

PATROLLER

DECEMBER 2024

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

CHIEF OF PATROL



Chf. Greg Carey (Public Relations)

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PATROL



AChf. Ken Craig (Volunteer Training & Certification)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Brian Hill (Information Technology)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Kyle Wong (Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

2024 WAS A YEAR OF SERVICE AND RECOGNITION



CCOP faced some significant challenges in 2024, not the least of which was the final demise of our fiscal sponsor of fifteen years, and the sudden imperative to establish ourselves as a nonprofit corporation.

We are now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, but the loss of that fiscal sponsorship also lost us critical funding that came from the city through the sponsor. This left us with roughly \$18k in debt and no grant money or income coming in. A sticky situation for sure.

Despite those significant challenges, and the continuing challenge of attracting and retaining new volunteers. patrol 2024 proved remarkably successful for us in terms of recognition as we received certificates and accolades from the FBI, Mayor Breed, and the Board of Supervisors as well as congratulations from D.A. Jenkins (SFDA),

Chief Scott (SFPD) and Sheriff Myamoto (SFSD).

This was incredibly welcome and invigorating recognition in what was otherwise a very challenging year in so many ways.

In spite of the challenges, and with a significantly lower volunteer pool than we would like, we still managed to provide our Patrollers for more than forty community events throughout the year, offering additional safety, an extra set of eyes and ears, and a visible deterrent against troublemakers.

These events ranged from leading multiple "Beginners Self-Defense" and "Active Shooter" training classes to helping the very scantily clad Santa Skivvies runners run across Market Street safety during the annual fundraiser.

Some of the key events of note are:

- The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Easter in the Park.
- Pulse Nightclub memorial event.
- Frameline outdoor movie and lighting of the CASTRO theater blade.
- SF Pride parade walking with SFPD

- US Navy fleet week band performance in Jane Warner Plaza.
- Castro's inaugural night market.
- Halloween in the Castro.
- Glow in the Streets event on Noe Street.
- The lighting of the Castro Christmas tree and the lighting of the menorah.

As new businesses continue to open, and the evening crowds are returning to normal, we are committed to continuing our work to improve the safety of the Castro.

Please consider volunteering as we really NEED you!

S.F.P.D. CRIME DATA SNAPSHOT

<u>SFPD Crime Data</u> results citywide for the following specific categories 1/1/2024-12/15/2024

Homicide	33	-35.3%
Robbery	2,071	-5.4%
Assault	2,242	-6.6%
Burglary	4,869	-11.4%
Veh. Theft	5,169	-20.8%
Larceny	19.777	-37.3%
TOTAL		-29.7%

During the same period last year, SFPD recorded a total of 49, 212 reports, compared with a total of 34,621 reports this year, representing a 29.7% drop overall.

PATROL NEWS

CCOP PROVIDED SAFETY COVERAGE FOR THE FINAL "CASTRO STROLL" ON 11/17/2024



We provided additional safety support for the final "Castro Stroll" event on Sunday November 17th, helping to ensure the vendors safety and security as they set up their wares, and monitoring the event as visitors to the neighborhood perused the various offerings.

We provided this support for a total of five "Castro Stroll" events in 2024 which was a great opportunity for additional visibility for us, as well as bringing in some muchneeded funds. Organizers of the Stroll have been "delighted" with our presence and low-key resolution of any minor problems that arise from time to time.

The "Castro Stroll" is slated to return in 2025 and we certainly look forward to continuing this symbiotic relationship for both entities, and to working with the Stroll organizers in the new year.

If you missed the "Castro Stroll" weekends in 2024, you should definitely try to make one of them in 2025. The vendors have quite varied merchandise, and there is live music throughout the neighborhood performed by wonderful and talented musicians. What is there not to love about this fun event?

CCOP PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SAFETY FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO INSCRIBE EVENT ON 12/01/2024



CCOP provided additional safety support for the 10th Annual Inscribe event in the Castro on World AIDS Day.

This wonderful annual event is sponsored by Cliff's Variety and Crayola in partnership with the SF AIDS Foundation's Elizabeth Taylor 50-Plus Network and shanti Project's Honoring Our Experience program. Young and old alike take some time to "inscribe" the name of a loved one lost to AIDS in brightly colored chalk. Creating an impermanent, yet powerful and emotional experience for all who participate in it and all who view it.

