ride my kids to school. Is that a great way for anyone to start their day with such exposure at the top of your day or at all? I think not.

Please help us!!! We are drowning and our children are suffering mental duress daily. Why should I have to walk a 14 year old to the supermarket across the street and 15 blocks away children are living carefree full lives? Even having to write this email fills me with anxiety and pain. No parent should have to have these worries.

Your truly,

Ms. Salam