

I grew up here
Grit my teeth to hear what others say.

The East Side

Ghetto.
Mecca for gangsters.
Nothing but drug dealers.
Uneducated and uncultured.
Everyone on food stamps.

I grew up here.
When they learn what I do

"Aren't you scared?"
"A probation officer? With kids? On the East Side?"
"Aren't they violent? Won't they stab you?"
"You support those little thugs?"

I grew up here.

Working three jobs to scratch by.
Single moms.
Business owners eking out a profit.
Banding together to uplift.

I grew up here.
I spend my days fighting.

The thug life.
Smoking and selling.
Baby face burglars.
Unplanned babies.

I grew up here.