

POOR

BLACK KIDS

WHY DO THEY

KILL?

**RAISED IN
GUN VIOLENCE**

PBK's

LEROY CRAWFORD

The PBK Handbook



is for detention centers, courts, foster homes, and school staff.

by

Leroy Crawford

How to read and interpret this book?

This book was written to examine current trends presently impacting poor black kids frequently involved in the justice system from the inside out. There are 12 chapters divided into four growth seasons (Knowledge, Institutionalized, Lessons and Lifestyle.) There are quotes, formulas, conversations and more. None of the included materials are meant to be offensive, however the truth is what it is. Reader discretion is advised.

“Except the fact that the street has a
Marketing Strategy & Team.”

“Everyone has their own ***Values and Priorities.***”

“Everyone’s perception is their **Reality.**”

“The streets has no concern for professionals understanding
how to ***Respect*** them.”

“Some youth feel their property is more
important than their ***Life.***”

“Some youth don’t think about the ***Harm*** they create for family,
friends and community.”

“Some youth don’t think about being harmed, they ***Believe*** they
are getting respect.”

“Some youth feel any disrespect to them is the
ULTIMATE DISRESPECT.”

“They rather lose something in war rather than Lose their
FREEDOM or RESPECT FROM THEIR COMMUNITY.”

Why Do
(some)
PBK's KILL?

Because some do not

G A F!

Chaotic Captivity creates Criminal Characteristic.

How to identify street **RECRUITMENT?**



Tips Before Reading

What is a PBK's? Poor Black Kids

Why the term PBK's? Growing up I was tired of kids being labeled those dirty ass ghetto kids.

What is poor? Poverty * Oppression * Outrage * Regression

Some **PBK's** do not have a problem with being a product of their environment.

Some **PBK's** accept their community reality, highs and lows.

In some **PBK's** communities can killing be contagious.

Some **PBK's** groups embrace a lifestyle of gun violence as their method of conflict resolution

4 Commonly Self-Reported Thoughts

1. It's easier to focus on the crime after you been caught.
2. You can't tell me how to feed my family when we starving.
3. In gunplay, it's always better them than me.
4. Anybody can get it in war, women, family and kids included.
5. no witnesses or hostages

Bonus Question: How much money are we going to spend on trying to convince a person to care?

This book is dedicated to sharing the need to invest and allocate financially sustainable resources in community-based prevention programs.

The Shed of Life

The story began when he arrived on a Friday evening about 10:30pm. The call came from police bureau stating we had 3 new intakes, but one was alumni. This time it was different because one of the casualty's faces seemed empty but full. After processing and getting settled in, a staff member began to speak with him after he was assigned a room. He asked for permission to speak to staff, but he wasn't sure who to trust. With nothing to lose he shared how he and his dad lived together. Proud of his dad, he tried to make money breaking into a car, but his criminal experience was that of a rookie.

Booked with breaking into a car, he shared that he wasn't mad he was only trying to help. They both stayed with his aunt and did their best but was thankful for their home. When asked about his home he said they cooked meals on a hotplate. He never mentioned anything about the meal he just stated they washed the meat off in the shower. Next, he said they had a few plumbing issues, and the toilet would back up. He said he got used to cleaning shit out the shower so they could wash off their food. Not sure what he meant by this statement, the staff asked why he had to use the shower to clean food. Proudly he said most of his dad's check went to child support and they didn't have much. He said he only did the crime to try and help.

Being admired by his willingness to sacrifice his freedom to help was as equally sad as somewhat justifiable. With the conversation coming to an end, he explained that he knew he was wrong. He just hoped one day they could go inside. Confused by this statement, the staff asked what do you mean go inside? He replied that his aunt allowed him and his dad to stay in the shed. They ran an extension cord from inside her house for electricity.

Trying not to show emotions, the staff asked so what are you saying? He replied they lived in THE FAMILY SHED. Wow...so what is a family? The unasked question on their minds, was "Where is his mom?"

Icebreaker: Meanwhile while doing time. Peep This Conversation #1

Too many damn meetings, more broken promises and No ACTION.

Quote: “Talk less, listen more”

The time that we spend in meetings trying to showcase our smarts can best be spent time helping our youth.

Youth: Where Da Staff at

Staff: They are in a meeting

Youth: wat are dey meetn bout now

Staff: How to make things better for y'all

Youth: F-dat Dey always meetn an don't do sh!t

Unless you have been in jail, you wouldn't understand what it's like on DAY 1.

Icebreaker: Meanwhile while doing time. Peep This Conversation #2

Who do you think you are coming here to change stuff? This phrase is so familiar. Veteran staff find this onboarding to be humorous and intimidating. They often go to this somewhat street orientation and ask a series of questions. Where are you from? What did you do to get in? Who do you know in here? These questions are used to determine if you have validated street credibility. This exchange helps me to understand why so many young kids choose the street life.

Lastly, staff thug's attempt to run game trying to convince the youth who you are and to trust you. After working in this field for several years, I've realized it's better to have a reliable name with youth than a fake lifestyle with untrustworthy staff. Youth in jail never forget when you treated them bad and did them wrong.

Icebreaker: Meanwhile while doing time. Peep This Conversation #3

Stop judging youth based on the alleged crime for which they were arrested. During my initial years, I was trained at if the parents were good, the kids would be good. If the family has money those kids will avoid crime. If you were raised in a certain area, you would become a product of the environment. There is no escape route.

I've learned that anyone can make a poor decision. We must help youth to develop morals while being willing to understand their survival. Just because you understand does not mean you agree with their choices.

Preface

How Did We Get Here?

My name is Leroy Crawford, and I am a juvenile justice expert of 24 years in trauma filled direct experiences. I specialize in juvenile justice advocacy, cultural competency, gang intelligence, and navigating street culture inside out. My life's mission is to train others about the inner working of violent street cultures.

My career consists of 20 plus years in providing direct services to New Orleans most violent juvenile and pre-adult offenders, deceptive gang members, murderers, and organized crime neighborhood cliques.

This book contains over two decades of unique personal observations, insights and unfiltered perspectives. In my quest to understand the needs of the poor black community, I decided to gather pertinent information from the inside out as an employee. Additionally, I have worked in key leadership roles at city and state facilities. Due to poor conditions of confinement, inadequate training, violence, staff abuse, etc., both programs were previously sued and under a federal consent decree.

The purpose of this book is to share experiences about the impact of juvenile justice on several communities' quality of life. I believe in juvenile delinquency prevention, therefore, I'm not ashamed to share my insights. Moreover, I feel I am in fact obligated because I have come to realize the countless number of lives that were negatively impacted. It is more than just an option; it has become a strategic imperative for me.

Nevertheless, I'm very optimistic and confident that we can change the lives of young returning citizens. I have had the opportunity to implement several types of culturally competent innovative training and evidence-based best practices.

Thus, with great pride, I proudly recognize and support programs that hire truly trained leadership and do not endanger the lives of others to cut costs.

Together, we can build a stronger future, if we simply stay laser-focused and do our job.

Before reading this book

PBK's Bill of Rights

Before reading this book, please acknowledge the poor black kids' rights.

#1 - You need to stay silent and be honest. Everything you did and said **SHOULD** be used against you. All the foul things you said about poor black kids helps destroy futures, kill dreams, promote suicide and will continue to contribute to harming black poor communities.

