



PATROLLER

AUGUST 2024

Newsletter for the Patrollers, volunteers, and supporters of Castro Community On Patrol in San Francisco, California, USA.

ESTABLISHED 2006

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CRIME IS DOWN AND TOURISTS ARE RETURNING



While it may not “seem” like it for many people, especially if you have recently been the victim of a crime, San Francisco is showing a sharp decline in many crime rates, likely experiencing the lowest records in a decade or more.

Overall, property crimes are down by about 30%, violent crime is down by about 14% and gun violence is down by about 37%. This is despite a significant shortfall in San Francisco Police Officers. As is always the case, such figures are generalized, and some neighborhoods will experience spikes in certain types of crimes beyond the citywide average, but the trend is certainly positive.

Recent ballot measures passed by San Francisco residents have also allowed the SFPD to leverage technology in response to specific crimes, with cameras and drones being successfully deployed and utilized in a number of pilot programs that are likely to expand throughout the whole

city.

Unlike many stories in the National media, the City and the Castro neighborhood is seeing new businesses open up, and tourists and visitor returning in ever increasing numbers.

The city, the District Attorney and the SFPD have a part to play in continuing this trend, as do we, the residents. Keep up the good work.

SFPD DISTRICT BOUNDARIES TO BE CONSIDERED



The city changes demographically on a monthly basis at times, and every ten years, the city considers the SFPD district station boundaries in terms of population, crime figures, and anticipated future changes, to redraw the station boundaries as necessary.

Ten years ago, this resulted in the Duboce Triangle neighborhood moving into the PARK Police district from the prior NORTHERN

police district.

This time, the proposed boundary changes suggest moving the Castro from MISSION police district into the PARK police district, extending PARK to Sanchez in the East and 21st Street in the South.

Public comment is being sought for all proposed changes, and we strongly encourage all invested partners to make their voice heard in this important process.

AN APPEAL FOR NEW PATROL VOLUNTEERS

We LOVE seeing the neighborhood get busier, with new restaurants opening and more people enjoying the recent nice weather.

This comes with additional requests for our Safety presence in the neighborhood and at special events, which we WANT to meet and fulfill, but we are VERY short of Patrol Volunteers at the moment.

If you can donate just three hours a month, please consider joining us!

Help us, to help keep the Castro a little safer for everyone!

PATROL NEWS

CCOP SUPPORTED ART WALK SF IN THE CASTRO NEIGHBORHOOD



Diana Britto (ASF), Chief Craig (CPS), and Chief Carey (CCOP)

CCOP was proud to support the [Art Walk SF](#) event in the Castro on Saturday August 03 by providing additional safety support throughout the event.

Artwalk SF is a monthly event that locates in different neighborhoods around San Francisco, allowing artists, musicians and vendors to display and sell their works from booths set up on the sidewalks. Running from April through October on the first Saturday of each month, it is a fun, relaxing way to spend a lazy afternoon browsing art, listening to live music and chatting with vendors.

CCOP was asked by the organizers to provide safety support for set up and the beginning of the event, and we were very happy to do so. It was a beautiful sunny day in the Castro with lots of happy locals, tourists, and Art Walk SF shoppers milling about for the afternoon. Check it out in the Fillmore on 09/07 and Glen Park on 10/05.

CCOP SUPPORTS THE “SFPD SAFE PLACE” PROGRAM



Castro Patrol has been a community leader in developing and deploying safety concepts and programs since our creation, and we are equally eager to support and contribute to effective and positive programs from partner groups and entities.

The **SFPD** “[SAFE PLACE](#)” program was first initiated as a project of the [SFPD LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum](#) of which CCOP is a member. The program encourages businesses to display the poster and provide a “safe haven” for victims of crime or harassment until police arrive.

We launched this effort in early July, chatting with thirty Castro businesses on the 500 block and on 19th Street. Our goal over the next month or so is to chat with ALL businesses in the neighborhood, and to see these posters in EVERY window.

We’re quite short on Patrol volunteers right now, so it may take us some time, but we’re committed to this important safety program.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

PATROL NEWS

WE'RE DISTRIBUTING FREE SAFETY WHISTLES THROUGH PARTNERING BUSINESSES



As part of the "[SAFE PLACE](#)" program effort, we're also offering an additional safety aid by providing FREE safety whistles and a small display case for countertops.

The "[WHISTLE FOR SAFETY](#)" program has been around for decades and was promoted during Harvey Milk's time. Safety Whistles work well in attracting attention and causing possible assailants to back off. We resurrected the whistle program and have distributed over one-hundred thousand free whistles to date, but we still find many people who have never heard of the program and who don't carry a whistle at all times.

Collaborating with businesses who are displaying the "[SAFE PLACE](#)" posters, we will offer a small countertop display case and we will supply FREE safety whistles for your staff and customers to take as needed. We will replenish the whistles as often as needed.

- 1 – BLOW means YES
- 2 – BLOWS means NO
- 3 – BLOWS repeated means SOS

Carry a safety whistle at ALL times.