PATROL NEWS

CCOP PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SAFETY COVERAGE FOR THE ANNUAL CASTRO CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



CCOP was on hand to work with SFPD in keeping the attendees safe and secure for the annual Castro Christmas Tree lighting event, just as we have done for more than a dozen years now.

The event was very well attended, and with the live music from the SF LGBT Freedom band and the arrival of St. Nicholas in the back of and SFPD truck, everyone seemed to have a great time as the countdown saw the neighborhood tree illuminated in all of its gorgeous glory.

We are always truly happy to assist and support these important neighborhood events and traditions. They are great for residents as well as visitors and tourists to the neighborhood.

CCOP SUPPORTED THE SANTA SKIVVIES – FUNDRAISING EVENT



We were very happy to deploy a small patrol team in support of the annual SF AIDS Santa Skivvies fundraising run. It is a very tough assignment, being around hundreds of sexy men and women in very skimpy red swimwear and a variety of other festive attire as they prepared to set off on the run around the Castro neighborhood.

Our role is to support the event safety team in getting the runners safely across Market Street as they run South on Castro Street. We then help them cross Market again at Noe Street as they head for the finish line.



We congratulate all of the runners, supporters, and organizers for another GREAT event.

PATROL NEWS

CCOP PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SAFETY COVERAGE FOR THE ANNUAL CASTRO MENORAH LIGHTING



CCOP was on hand to work with SFPD in keeping the attendees safe and secure for the annual Menorah lighting event in Jane Warner Plaza.

The event was very well attended and went off without a hitch as we hoped. With the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and rising antisemitism in some quarters, we felt it was more important than ever to have a solid and very visible presence at the event to serve as a deterrent to anyone contemplating trouble or disruption.

This was the final "organized" official event for us in 2024.



WE REALLY NEED TO FIND, TRAIN, AND RETAIN MORE PATROL VOLUNTEERS



We are extremely short of Patrol volunteers, with only twelve on our available rolls, which is a third of where we would like to be in order to support regular patrols and the frequent community events we are asked to support.

If you are a former Patroller and you'd like to return to Patrolling, please reach out. We would LOVE to have you back with us.

If you've thought about volunteering but just never got around to it, please reach out to us and start your New Year off on a positive note.

If you know of anyone you think would be interested in Patrolling with us, please encourage them to reach out to us.

PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

BY Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service

CONFIRMATION BIAS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Confirmation bias poses a significant challenge to the integrity and fairness of law enforcement and safety organizations such as CCOP. By shaping how evidence is interpreted and decisions are made, this cognitive bias can lead to wrongful convictions, undermine public trust, and hinder the pursuit of justice. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that includes training, procedural reforms, and ongoing research. As awareness of confirmation bias grows, law enforcement agencies have an opportunity to enhance their practices and reaffirm their commitment to fairness and accountability.

Confirmation bias occurs when individuals selectively seek, interpret, or remember information in a way that aligns with their preexisting beliefs. This psychological tendency has been



extensively studied across multiple disciplines, including psychology, behavioral economics, and criminal justice. According to Nickerson (1998), confirmation bias often results from cognitive shortcuts that help individuals process information efficiently but can lead to flawed reasoning. In law enforcement, this bias can manifest in various ways, such as focusing on evidence that supports an investigator's initial theory while discounting or ignoring contradictory evidence.

Manifestations

- Suspect-Focused Investigations: In many cases, investigators develop an early hypothesis about a suspect's
 guilt. Once this hypothesis takes hold, confirmation bias can lead to the interpretation of ambiguous evidence
 as incriminating. For example, innocuous behaviors, such as nervousness during a contact, may be viewed as
 evidence of guilt when seen through the lens of confirmation bias (Ask & Granhag, 2005).
- 2. **Interpretation of Evidence**: Studies have shown that contextual information, such as knowledge of a suspect's alleged guilt, can influence evidential conclusions. Dror et al. (2006) demonstrated that fingerprint analysts were more likely to find matches when they believed their conclusion would align with other evidence. This can happen in the field also, when exculpatory evidence is ignored, discounted, or dismissed as it does not match the perception of guilt.
- 3. **Witness Statements and Interviews**: Confirmation bias can also affect how personnel conduct interviews. This can result in unconsciously asking leading questions that steer witnesses or suspects toward responses that confirm preconceptions (Hill et al., 2008). In extreme cases, this can result in coerced or false confessions, particularly when suspects are vulnerable or suggestible.
- 4. **Case Closure Decisions**: Once investigators believe they have identified the perpetrator, they may prematurely close a case despite the presence of exculpatory evidence. This tunnel vision can contribute to miscarriages of justice, as seen in many wrongful conviction cases uncovered by organizations like the Innocence Project.