#2 - You have the right to make it right if you choose to. If you cannot change your ways and learn to care about black kids, please do something else.

Do you understand that poor black kids want to be successful?

Now before you turn the page, ask yourself the following questions. Do you swear to acknowledge the truth with yourself? Will you take an honest self-inventory? mediation and answers to the previous questions

If so, let's get started.

Letter to America # Born in Survival Mode Letter

Dear America,

How are you today? Hope all is well in your nice car, fancy clothes, your big house, and your good job while living you're out here living your best life. I can't believe that every time I look at the news, you have something to say about me, it shocks me every time, and yet it shouldn't. This is nothing new. It really frustrates me to the fullest because you are part of the reason that I'm where I am now mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

What upset some of us is your response to every conversation stating we (poor black folks) are just making excuses. I'm not making excuses, this is my real life, my truth, my lived experience. How would you feel if you were treated like a black young important person? Maybe for once in your life, you can help for real because I'm tired of crime, drugs, unplanned pregnancy, rape, molestation, homelessness, poverty, and lack of resources.

Who is the true bully? For years, you have proudly played your hand in humiliating us, degrading us with our pain and suffering then making millions and publicly celebrating your success helping the poor black kids. How do you walk around proud with your chest out knowing in your soul your greed kills the dreams of others? All you do is point fingers at us, but I hope one day you will take a good hard look in the mirror.

America what have you done for me lately? You have all the money, right? You have all the jobs, right? You have all the power, right? Land of the free, right? Well, why are you picking on me? While you all had the chance to thrive, all we could do is survive. I'm just a poor black kid living in survival mode, lost and angry in this ghetto you helped to create for us. Hey America, do you need a mirror?

Sincerely,
Advocates for PBK's

Understanding the Street Code Formula

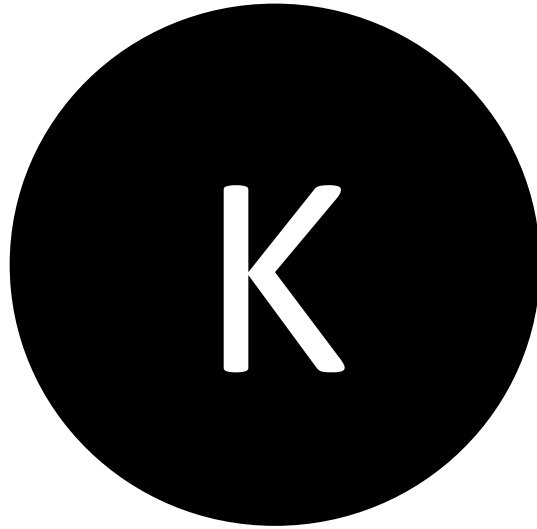
$$\frac{\text{BIB}}{\text{CI}} + \text{CSR} \div \text{SC} = \text{VS}$$

“Remember, it is what it is. No Life Jackets”

Rule #1
You Gotta Help Save Your Own Life

Navigating Street Culture

One thing everyone should share is
Self-Preservation



Knowledge

knowl·edge

noun

facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

Chapter 1-3 focuses on PBK's community knowledge.

CHAPTER #1 POWER WORD

Impression

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of impression.

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 1

The Usual Role Model

Who are PBK's Usual Role Models?

Well, well, well...

Do you know what it's like growing up in the hood? I mean that with all seriousness, let go of all your preconceived ideas and pop cultural references. Can you believe three of my friends have the same daddy? Can you believe my grandma had children for a man 20 years older than her? Can you believe my little sister dates a guy who is in college and she's only 16? Can you believe my mom buys weed from my cousin? Can you believe this my stepdad is only 4 years older than my 23-year-old sister?

Welcome to my hood. Where most financial decisions are made after consulting the local drug dealer. Welcome to my hood. Where most of your male neighbors glorify money, violence, going to jail, and sex with young girls.

If you can take care of yourself, you are coached by some women you got to use, that you got to get what you want. Some men promote the notion that in order to feed your family, you got to have to be about that life even if it means killing someone just like you. I guess it's everyone for themselves, a dog-eat-dog world.

Just think sometimes, it's easier said than done. Do you think we want to live a life like this? Do you seriously believe anybody would choose this life if they had other options? Do you think we want to be begging for money to survive? It's just my hood and the usual role model reflects our environment. Yes, I want someone to look up to, but if all America promotes for our role models are rappers, singers, entertainers, strippers, and drug dealers, then it is what it is. Welcome to my hood.

My only question is, what happened to looking up to the teacher, police officer, doctor, lawyer, pastors, and other professions?

Did our role models sell out too?

Chapter 1

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: dawg who think a role model

Youth #2: I rock with Lil Durk, NBA, MoneyBagg Yo and Meek Mill

Youth #1: I like Da Baby & Lil Baby, Boosie, and Bron

Youth #2: Y u dnt have other people u wanna be like

Youth #1: Dey always cryn and complaining bout sh!t Dey Broke

Youth #2: Nah I think dey get da bag 2 but move in silence

Youth #1: den y dey always takln bout dem bad and sh!tn on dem

Youth #2: I kno dat's foul then dey be smiln in dey face on TV

Youth #1: I hate all dat fake sh!t cuz dey quick 2 hate on us

Youth #2: Broke people always hatn broke azz

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #1

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #1 Score: _____

CHAPTER #2 POWER WORD

Abuse

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of abuse.

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter #2

“Some Police Be Tripping for No Reason”

Why do police officers arrest PBK's more than any other race?

OK Mr. officer, I get it, you are the man, and you are in charge. Yes, you run the show. OK, Ms. police officer, why the nasty attitude? We know your speech, “nobody better play with you.” We heard your motto “everyone better respect your mind.” We believe you when you say that you will hurt somebody if they get out of line with you. But guess what? We think some police officers need anger management sessions.

Why is it that as a police officer, you have to talk to us like you're crazy, please explain it to us? Do you think because you have a gun that we are afraid of you? Do you think that because you have a gun you can talk to us any kind away? Do you think because you are in uniform, we need to be afraid of you? What do you really think? The hood is tougher and more threatening than any police officer.

Let's talk about this for a second. I understand that you control the streets, but you are a black person before a blue officer. I get aggravated when black police officers treat us worse than white officers. Why must you treat me like trash in front of your white counterparts? What are you trying to prove? All I'm asking is for you to do is respect me and remember where you come from.

Do you think they care about you just because you are a police officer? Does your uniform mask the color of your skin? Newsflash, you are still black to them? I wish you would think about how we feel when we see black police officers handle black people the way some do. How do you feel when you see the large numbers of police brutality cases against PBK's people? Do you get upset when you see this?

I know at times we are very disrespectful and take your badge for granted. Yes, PBK's we can do better. But don't forget, we were born and raised in the hood. We're a little rough around the edges. And let's be honest. Sometimes it's the opposite and Mrs. Officer, you go to darn for when assisting black males. Why is it that when someone call you for help, you arrive already being disrespectful?

You tell us our rights, emphasizing that we have the right to remain silent, above all else.

Do you realize how much we want you to talk to us like we are human? Do you realize when PBK's see a black officer we should be relieved that we're going to be OK? Do you realize that is a black police officer you must make sure we are treated equally as young black Americans?

We used to look up to black police officers in the past, can you help bring the feeling back?