08/18 CASTRO STROLL VENDORS AND MUSIC EVENT



CCOP supported the Castro Stroll event by providing an additional and visible safety presence for the vendors, musicians, and visitors to the neighborhood on a gorgeous sunny and relaxed Sunday.

The event features local and LGBTQ+ artists, shops, and live music from noon until 5 PM with vendors setting up tables on the 400 and 500 blocks of Castro Street. Live music is liberally sprinkled throughout the event footprint to add to the lively and festive atmosphere which was enjoyed by everyone.

If you missed this one, there are a few more opportunities to check out this fun afternoon in the Castro neighborhood with the next one scheduled for Sunday September 15.

Show your support for local merchants and artists, and help to make the Castro a shopping destination again.

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PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

BY Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service

THE GOLDEN HOUR DURING MEDICAL TRAUMA

Trauma is an injury to the body that occurs when a physical force contacts the body. The trauma may be blunt or penetrating. Examples of blunt trauma are motor vehicle collisions, falls, and assaults with a blunt object. Examples of penetrating trauma include gunshot wounds and stab wounds. Exposure to these forces can cause soft tissue injuries, fractures, bleeding, and tearing of vital organs and blood vessels, all of which can result in severe disability and death.

The severity of the injury is related to the force of the impact, duration of impact, body part involved, injuring agent (blast, blunt object, penetrating object), and any associated risk factors (age and preexisting medical conditions).

TRAUMA INDICATORS TO LOOK FOR

As CCOP Patrollers, we are sometimes the first persons “on scene” and it therefore falls to us ensure we follow reasonable guidelines to examine for and respond to possible trauma injuries if those are indicated and / or suspected.

Trauma would be **indicated** if:

- You witness or are advised of actual trauma,
- You observe bleeding,
- You observe recent bruising or abrasions,
- You observe disjointed limbs or protruding bones.

Trauma may be **suspected** if the subject is unresponsive to verbal and pain stimuli, and/or the subject exhibits aggressive or confused behavior

ASSESSING A “DOWNED” PERSON

In our CCOP role we often come across “downed” individuals lying in various positions and places. We conduct a standard well-being check to ensure they are o.k. In circumstances where the individual does not respond to verbal rousing, we move on to more aggressive arousal techniques to determine if they unresponsive individual is truly unconscious, or severely intoxicated.

As it is VITAL to stabilize trauma victims to prevent further injury, we must perform a trauma assessment prior to advancing to physical rousing techniques during a well-being check as follows:

1. Visually assess the individual and their surroundings as you approach and attempt verbal contact. If you see any trauma indicators, treat the situation as a possible trauma victim.
2. If verbal rousing is unsuccessful and no trauma indicators are present, move on to physical and pain rousing techniques.

WHEN TRAUMA IS SUSPECTED

If you identify any possible trauma indicators:

1. Immediately call 911 and advise them of the indicators you are observing
2. Without moving the individual unless absolutely necessary, perform an Airway, Breathing and Circulation (ABC) check.
3. If either A-B or C are compromised and you are trained and willing, respond accordingly.
4. Stabilize any area of trauma and keep the subject warm until professionals arrive on scene.



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WHO / WHEN / WHERE / HOW

LIFE THREATENING OR CRIME IN PROGRESS ?

Call 9-1-1

In any situation where life is at imminent risk, or where a crime is in progress right now, call 9-1-1 for an immediate emergency response.

NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY?

Call 415-553-0123

In situations which are less critical or immediate but where a Police or Fire response may still be required, use the non-emergency number above.

San Francisco District Supervisor's Office

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

District 8,

Call 415-554-6968

MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org

San Francisco District Supervisors represent you and can assist in many areas of concern that involve formal Government agencies or departments. If their office cannot assist you directly, they will help to put you in contact with resources that can assist.

San Francisco District Attorney's Office

350 Rhode Island Street

North Building, Suite 400N, 94103

Call 628-652-4000

DistrictAttorney@sfgov.org

The DA's office prosecutes crime in San Francisco and offers various services for victims of crime.

VICTIM SERVICES: 628-652-4100

HATE CRIME HOTLINE: 628-652-4311

San Francisco Official Resources

San Francisco Federal Bureau of Investigation

415-553-7400

San Francisco Police Department Mission Station

415-558-5400 SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org

San Francisco Police Department Park Station

415-242-3000 SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org

SFFD Street Crisis Response Team

Call 911 for people in severe mental distress

SFFD Street Wellness Response Team

415-553-0123 for homeless related non-criminal issues

San Francisco City Services

3-1-1 to report "things" i.e. human waste, trash, etc.

Mental Health Services For Everyone

9-8-8

Community Resources

Castro Community Benefits District Services

415-500-1181 ExecDirector@castrocbd.org

Cleaning Services: 415-471-7536

Castro Cares Community Ambassadors Program

Call or Text 415-471-7536

Community Patrol Service

CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com

SFPD LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum

LGBTQ.forum@sfgov.org

24 Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Trevor Project

212-695-8650 (LGBTQQI+ youth in need of support)

SF Adult Protective Services (APS) Hotline

415-335-6700 or 1-800-814-0009

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Castro Cares Program Report



be a part of the solution

Castro Cares is a unique community collaborative providing supplemental outreach and hospitality services throughout the district to the city's homeless support services and the work of the San Francisco Police Department. The program is funded by a city grant and through public donations.

The program deploys uniformed Community Ambassadors 7-days a week. They interact with the residents, business employees and owners, visitors, and with those living on the streets.

To find out more about the Castro Cares program, or to donate in support of the program, check out their website at www.castrocbd.org/castro-cares/

SF LGBTQ+ Community Safety Program



The San Francisco LGBTQ+ Community Safety Program (SF-LGBTQ-CSP) is a joint effort between the community and various Federal, State, and local agencies to provide training, guidance, advice, and support in developing a "fabric of safety" for all individuals, businesses, and events.

To find out more, contact us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

Castro SAFE PLACE Program



The [SFPD SAFE PLACE](#) program is a collaborative effort between SFPD and San Francisco Businesses to offer a temporary "safe haven" to victims of crime or harassment until law enforcement or medical professionals arrive.

The program mission is to reduce hate crimes, bullying, harassment, and discrimination. By working together, we can encourage crime reporting and promote safety and security.

To find out more, contact us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

Community Patrol Service



Community Patrol Service (CPS) is a not-for-profit community organization that works with neighborhoods throughout the United States who wish to develop a Community On Patrol Service (COPS) organization such as Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP). CPS will offer free advice, guidance, training information, suggestions, and non-fiscal support throughout the development of your own COPS group.

To find out more, contact us at CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

SIX STEPS TO ASSIST IN PROSECUTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1

IF YOU SEE A CRIME IN PROGRESS, OR A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION:

CALL - 911

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS OR SOMETHING AUTHORITIES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

CALL - 415-553-0123

MEET AND PROVIDE A WITNESS STATEMENT TO POLICE.

If Officers don't see the incident you called about themselves, and find no other criminal activity when they arrive, they cannot CITE or make an ARREST without a witness to the incident.

2

3

GET THE COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) NUMBER THAT IS ASSIGNED TO THE INCIDENT

Officers will provide this when you provide your witness statement. This number will allow you to track the case from investigation to prosecution.

FOLLOW UP WITH SFPD INVESTIGATORS

Call the SFPD Station that responded to your incident and provide the CAD # to get updates on the status of incident.

4

5

FOLLOW UP WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Using the CAD#, work with the Assistant District Attorney assigned to the case, and let them know what YOU WANT to happen in the case.

GO TO COURT, AND STAND AS A WITNESS

If the case goes to court, be sure to attend and be willing to provide witness testimony on the stand, and/or victim impact statements.

6

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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

REPORT HATE CRIMES



This location is a SAFE PLACE for victims of hate crimes and harassment to call 911 and wait for police to arrive.

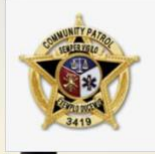
EMERGENCY CALL 911

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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED



DATING SAFETY



USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM. Share emails, online profiles, and details of your new date with a trusted friend.

CHECK IN. Ask your BUDDY to reach out to you by phone or text during your date to verify you are good.

NO – IS NEVER NEGOTIABLE. SAY NO TO ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.

ESCAPE ANY WAY YOU CAN. If you feel threatened or at risk do what you need to ESCAPE to safety.

DEFEND YOURSELF. You are entitled to defend if you need to. Better to be tried by 12, than buried by 6.

REPORT IT. If you are threatened, abused, or injured by a date, report them to 9-1-1 and let your friends know.

SEEK SUPPORT. From friends, from the community, and from government and nonprofit entities.



www.CastroPatrol.org

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED



CASTRO COMMUNITY ON PATROL WANTS YOU!

**GIVE US JUST THREE HOURS A MONTH AS A PATROL VOLUNTEER,
TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP / Castro Patrol) seeks new volunteers to help us patrol the Castro neighborhood on a monthly basis. YOU could be our next Trainee Patroller!

We have successfully patrolled the Castro neighborhood since 2006, deploying in teams of three unpaid volunteer Patrollers who walk for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves. Our patrols provide assistance, distribute free safety whistles, offer guidance, and deliver support to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Castro, interacting with thousands of people every year.

We are often “First Reporters” by calling in Medical, Fire, or Law Enforcement professionals when needed, and we will offer assistance when safe to do so until the professionals arrive.

Our volunteers are mostly members of the LGBTQ+ community, but we are open and welcoming to **ALL** who want to volunteer just three-hours a month to help keep the Castro neighborhood a little safer. We provide full training, and you will always deploy with experienced volunteers. Patrolling is fun, you get to meet lots of people, and you can feel good about helping out the community.

www.CastroPatrol.org | info@CastroPatrol.org

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