



Fewer Thefts from Autos

As was reported in the June 2008 issue of *The Patroller*, the Castro experienced a sharp increase in the number of thefts from locked automobiles. In an attempt to intervene in this common crime, CCOP created a special safety flyer called “Stay Safe, Have Fun” which covers car break-ins along with robbery, assault, and reporting crimes. The brochures were placed on the cars in the most affected areas (18th Street, Collingwood Park, and the parking lot behind Walgreens) for the first 3 weeks in June. During Pride week, they were handed to people in the Castro.

The results look encouraging. The number of June break-ins dropped to the lowest level since October 2007 (see chart on page 2). The number of assaults and robberies were also fewer than June 2007, despite larger numbers of visitors to Pride.

The flyer distribution will continue at least one week per month for the next several months to help educate the public about avoiding common crimes.



More than 1500 safety flyers were placed on cars through the month of June to educate the public about avoiding car break-ins.

Successful Pink Party

Fourteen CCOP volunteers provided perimeter security for the Pink Saturday party the Saturday evening before the San Francisco Pride celebration. Four teams were in constant radio contact with the security headquarters at the Eureka Valley Rec Center. Each team was assigned a territory with a 50% overlap with the adjacent team, effectively providing 2 teams for each of the protected zoned.

Only one incident required assistance from paramedics. A local resident was having a possible medical problem. Because the incident happened outside the central area being covered by the party organizers, the SFFD ambulance needed to respond. The Patrol team stayed with the victim until the ambulance was able to make its way through the thick crowd to aid the citizen.

New Safety Equipment

Approximately half of the income from the Pink Saturday was used to purchase new safety equipment. This same equipment now is part of the standard equipment for the regular Patrol work. The new equipment includes:

LED flashlights: Purchased 4 new Mag-Lite flashlights and 3 current ones were re-lamped with high intensity LED lamps. New belt holders were also purchased.

Reflective belts: These allow the orange t-shirts to serve as patrol uniforms without the nylon jackets in warm weather.

Smaller clipboards: New report forms and smaller clipboards make it easier for the scribe to record patrol notes.

“Clean Up” kits: These help patrollers stay sanitary if they encounter vomit or other body fluids. They consist of non-latex protective gloves, anti-bacterial cleaning pads, hand sanitizer, and gauze pads. (NOTE: These are not intended to equip us to administer first aid.)

Strategic Planning Session This Week

All CCOP volunteers are highly encouraged to attend the annual Strategic Planning Session to be held Sunday, July 20 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Eureka Valley Rec Center upstairs room, 100 Collingwood Street. The main purpose of this meeting is to gather new ideas from the volunteers to help improve the Patrol. There will also be announcements and demonstrations of some new things.

Patroller Input

Please bring your ideas about these important topics:

Recruiting: The Patrol has a core of dedicated volunteers. Do you have ideas for new ways to bring in members?

Advanced Training: Training of team leaders and the bi-annual re-qualifications of patrollers can take many forms. What are some of the areas you feel should be covered?

Patrols: Are there changes you would like to see in the regular patrols? What about days of the week or time of day? Is there any desire for some patrols to go past midnight?

Mail List: We have begun adding Castro merchants to the newsletter mail list. What are some of the ways we can efficiently collect e-mail addresses?

Newsletter and Website: What improvements would you suggest for these communications vehicles to make them more effective?

Fund Raising: Approximately 40% of our operating expenses are covered through fund raising activities. How can we keep them fun and effective?

New Services

The board has been working on a number of new and improved services and func-

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I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair



I've been thinking about different ways that we can keep our volunteers involved in the continuous success of the Patrol. Most of us have experienced the joy of having random strangers on the street yell out their appreciation for our work, but that alone is not enough. The board started talking about the Strategic Planning Session back in April. A couple of attempts at finding a place to hold the meeting fell through in May and June, so we are now ready to have it in July. I hope to see many of you on the 20th.

The most important part of this meeting is to let the board and the volunteers have a free and open discussion about the various ways we can make the Patrol more effective. There is also the social aspect of spending time with other patrollers who you might have walked with in the past or others you have not yet met.

Let me give a personal "thank you" to all of you who helped with the Pink Saturday patrol. Everything went extraordinarily well. Despite a record number of visitors to this year's Pride celebration, the number of incidents was fewer than last year. The weekend also gave us a chance for some positive publicity on the KTVU (channel 2) news as they covered the various aspects of safety around Pride.

Open Board Positions

We want to add new people to the CCOP board. The board functions a little differently than some boards because Castro Patrol is part of SF Safe. The board members tend to head up one or more projects that keep the group functioning smoothly. Once a project is started, the board member often seeks help from other members. This provides variety for people who want to do more than patrol once or twice a month. Here are some areas needing attention:

- ✓Fund Raising
- ✓Publicity/Gorilla Marketing

- ✓Merchant and Organization Liaison
- ✓Metrics & Statistics
- ✓Social Events & Entertainment

Please let myself or any of the board members know if you would like to become more involved. We meet the 4th Monday of each month, and any non-board volunteer is welcome to attend the meetings.

Affinity Groups

We already have some groups that patrol as a team, representing some other organization. For example, members of the Alexander Hamilton American Legion post have worked together for more than a year and the Triangle Martial Arts Association (TMAA) put their first patrol together in July. We welcome the assembled team to wear armbands or hats to identify their affinity group when patrolling together.

If you are part of an organization that might want to have its own patrol night, please work with them to get new volunteers signed up for the September training session. This can help expand the number of weekly patrols. Let me know if you need ideas or someone to speak about recruiting with your association, company, or club.

Newsletter Subscription

Castro Patrol wants to keep all merchants, organizations, and groups in the Castro neighborhood up to date on what we are doing. Anyone who wants to add themselves to the monthly mailing list for a free copy of *The Patroller* (in PDF format) may add themselves by sending an e-mail to: subscribe@castropatrol.org

If you have received this issue and do not wish to receive future issues, you may remove yourself from the list by e-mailing from the address that received the mailing: unsubscribe@castropatrol.org

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tions. We will introduce or demonstrate the following new services:

Updated Website: Marcelo Vigo will demonstrate a number of improvements made to the Website.

On-Line Scheduling: Marcelo and Damien Ochoa have been developing an on-line tool to simplify the way volunteers sign up for monthly patrols. They will take you through the main functions of this process and let you know when it will go live.

Super Hero Artwork: Chuck Chung has been working with a design group called "Gravity Faggot" to develop new artwork to be used for recruiting. This will soon appear on posters, handouts, the newsletter and other venues.

New Assembly Location: Carlton Paul has graciously extended his home as the gathering point for patrols for nearly 2 years. We are about to move to a commercial location to allow him to enjoy his home without interruption.

Please be ready for a fun session with a high level of involvement and interaction with other volunteers.

Next Patroller Training



Tuesday, 19-SEP-08 7:00 PM

New volunteers should register on-line at least one week in advance at:

<http://www.castropatrol.org/volunteer/>

Encourage groups you are associate with to register 3 or more new volunteers in order to create teams that can patrol together. This new "affinity" program encourages the cross-promotion of CCOP and groups who wish to be part keeping the Castro safe.

Castro Crime by Month from SFPD Website															
Offense	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Average
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Assult	9	18	11	12	14	13	6	18	15	8	8	9	13	14	12.0
Burglary	9	7	6	13	1	7	8	19	6	12	5	10	13	6	8.7
Larceny Theft	20	10	7	14	17	17	19	18	18	14	12	20	18	19	15.9
Theft from Auto	12	16	12	16	15	14	21	18	21	23	19	36	21	17	18.6
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.1
Robbery	2	10	3	4	7	12	5	12	3	4	8	6	11	9	6.9
Stolen Vehicle	6	18	8	12	13	9	10	10	13	10	6	20	15	16	11.9
Total	58	79	47	71	67	73	69	95	76	72	58	101	91	81	74.1

Metrics cover 1/2 mile radius from 18th and Castro Streets via SFPD Website.

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