Chapter 2

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: Say Luv how 12 is by u

Youth #2: Dem lil b!tchesss be tripn sometimes when dey wit dey white partners

Youth #1: I no son dem fake azz be takn our sh!t

Youth #2: F Dat I ain upp'n no mo

Youth #1: what u gon do

Youth #2: Bich we lit n goin at Dey top how dey come at us

Youth #1: Factz dey betta calm da F dwb Cuz we bout dat gun play 2

Youth #2: We ain no Martin Luther king on all sat peace sh!t

Youth #1: dey was fckn ova dat boy

Youth #2: martin luther kng shoulda pop dem bichess

Youth #1: How dey com at us how we goin at dem bichess

Youth #2: on my momma Dey gon kill all dat disrespect

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #2

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 – **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 – **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #2 Score: _____

Frustration

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of frustration .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter - 3

“Keep My Parents Name Out Your Mouth, Please!”

Why are PBK's parent's frequently victims of public scrutiny?

One of the most disturbing things that happened to PBK's every day, or should I say hurt kids daily is public humiliation. When adults talk about their parents every single day, I get angry and frustrated. If their parents are so horrible and they are such a disgrace to society, why do you copy and emulate the things they do?

Could you imagine someone talking about your parents in a negative way every chance they get? What would you do? Would you want to talk to those teachers at the school? Would you want to talk to those church leaders? Would you want to talk to those community leaders? Why is it that you need to talk about PBK parents but then tell the kids how much you love them? What have they done to you? Real talk, are you jealous or something?

You better believe this, you won't find PBK's and parents or any of us talk about you all day. Do you know why, because despite PBKs' living conditions, they believe in themselves. Poor black families are not looking to make a career of humiliating other people. Just think, if you came to work and did your job. Just think if you use your degree and your knowledge to help us. Just think if you decide to do the right thing or follow your Christian beliefs. What would the world look like? Let me guess, that's easier said than done.

So, the truth is you're not happy with your life. Wait, maybe you're not happy about the money you make. Perhaps you need to go back and do something different but leave them and their parents alone.

Guess what, adults? sometimes we need to ask ourselves what is wrong with us. They get so tired of hearing you brag about all the money you

make but then you talk about going on strike. Then you're on social media expressing how much you love God but talk to kids about the pastors and preachers stealing money. Lastly, you privately talk about how much the government is crooked, but you work for them.

So, let me guess, something is wrong with the PBK's? Stop right there, maybe something is wrong with you.

It's time to take a long, hard look in the mirror.

Hey, I'm not here to tell you what to do or how to do it. I only have one request in this chapter. Will you please leave PBK's parents alone and stop talking about what they wear, how they talk, and how much they neglect PBK's?

Next time we want to talk about someone, maybe we should take a look in OUR backyard and see how our kids are doing. How much time do you spend with your kids and family?

I'm sure right now you want to stop reading this book, but why stop now? Is it because the truth hurts? I'm sure right now you want to say this is what's wrong with us, but you're getting paid right.

As a matter of fact, PBK's issues pay your bills, and you were hired to help empower kids.

Let me guess, you are aggravated with yourself reading this book because you truly don't care about anyone but yourself. So, if you want to be mad at anyone, take a look in a mirror and say "I'm stealing because I'm not helping people I was hired to help."

Are you one of those persons? Be honest with yourself.

Chapter 3

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: You think yo mamma luv ya

Youth #2: yea but she be spazzn bout evrything

Youth #1: where ya paw

Youth #2: I own even fck wit dat boy

Youth #1: y he be reppin his other fam aint don't fck wit us

Youth #2: dat be foul but im gettn me

Youth #1: Me 2 son but I aint lett n nobody talk bout my peeps

Youth #2: fatz my fam bout dat smoke an will come thru an wreck sh!t

Youth #1: Mine 2 dats real love

Youth #2: yep we might be beefed out but dey betta not play wit my fam

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

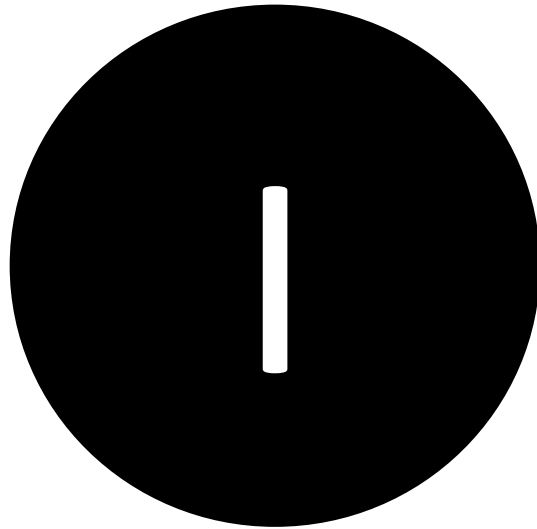
How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #3

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #3 Score: _____



Institutionalized

in·sti·tu·tion·al·ized

adjective

established in practice or custom.

Chapter 4-6 focuses on PBK's institutionalized thinking.

Propaganda

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of propaganda .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 4

“Here We Go Again, Another Group Photo with Someone Passing Through the Jail. “

Why do PBK's make up the largest population of juvenile detention centers and jails?

Hey everyone, hurry up and get together, clean up, look good, we have visitors coming. Come on, do this for me so I can keep my job. Can you remember when you were young, and your parents did this when family and friends were coming over to visit? Did you ever get tired of putting on a show for other people? Can you believe this? It's the same way in jail.

Imagine being in jail and people come over once a month or holidays to feed them and take pictures to showcase themselves. Do you think PBK's feel good, having to fake smile and group as offenders, to take that photo with someone they've never seen before? Are they there to help and where were they when the PBK's were crying for help?

Where were you when they needed help in the beginning? Where were you when there were major crime issues in the communities? They are smart enough to realize you need their pain as a part of your campaign. In their minds, this is why some report they don't vote. After all, it doesn't seem to make any meaningful difference to their direct circumstances.

PBKs's are very smart and clearly realize that's it's that time again. You need the PBK's photos now that you're running for office, opening up your new business or promoting your new church. That's awesome! Nope, that's wrong. The opening thoughts are, who are you? Where have you been and what have you done to help the PBK's in the past? However, the PBK's know that to get the free world food, they better act accordingly.

Be honest, don't they have a right to be tired of being used for marketing. They realize it is very important for your career success that others see you visiting the jail. Newsflash, this is not a game, and we are not paid actors. Their time incarcerated will remain in their minds forever, and it will forever alter their brain structure and view of the world. Yes, they have made poor decisions and need rehabilitation, but everyone deserve privacy and respect wherever they are in life.

It should not take being in jail for members of leadership and clergy to care about PBK's. They need and deserve more than lip service and photos.

How do you think this make them feel when they are asked to take those photos?

Chapter 4

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: i heard dey got pizza in da front

Youth #2: 4 real who dats for

Youth #1: Fa us it's da group n dey feed ya

Youth #2: Wht ya go 2 do 2 go

Youth #1: Jus tell dem you mom on drugs n yo dad in jail r dead r left yall

Youth #2: an we get 2 eat do food

Youth #1: Yep but at da end you gotta take a picture wit dem

Youth #2: wht dats bout

Youth #1: I don no but Fa food be str8

Youth #2: Hope dey pick me

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #4

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #4 Score: _____

Chapter 5

The Use of Vicious Verbal Abuse.

Why do PBK's experience so much verbal abuse?