The consequences of confirmation bias are significant, affecting both individuals and the broader justice system. One of the most concerning outcomes is wrongful convictions. According to Garrett (2011), cognitive biases, including confirmation bias, are frequently implicated in cases where individuals are exonerated through DNA evidence. These cases often reveal systemic flaws in investigative processes, such as reliance on faulty eyewitness testimony or coerced confessions.

PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

CONFIRMATION BIAS AND ITS CONCEQUENCIES cont:

Given its profound implications, addressing confirmation bias in law enforcement is a pressing concern. Strategies to mitigate its impact include:

- 1. **Training and Awareness**: Training programs can help personnel recognize and mitigate their own biases. Research suggests that awareness of cognitive biases can reduce their influence (Kassin et al., 2013). For example, consider alternative hypotheses and seek evidence that disconfirms their initial theories.
- 2. **Structured Decision-Making**: Using structured decision-making frameworks, such as checklists or decision trees, can help to approach cases systematically and reduce the influence of subjective biases. These tools encourage a comprehensive evaluation of all available evidence, including information that may contradict initial assumptions.
- 3. **Peer Review and Oversight**: Team Resource Management (TRM) and peer review and oversight in decisions can provide a safeguard against individual biases. By subjecting decisions to external scrutiny, agencies can ensure that alternative perspectives are considered and potential errors are identified.
- 4. **Emphasizing Exculpatory Evidence**: Training programs should emphasize the importance of actively seeking and considering exculpatory evidence. Patrollers must be reminded that their role is to uncover the truth, not to assign guilt.

A critical factor in avoiding confirmation bias as an individual, or more importantly as a Patrol team, is the application of **Team Resource Management** (TRM) concepts and a solid understanding and comfort with your assigned function on the team, and your capacity to undertake that function when required. It is human nature to acquiesce to a formalized rank structure or apparent experience level as a subordinate on a Patrol team, however, TRM requires that you verbalize concerns and alternative suggestions to the Patrol team leader if you have them, and Patrol team leaders are obligated to hear and consider such concerns and alternatives.

Team Resource Management is a concept that assigns specific tasks, functions, and responsibilities to each Patrol team member. In focusing on your assigned task, and trusting your team members to likewise focus on their assigned task, your team "should" respond in the most effective way possible to any situation you may encounter. Most experienced Patrollers will fall into these actions instinctively, through training and repetition by experiencing multiple patrols and incidents. Newer Patrollers may need to be reminded to "turn your camera on," or "note the time and address," or to take a step away from the main incident to keep an eye on bystanders or the surrounding area when more experienced Patrollers are engaged in handling a person down, a medical incident, or an irate individual etc.

Any breakdown in situational awareness or Team Resource Management can lead to bad outcomes, such as missing an important incident, failing to respond in a timely and effective manner, or responding in an inappropriate or unlawful way. Therefore, fostering these skills is a priority for CCOP training and practice. In support of this priority, you will often find our Chief's or Senior Patroller's "checking in" with you following an incident to verify you "turned your camera on," or that you "noted the correct start time and address," or to ask what you would have done, or not done, in a similar situation. The goal of this "check in" is to assist you in developing your situational awareness, critical thinking, and understanding of our Team Resource Management concepts.

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 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 TeamCall 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

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

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
Community Patrol Service @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

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 MFO@CastroPatrol.org and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

Castro SAFE PLACE Program



The <u>SFPD SAFE PLACE</u> 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 lNFO@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-forprofit 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.



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!