This chapter is very important. As leaders who supervise children, we must be very conscious of how we talk to kids. Some PBK's are very sensitive. Do you think that someone's trauma should be overlooked? Would you tolerate verbal abuse from a friend or stranger? How would you feel if there was a meeting about you and couldn't offer your opinion? Welcome to the life of PBKs.

Do you think that you could just have a meeting with them that they would respond in the way you hope? What if they were taught to stand firm selves by responding back in a harsh way this prevent you from having them? How do we help kids?

We do understand as a leader that we are in charge of other people's children, correct? Just think if we spoke to them in a very nice tone, softly, and requested things instead of demanded. How do you think that would improve communication?

In my experience, one major problem that we see with PBK's is their refusal to be disrespected, patronized or condescended. This is not a problem, this a level of respect they are taught to require from everyone. Maybe the problem is that PBK's know that respect is everything. They believe that the everyone is equal.

Please understand that we have no right to talk to anyone kids a certain way just because we are in charge. We should not get a power trip from our uniform. It is important that we consider the trauma they have endured and the harm it may have caused, and act accordingly.

All PBK's may have experienced years of neglect and simply want to be loved or even just listened to.

I'm also meeting people who say "who cares? they're not more stressed than I am" but that's not the truth. We have no idea what anyone goes through and what triggers may be triggered from verbal abuse. I know this may seem insignificant but emotional scars easily resurface.

Do you remember moments when you were a kid where you witnessed verbal abuse, how did it make you feel?

Nevertheless, we must learn how to speak to each other respectfully.

CHAPTER #5 POWER WORD

Abuse

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of abuse .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 5

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: Man I don like how som adults be talkn to us

Youth #2: Dey be on dat fake buc sh!t

Youth #1: my grandma say don't let nobody disrespect me

Youth #2: Yep dey curse me I curse dem right da F back

Youth #1: dey be tripn but I bet dey don't com at me in da street like dat

Youth #2: Dey think we dey child

Youth #1: I blow back on dem me f dat

Youth #2: U can't ever play me on front nobody

Youth #1: Yep Cuz den everybody gonna com at u like dat

Youth #2: dey talkn but we ain't bout all dat talks

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #5

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #5 Score: _____

Disappointment

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of disappointment.

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 6

Working with PBK's Is Super Easy.

Why did you take this job?

Hope this do not offend you, but I have one question: why did you take this job? Do you realize the amount of stress involved in this job? Do you have patience to emotionally deal with this job? Do you know what's really going on behind the scenes and behind the red tape? Is this a job you chose because no one else is willing to hire you? Is this a job because you're in between jobs you won't be out of pocket?

Do you realize how much help PBK's require in horrific life events? So, are you ready for the real responsibilities and burdens of this job?

In today's society, it is important to get to know the kids that you work with. Several kids come from broken homes, violent gang infested communities, and trauma filled neighborhoods. Many kids come from families where they would witness violence and chaos daily. I agree this is extremely difficult, but it is necessary to provide support.

Why do you think PBK's put up a brick wall to protect their feelings? Let's be honest, if you were living in those conditions what would you do? What if your parents told you had to fight no matter what happened when your siblings are involved in a fight? What if your family tell you need to help sell drugs to take care of bills? What if your family tell you if you saw something that happened and you snitch, you will be kicked out the family? Verbal abuse can occur in several ways. Please choose your words and facial expressions wisely.

Well, you're an adult but this is a normal day for some kids so why did you take this job?

Which skill do you think is a skill needed to work with PBK's?

Chapter 6

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: u miss school

Youth #2: Yea I be on dem Fees

Youth #1: u went 2 class

Youth #2: Sometime but da Dean be running dat Bi like jail dey fake 2

Youth #1: Some teachers be cool but going to far n front everybody

Youth #2: Dey get money of us den put us out we gettn our money 2

Youth #1: how Da F dey say dey care but keep kicking us out

Youth #2: Dats y some people be droppn out we already hurtn at home

Youth #1: Dats y when dey put us out we go 2 all school stuff wildn

Youth #2: Since dey protectn sh!t we gon see

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #6

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

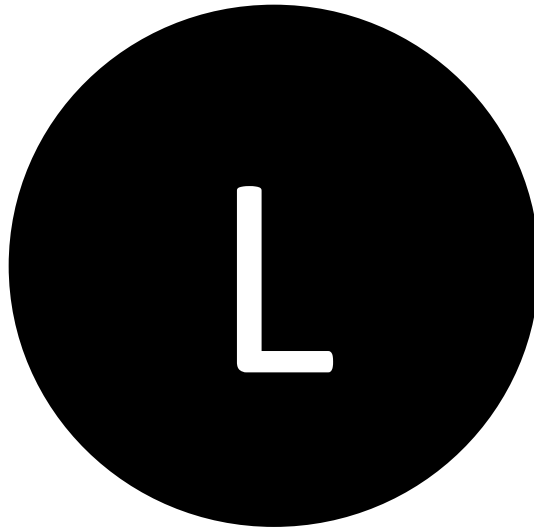
Chapter #6 Score: _____

“Talking about and living it not the same”

Rule #1
You Gotta Help Save Your Own Life

Navigating Street Culture

One thing everyone should share is
Self-Preservation



Lesson

les·son

noun

noun: **lesson**; plural noun: **lessons**

an amount of teaching given at one time; a period of learning or teaching.

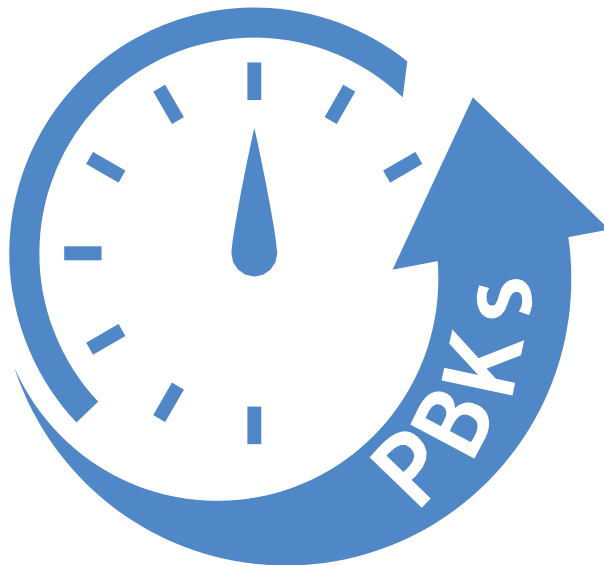
Chapters 7-9 focuses on frequent lessons PBK's encounter.

CHAPTER #7 POWER WORD

Anger

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of anger .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 7

Keeping Calm in Conflict Resolution

Are you prepared for conflict resolution?

Ok, they are disgusted and ready to fight. All they wanted to know is who was willing to help them. Can you call someone to help them? I know you may be thinking you are the superior one to assist. However, it does not make you the best person to help. When many PBK's are in conflict, they tell you what they are going to do to you; especially if he/she wants you to leave them alone. If you hear these words, get prepared. "You know what? I don't like the way you talk to me and you might want to change the way you talk to me."

Remember, you should be a trained adult and your training may save your life. It does not matter how it makes you feel, you are an adult. You do not need their respect in a conflict, you need them to trust you. Never say, "That's why you are always in trouble!" If you make a statement such as that, it will demonstrate your need to be trained. There are three simple rules to the conflict resolution.

Rules:

Remain calm.

Remain calm.

That's right, remain calm.

Whenever someone is going through stress and conflict, sometimes they do their best to remain calm but it is not always easy. Remember, you must remain calm as well. Never force someone to confide in you and talk. Give them time, space, and support. An example of support could simply be asking the other person if he/she would like something to drink. Please do not raise your voice and/or get in their personal space. Allow

him/her to find the moment they want to share and what they need to share.

Here's a great tip: Whenever a person is attempting to share, please do not interrupt them. Please do not judge their grammar/speech, volume, or rate when they are in conflict. If they begin to curse or swear, be smart and don't take offense. History shows that whenever you interrupt a person that's venting it escalates the issue.

You need to be very calm and remember you are there to help by listening and offer support when they're willing to hear what you have to offer. Someone may ask, "What happens if the person does not want to talk to you?" Well, that's no problem, because when it's time they will.

Therefore, please do not force a conversation. It may only add fuel to the fire. Here is a very important tip. If there's a large crowd, and everyone is watching, please make sure you are not a part of the show.

What does that look like? If you are in close proximity and approaching them in front of their peers, they may do something that they will regret later. The best option for the situation is to remain quiet and safe because you may become a victim of a physical assault and/or verbal attack. Therefore, I must ask thought provoking questions: Are you ready to resolve conflict inside a potentially hostile environment?

What is your role in resolving conflict?

Chapter 7

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: Say Luv how 12 is by u

Youth #2: Dem lil b!tchesss be tripn sometimes when dey wit dey white partners

Youth #1: I no son dem fake azz be takn our sh!t

Youth #2: F Dat I ain upp'n no mo

Youth #1: what u gon do

Youth #2: Bich we lit n goin at Dey top how dey come at us

Youth #1: Factz dey betta calm da F dwb Cuz we bout dat gun play 2

Youth #2: We ain no Martin Luther king on all sat peace sh!t

Youth #1: dey was fckn ova dat boy

Youth #2: martin luther kng shoulda pop dem bichess

Youth #1: How dey com at us how we goin at dem bichess

Youth #2: on my momma Dey gon kill all dat disrespect

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #7

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #7 Score: _____

Confusion

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of confusion .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 8

Why Do I Need a Paid Lawyer?

Hello, Mr. Ms. and Mrs. Public Defender. How are you today? I hope you're feeling well. Let me get right to it, on behalf of PBK, we need to talk.

What does this really mean?

Do you believe in God? May I ask you another very important question? How do you think some lawyers sleep at night knowing they are not properly representing PBK's?

Why do you think some lawyers make deals on PBK lives without all the facts? Please tell me that the PBK lawyers and prosecutors are not on the same payroll. This is very confusing. It's like a victim of an active gun scene asking the shooter to give him or her CPR. Can you teach PBK's how to trust that? Man, y'all think PBK's stupid. Would you trust you?

Wait, that's like a high school spring game against your own teammates.

Who is really going to beat themselves?

Why do some public defenders advise PBK's to accept plea deals without all the facts?

If there is an investigator, we think they have to speak with our family and community neighbors. Right?

Why are some lawyers so eager to tell PBK's to accept the offer because it's the best deal and they say they are not guilty?

Why do PBK's receive more jail time than any other race? Why don't PBK's lawyers visit their client more before trial? How can the lawyer be ready for court, if they only met their client two or three times? How am I ready to take a plea deal and you don't even know my mom's name?

Excuse me, what is your name again? Just keeping it real that last time we spoke with some of our attorneys was at the first court date.

Would you seek a new lawyer if this were your child?

Are you a good lawyer? We only have a few questions. Do you really care about PBK's?

Do you know anything about who I am as a person?

Do you know anything about the PBK community you represent?

How long have you been with the DA's office? Do you really like your job? How many clients do you represent?

Truthfully some lawyer sessions are 15 minutes. In your good conscience, can you assure a client that everything will be OK?

How is that possible? PBK's frequently leave sessions so confused asking why did my lawyer come today?

How many times do you meet your client before trial? This is scary and crazy.

Well Mr. Ms. or Mrs. Public Defender, I'm not trying to be disrespectful or be funny, I'm just afraid. I hear so many stories about PBK's being convinced to take plea bargains when they are not guilty. Are you like those attorneys?

I only have one request. Actually, it's something lawyers tell all of us, "Please don't lie to me."

Sounds familiar?

If you were honest and said, "Yes!" Thank You! I just think we need to have more honest conversations so we can be properly represented.

Chapter 8

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: Say round who yo lawyer is

Youth #2: I dnt rememba der name

Youth #1: Dey Black or White

Youth #2: He a white dude

Youth #1: Dam then you str8 son

Youth #2: fa real y

Youth #1: Cuz den white lawyers go hard n dem black judges do b handln dem like dey do black lawyers. U gucci

Youth #2: wht u got

Youth #1: I got a black lawyer but he paid. Dey say don't trus no public defenders dey work fa da OPS.

Youth #2: Real

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #8

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #8 Score: _____

Determination

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of determination .

Surrounded by Death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 9

Dedication to Graduation

Why do PBK families celebrate the way they do?

There's no greater moment than seeing a PBK graduate. Families come from all over and put aside all beef or issues so they can celebrate the PBK graduate. Did you know that when a PBK graduates, the whole community graduates? Let me tell you something, this is the greatest feeling of all time. PBK's live their lives trying to defy the odds. These celebrations create families within the PBKs communities.

When I was growing up, every PBK family would stick together at graduation. They will celebrate outside in the middle of the project and whoever graduated came together for one big party. What is that called? It's called family. Why is that important? It is important because we know that it's hard to make it out of some communities. Did you know that, these celebrations represent a bridge being crossed in the development of the PBK's accomplishing more than their parents.

When you think of a celebration, sometimes you can put a limit on it. However, a PBK's celebration is a celebration because tomorrow is not promised.

On social media, you haven't noticed that in PBK communities they celebrate everything?

Do you want to know why this is the result? It's because everything is important when you are able to make something out of yourself despite your living conditions.

I think I need to give some clarity. Let me make sure you understand exactly what it means to live the life of a PBK. If somebody goes to jail, PBKs celebrate that they're not dead. Are we clear?

If somebody is released from jail, people in the community are glad you survived jail, and very happy that the person is on the way back home to the community. Therefore, the PBK's community celebrates! Can you hear me now? Are we clear at this point?

When kids make it to the next grade, we celebrate. PBK families realize that their parents may not believe in school, be able to afford school clothes, or even go to school because the kids take care of themselves. Therefore, we celebrate.

When a person is finally getting a job, who is trying to beat a drug addiction, we celebrate.

That's right, when they accomplish something, we celebrate. That's why we don't judge each other and accept the fact that success looks different in PBK communities. Let me be clear, this is important that you understand that despite what things look like, a graduation to any level, deserves a celebration.

In closing, celebrating is everything! That's why I called this chapter dedication to graduation. It really doesn't matter what they accomplish. The fact of the matter is they started something and it gave everyone hope. So, to everyone who doesn't understand the hustle, pay attention. If you can make something of yourself from a PBK Reality Check, we embrace that.

Unfortunately, many PBK's lost their lives in the process of trying to become successful in the street life too. Lastly, we understand the PBK do not control anything but their decisions. Many younger PBK's are willing to take risks understanding they do not control any consequences.

To sum it up, a PBK is an open enrollment academy of basic needs survival for many citizens. PBK's strive doing their best to pass a lesson, start a lesson, and finish a lesson. Nevertheless, the dedication to graduation is the only steps that we were taught to look forward to.

So, with hesitancy, the greatest math problem of the PBK community is nothing from nothing leaves nothing. So, what do we have to lose, everything. Unfortunately, in many PBK households, it's a risk, to not take a risk.

Chapter 9

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: Say Luv how 12 is by u

Youth #2: Dem lil b!tchesss be tripn sometimes when dey wit dey white partners

Youth #1: I no son dem fake azz be takn our sh!t

Youth #2: F Dat I ain uppn no mo

Youth #1: what u gon do

Youth #2: Bich we lit n goin at Dey top how dey come at us

Youth #1: Factz dey betta calm da F dwb Cuz we bout dat gun play 2

Youth #2: We ain no Martin Luther king on all sat peace sh!t

Youth #1: dey was fckn ova dat boy

Youth #2: martin luther kng shoulda pop dem bichess

Youth #1: How dey com at us how we goin at dem bichess

Youth #2: on my momma Dey gon kill all dat disrespect

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

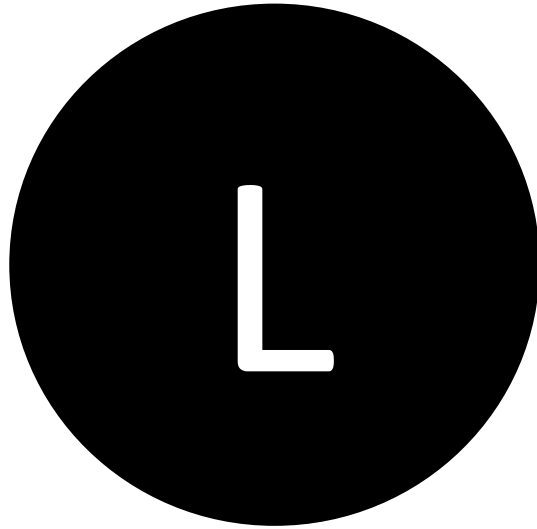
How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #9

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #9 Score: _____



Lifestyle

life·style

noun

noun: **lifestyle**; plural noun: **lifestyles**; noun: **life-style**; plural noun: **life-styles**

the way in which a person or group lives.

Chapter 10-12 focuses on PBK's lifestyle exposure.

CHAPTER #10 POWER WORD

Optimism

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of optimism .

Surrounded by death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 10

Hey, Successful PBK's!

Y'all forgot about us!

Hey adult PBK's! May we talk about something and be honest with ourselves? Can I share with the world a few moments of my childhood being a PBK? I know many people think it's all horror and trauma.

Growing up, we had a lot of days full of fun, cooking, attending church activities and family reunions. Our homes are full of love and displayed in many unique ways. We love each other and proudly stand in the gap for other families needing support.

I got to admit, sometimes things get rough. We have people who fight each other for no reason other than jealousy. We have ongoing family feuds that are passed down for generations. We are taught to get along with each other and protect our family at all costs. We grow up understanding that if one fights, everyone fights. No Exceptions!

Honestly, we have families who become violent and sometimes end in gun violence. These moments make or break a PBK's hope. Can you imagine every day building a house in that type of environment? Can you imagine that every night you're somebody who may get shot in your neighborhood? Can you imagine every day just thinking that this may be my last day walking to and from school?

Well America, this is what was taking place and remains the same. It's not just the life of a PBK, it's the life we all live in.

In summary, being a PBK poor black kid is a hard life. We get it, that sometimes the best thing you could do is get away from there once you become successful. We get it, sometimes you don't want to go back

because people are jealous. We get it, sometimes you just want to show the world you can compete and be just like them, successful after being raised as a poor black kid.

However, we have a responsibility. We must return back to our neighborhoods and give back.

We must return back to the community and be a leader and role model the correct way.

We must return back to the community, donating money to those moms and pops organizations struggling themselves.

Why don't some PBKs return to support the small community-based organizations?

Chapter 10

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: If u got money wld u go back 2 da hood

Youth #2: I might but u kno somebody gon wanna snake u

Youth #1: I wld move my momma an get my gang

Youth #2: I ain getn nobody who ain put in work

Youth #1: man u should get everybdy

Youth #2: Not me if the ain put in work dey cant eat of my plate

Youth #1: real but u kno everybody ain gang jus be frontn

Youth #2: if dey come back ain feed da hood itz cool but I don't care

Youth #1: I wan my own respect

Youth #2: me2 im going get my rep up

Youth #1: If dey made it we can2 jus make dem respect you

Youth #2: Yea im on my glizzy sh!t

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #10

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #10 Score: _____

CHAPTER #11 POWER WORD

Opportunity

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of opportunity .

Surrounded by death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 11

No One To Blame but Myself.

I Lost Focus but Returned Stronger and Wiser.

Why must we take accountability?

In every moment of our lives, we must stop and take a self-inventory of what we've done, where we've been, and where we are now.

I honestly must say, I'm not happy to do this chapter, but it's necessary. When I think about the moments I work with kids, I remember saying the system doesn't care about PBK's. When I reflect on things I have preached, I remember being a parrot repeating statements like, "They don't know how you treat black people and white people are different." When I found myself replaying many of those moments, I realized my mind was being conditioned too. Truthfully these moments have not only hurt me haunted me but instantly triggered thoughts of trauma I was exposed to before. I honestly realized it detoured my focus.

Why did I spend so much time advocating for what had happened to PBK's instead of making sure that they had the opportunity to be the best kids they could be? For so many hours, I found myself listening to other PBK's, hearing the testimonies, and feeling sorry for them because I understood what they were saying. However, these moments not only affect my ability to save others, but the ability to move forward. I understand that we must acknowledge, except and deal with things in a certain way. But it does not mean we have to agree and be stuck in those PBK moments. I want to let you know that it is important that you hear it and keep it moving. It is important that you do not surround yourself with negative images, persons, and/ or groups.

My biggest proclamation is enhanced by my confession to be able to say, "I'm in a better place now than I was before." Yes, I was raised as a PBK but it will not deflate my ability to help others.

As a former PBK, I must admit I am an adult now who must admit my fears and acknowledge my mistakes. This is my interpretation of growth.

The only competition I have as a former PBK is to remember that so many people have made it out of their situation from being poor black kids. However, I will never forget where I come from and shall never forget those who may be still there. My job is to stay focused and help all kids and adults.

I have found an innovative way to help others and enjoy success at the same time.

#Stay Focused!

Chapter 11

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: why u rck wit us

Craw #2: aint no judgement from just love

Youth #1: do you think God punishing us

Craw #2: Nope you still got time to get it right and ask for help

Youth #1: but Craw we don did a lot of stuff

Craw #2: Fam everybody done something you not alone

Youth #1: I jus don't wanna be caught slippn and killed out here

Craw #2: I feel you, you know what it take to survive just be careful

Youth #1: Man one day im gonna be done wit all dis street sh!t

Craw #2: I know fam im praying for you an got faith you gonna get it right

Youth #1: but what if I get killed or get locked away for life

Craw #2: Real Talk thank you for trusting me I got luv for you Fam

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #11

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #11 Score: _____

CHAPTER #12 POWER WORD

Success

While reading this chapter please imagine living in a PBK's environment through a lens of success.

Surrounded by death



Living Life on The Clock

Chapter 12

PBK Reality Check

Can we talk about a few things, please?

OK, this is the last chapter and it's time for a PBK evaluation. I need your undivided attention for this conversation.

Listen to me, PBK's and Parents, I have something very important to say.

Well for the first 11 chapters we let them have it, right? Guess what, they know we're not playing, right? Guess what, they realize we mean business and will not tolerate any disrespect, right? Yes, that's correct, we are sick and tired of being talked about.

Now that we got those feelings out the way, let's go deeper.

I understand that many issues occur in a PBK's environment. I am very conscious of what it takes to become successful, despite all the dilemmas, struggles, and ongoing trauma.

In no way am I saying it's easy.

Well, this is the hardest part of the chapter and I'm sure many folks will be upset. So, let me break it down.

Selling drugs, has nothing to do with being a PBK, right?

Killing each other has nothing to do with being a PBK, right?

Juvenile and adult crime has nothing to do with being a PBK, right? You get my point.

Those types of choices result from a variety of concerns, but at what point do they STOP.

I admit I use to cosign on a lot of situations thinking PBK's had no choice, but I come back to admit my lunacy. If we support PBK's heading to do whatever then we also accept whatever takes place from what they did. To include death.

I'm very sorry if I'm offending anyone but everyone deserves a chance to be in a neighborhood without fear of being killed.

Murder and gang violence should not be the only options to feel safe in their environment.

Do PBK's need to kill people, No.

How are you killing your own people to make money? Why would we allow Monday to jeopardize other PBK's families and safety?

As a PBK I must acknowledge the trauma and concerns that we all face growing up.

I fully understand that several people may think this is not an excuse, but it's not. Well, I decided it was important to share what I felt so now in digging deeper.

To my street veteran PBK alumni, we need to help us save our generation of PBK's.

Am I crystal clear PBK's parents and community folks need help. Together we can improve those toxic and hard to survive environments.

PBK's do their best to find ways to have hope and belief. PBK's find is innovative ways to survive when they are poor.

The bottom line is simple. PBK's, I need you all to chill out, please. Just be honest, y'all doing too much. All the hustling, crime and internal community extortion need to stop.

The violence is not right. Gun violence is unacceptable. If you are an honest and mature PBK and remember the pain from what you have been through, you would not endorse that foolishness.

All kids, especially, PBK's and their families deserve a fair chance to live in a safe community. In all communities, we must consistently work to create a safer environment.

Can we do better please?

PBK forever.

Chapter 12

Street Code & Jail Breakdown Convo

Youth #1: wht you really do wit your life

Youth #2: I just wanna live an take care of my fam we tired of struggln

Youth #1: me too man its hard out chea I wanted 2 do right

Youth #2: yean but it be hard tryin 2 live legal

Youth #1: nobody wanna hire us but be talkn like dey care bout us

Youth #2: I wish I cld help me fam without street sh!t

Youth #1: man everybody we kno trying 2 eat

Youth #2: how ya feel when you get da bag

Youth #1: dat sh!t feel good son an make you want more money

Youth #2: I jus don't wan 2 get robbed r murked so I stay wit my glizzy

Youth #1: yep its me r dem...jus like dat

Youth #2: on my momma Dey gon kill all dat disrespect

Real Talk:

Refusal to have this real conversation may contribute to many innocent PBK's being recruited and forced to participate in activities that require them to become potential killers trying to navigate SURVIVAL MODE.

Self-Reflection

I thought

I realized

In my opinion I now feel

Call to Action

How can you positively contribute to this chapter?

I can

Rate your Street Knowledge & Experience on Chapter #12

- 0 - **Novice** (No direct experience or knowledge of the topic)
- 1 - **Advanced Beginner** (No direct experience. Familiar with the topic)
- 2 - **Competent** (Knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 3 - **Proficient** (Extremely knowledgeable and familiar with the topic)
- 5 - **Expert** (Been There, Survived That, Directly Impacted by topic)

Chapter #12 Score: _____

**In
My
Opinion**

Chapter #1 Summary

You rich, you are a millionaire, you have money, right. Why don't you go back and help PBK's? Are you too good now and embarrassed to share your PBK experience? You have all those new cars, have you misplaced your keys?

I frequently hear once you make it out of PBK land you never go back correct? I guess you don't care because that's not your life anymore. So, what do you want PBK's to do?

In poverty, it's not many role model options. Some PBK's choose their role models based on what they see the most. Unfortunately, it's easy to be what you see. Too bad, you rather judge them than go back to help them. Who is guilty?

Chapter #2 Summary

“Some Police Be Tripping for No Reason” Do something different. It's really simple. Stop Killing! Treat PBK's with respect and allow due process. Everyone should be treated as innocent until proven guilty.

Chapter #3 Summary

If you desire to help a PBK and build trust we recommend you remain professional. Do not talk about their parents, family, or community.

Chapter #4 Summary

Hear this, no one wants to take a photo, when they are in jail, homeless, distress, or in crisis. Trauma should not be televised.

Chapter #5 Summary

I know some folks may think because they are poor black kids verbal abuse is the only thing they understand. Newsflash, this is not true and they are not your children. Stop It!

Chapter #6 Summary

Working with PBK's requires patience, compassion, flexibility, understanding, and love. This job can be easy if you truly care about others.

Chapter #7 Summary

If there's a conflict and you are not trained please find help. Crowds and conflict create chaos. Walk Away Please!

Chapter #8 Summary

A common phrase from incarcerated PBK's is "I wish I had a paid lawyer." Should that be a factor in the outcome of the trial? Can money buy freedom or reduce sentencing?

Chapter #9 Summary

If you're not going to congratulate there is no need for public comment when they celebrate. Everyone should be allowed to enjoy their family as they please.

Chapter #10 Summary

Never complain about who PBK's look up and attempt to become if you are not willing to go back and help. Maybe you can change their lives. Try It!

Chapter #11 Summary

I realize I have two choices when working with PBK's. Worry about all the issues we are consistently reminded of or stay focused on helping those in my presence.

Chapter #12 Summary

Success is possible for PBK's.

Closing Arguments

Well, how did we get here? In my closing arguments let me be straight up honest with everyone. It's not easy to talk about everything. Perhaps you may understand what I'm talking about when you live the life of a PBK. Poor Black Kid!

For years we say what happened to us. Why are our communities so bad? What is going on? Now, we realize that some things are done to PBK's to discourage success. Yes, we are responsible for many outcomes but had little to no input. Therefore, we are not the fruits of godly labor. We fight to exist after being watered with friendly poison.

Honestly, I too thought something was wrong with me. I thought that if I did the right thing everybody will be proud of me but advocates enjoy trench work. I also thought that, if I work to help others one day I will be recognized for my good deeds. Well, every day someone calls my name in the facility I am sincerely humbled.

Well, I guess big fanfare only happens in movies. It seems as though those who advocate for PBK's frequently face ongoing persecution. Ironically, the media, church, school, and family spend countless hours promoting those who do the least.

I know personally that PBK's know who care about them and love them. Therefore, I just do my best to give back to the community.

Respectfully, I want to ask some elders and prominent PBK's to show them some love. Please don't be afraid to give honest advice to PBK's. We need financially stable former PBK's to consider helping the community with resources. Well, I know that's not their responsibility but they can help make a difference.

Why Do PBK's KILL?

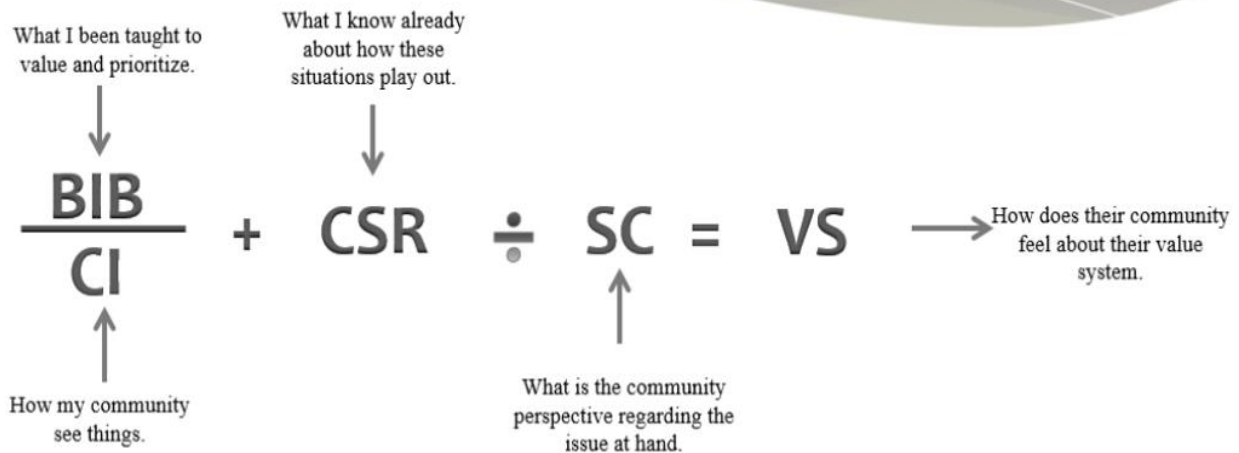
“Because tainted **KNOWLEDGE** is deliberately shared to create **INSTITUTIONALIZED** communities filled with traumatic **LESSONS** promoting a cash driven gun violent **LIFESTYLE.**”

How do violent communities create (some) **Killers?**

Find a person struggling to survive, who never had anything, give them a glimpse of community-based respect from the hustle and grind of the street then take it all back. The addictive lifestyle may influence several poor decisions to include murder.

“The best way to change group behavior is individually.”

Understanding the Formula



Breaking Down Street Code Survival

Who is responsible? *Everyone*

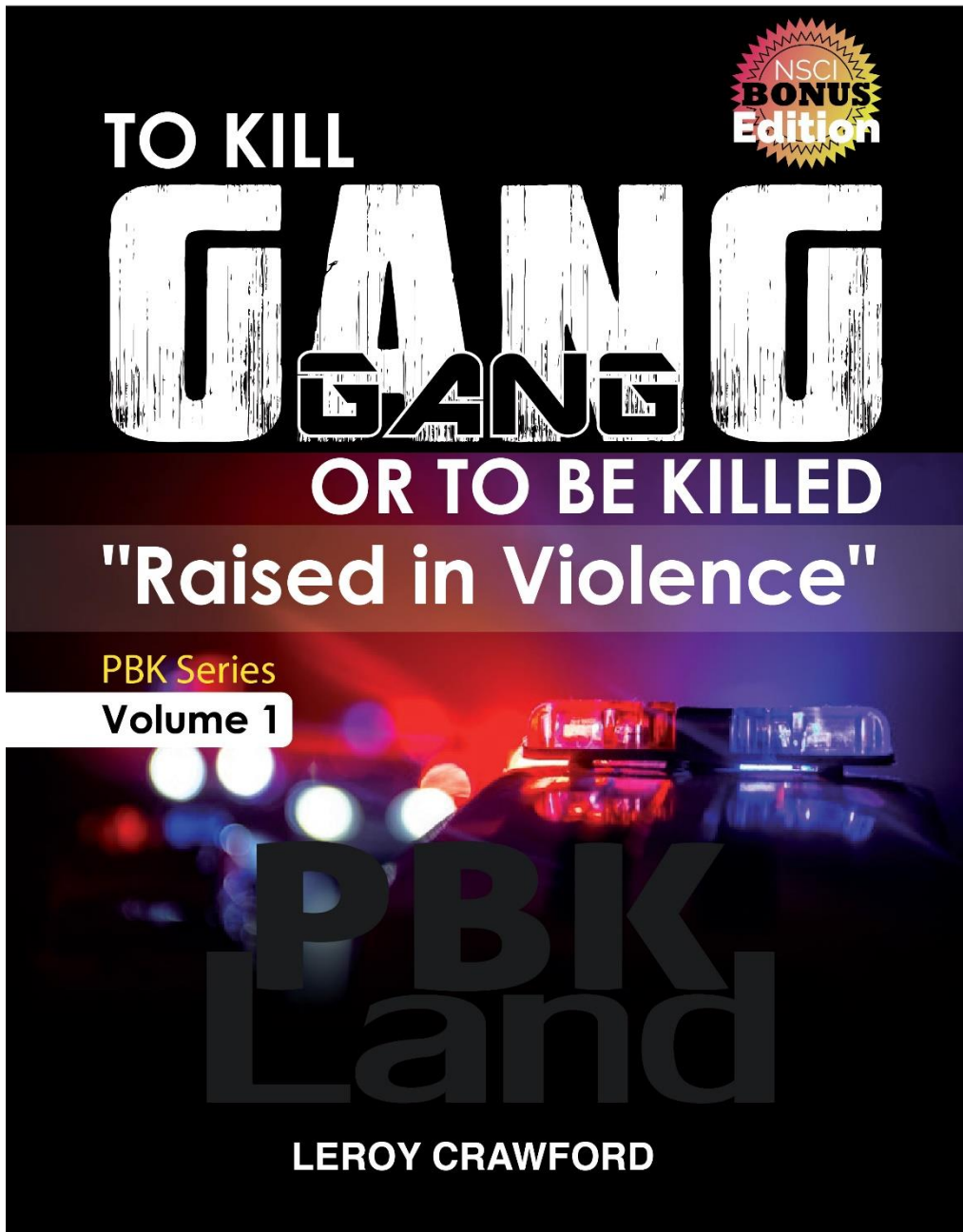
Who can it impact? *Everyone*

What is POOR?

Poverty * Oppression * Outrage * Regression

Are you interested in learning tips to help identify, prevent and address gun violent gang culture? Purchase the ***Gang Gang*** training curriculum eBook.

NAVIGATING STREET CULTURE INSIDEOUT





To learn more about training resources offered by
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THE STREET ANTHEM

Never Say Never, Born on Death Row.

Imagine a life, filled in poverty,
those Dirty kids become their name.

Imagine a hood, kids dirty and hungry,
where inclusion hovers the shame.

Imagine a neighbor, putting in work,
so the streets celebrate the fame.

Imagine a chance, to help my family,
If I don't they call me lame.

So here it is, the truth for many,
can you honestly picture this frame?

So if I'm caught or go to jail,
You Never SNITCH you endure the pain.

For the hood will remember, my street reputation,
may be in blood stains.

So if I'm killed, and that's how it end,
Oh well, just charge it to the Game!

Poor Black Kids...PBK



Author,
Leroy Crawford



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"Excuse or Reality, hate is not allowed in the judgement zone."

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