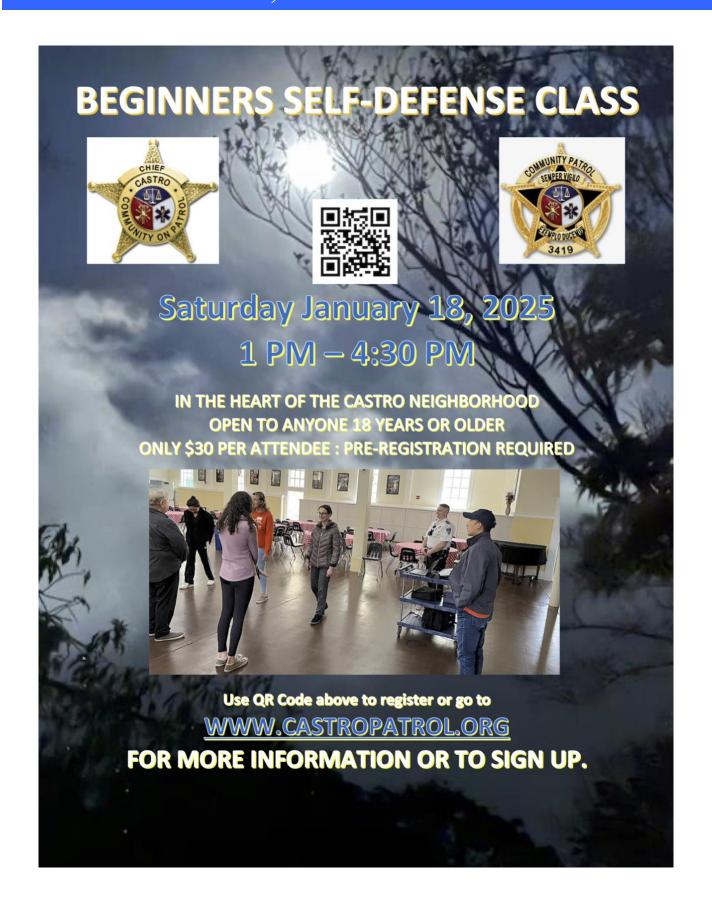
We have successfully patrolled the Castro neighborhood since 2006, deploying in teams of three unpaid volunteer Patrollers who walk for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves. Our patrols provide assistance, distribute free safety whistles, offer guidance, and deliver support to the residents, businesses,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





SIX STEPS TO ASSIST IN PROSECUTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1

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

CALL - 91

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

REPORT HATE CRIMES San Francisco **Police Department** sanfranciscopolice.org 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**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IS AGAINST THE LAW AND OFTEN LEADS TO SERIOUS INJURY OR WORSE.

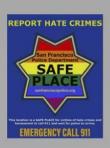
DON'T BECOME A MARTYR.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- Are you regularly subjected to acts of degradation, physical or verbal abuse, intimidation, or excessive control?
- Do you feel UNSAFE with your intimate partner?
- Do you feel empowered to make decisions for yourself?

Abusers rarely stop their abuse, but frequently escalate to more serious attacks. Ask for help!

LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project: 1-212-714-1141 FORGE Transgender Project: 1-414-559-2123 Youth LGBTQ Help Center: 1-800-246-7743



This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition







ANGEL SHOTS

THIS ESTABLISHMENT RECOGNIZES AND SUPPORTS
THE ANGEL SHOT SAFETY PROGRAM

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- Are you on a DATE that is not going well?
- Do you feel UNSAFE?
- Is anyone BOTHERING your or making you feel UNCOMFORTABLE?
- Are you being FORCED to do something against your will?

ASK OUR SECURITY STAFF OR YOUR SERVER FOR AN "ANGEL SHOT."

WE WILL HANDLE THINGS DISCRETELY AND WE WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL YOU ARE SAFE & SECURE.



This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition







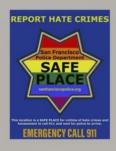
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS SLAVERY BY A DIFFERENT NAME.
TARGET THE TRAFFICKERS AND HELP SAVE THE VICTIMS.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- Are you FORCED to work for little or no reimbursement?
- Do you face physical or psychological abuse if you do not work as demanded?
- Can you leave at any time, without fear of retribution?
- Are you expected to do things outside of your comfort zone, such as performing sexual favors for strangers?

National Human Trafficking Hotline
Call: 1-888-373-7888
Text: HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)
www.humantraffickinghotline.org



This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition



