



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

The Patroller

“Creating a Visible Safety Presence”

Aug/Sep 2008

Community Safety Forum

Let's Keep Our Neighborhood Safe For Everyone

By Scott Wiener, Vice-Chair

On November 6 from 7-9 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Rec Center, several neighborhood organizations, including Castro Patrol, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, Eureka Valley Promotional Association, and Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, will co-sponsor a Community Safety Forum focusing on the Castro and Duboce Triangle. Our neighborhood is an amazing one – vibrant, fun, diverse, and tightly knit – and we have been fortunate to not experience some of the crime and violence that other neighborhoods have seen. But, that doesn't mean that our neighborhood is in a safety bubble or that we shouldn't respond to the crime and violence that are part of living in large city like San Francisco.

Almost two years ago, we formed Castro Community on Patrol after a rash of sexual assaults in the Castro. During the time since then, the Patrol has raised awareness about many community safety issues, from violent crime to auto break-ins, etc. The goal has been to educate, rather than scare the community. It helps the neighborhood remain a safe place for everyone who lives, works, and/or plays here.

As Castro Community on Patrol celebrates its second anniversary, we believe it is important to take stock of where we are, where we should be going, and what we can all do to move in that direction. The forum will focus on a wide variety of issues, from street crime, to the role of SFPD versus the role of community policing, to hate crimes, to emergency preparedness during natural catastrophes, to homelessness. It will be a fluid discussion of the many issues that we, as a neighborhood, need to focus on in order to ensure that this amazing neighborhood remains the unique, diverse, and safe place that it has been for so many years.



We will have a terrific panel of experts in different areas, each of whom will give his or her perspective on community safety in the neighborhood. We encourage people with a stake in the neighborhood to come out, listen, and participate in the discussion. It will be an interesting and productive evening, and we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, contact Scott Wiener at 415-437-9414.

Donating to CCOP

You can make tax-deductible donations through our parent organization at: http://www.sfsafe.org/4ych_donate.htm Click the “Donate” link and include “CCOP” in the description field.

Heroes Wanted!

The Castro Patrol is very excited to release a new series of promotional items using the “Heroes Wanted” theme. The super-hero artwork represents a typical 3-member patrol with one person on the phone, one shining a flashlight, and one with a whistle. The theme is that anybody can be a hero by following the Patrol's formula: *Walk, Watch, Call*.

The artwork will begin to appear on posters, handouts, buttons, t-shirts, etc. as we move into our fall recruitment drive. Board member Chuck Chung worked with a design group called Gravity Faggot to design the artwork to our specifications.



I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair

I have been watching with interest as the Guardian Angels try to bring some sanity to the increasingly violent robberies in Oakland. After they began their patrols, the Chief of Police commented in a news conference that he wasn't sure it was helping because crime had moved from where the Angels were patrolling to other parts of the city. That's more or less the formula of success for the Patrol. Our visibility tends to move trouble away from our neighborhood. Yet, the overall number of crimes continues to increase. The crime statistics reported 18 assaults in July, 5 of which involved a deadly weapon and 2 involving assaults on police officers. There were 16 assaults in August, compared to the average of 12. So, please stay active.

Strategic Planning Results

Several good ideas came out of the two rounds of strategic planning. The ability to increase our numbers involves taking our story to interested groups who may wish to be part of the affinity program. MCC San Francisco (the gay church) is working to make the Patrol part of their connection with the Castro. Recruiting at businesses, non-profits, and community organizations can let us gather several community-minded people at a time. This is much more effective than handing recruitment cards to random people on the street, even though we may still do this from time to time to get safety information and whistles into more hands. Please, think about personal friends you may want to invite or groups that you belong to who may wish to join as part of the affinity program.

Social Events

The planning sessions also focused on creating social events. The vision is having an event each quarter that allows volunteers to get to know each other outside the walking patrols. There will be short training exercises, but the focus will be on getting to know each other in a different setting. Planning for the anniversary celebration in November is under way.

Phone Number Policy

Speaking of meeting each other, we need to be clear about appropriate usage of phone numbers. The patrol sheets now contain the numbers of those scheduled for a patrol to allow contacting someone if they are running late. These numbers are *never* to be used to make personal contact ("dates") unless you have asked for permission to call the other person di-



rectly. If they are reluctant to set up a social meeting, please respect their wishes. If you are being contacted by a volunteer outside the patrol activities in an unwelcome way, please inform a board member so that appropriate action can be taken.

Castro Street Fair

The Board decided to have a booth at the Castro Street Fair on 5-OCT. We will be doing some fund raising by selling buttons and t-shirts. The main goal is to sign up new recruits for training on 15-NOV. Damian will be asking for volunteers to work 2-hour shifts throughout the day.

Website Updates

Past issues of *The Patroller* are now posted on the Website. Click "Volunteers" and then "Newsletter". This lets you review old articles, such as the series on memorizing license plate numbers or the one covering frequently asked questions. Feel free to download the PDF versions and send them to anyone you feel will benefit from the content.

The new on-line scheduling tool is very close to release. Damian will send details the moment it is ready.

Stay-Away Order

After his assault on Officer Lisa Frazier in July, a stay away order was issued against George Miley to stay 300 yards away from intersection of 18th and Castro. This is a circle extending approximately from Douglass to Sanchez Streets on 18th and from 15th to 20th Streets on Castro.

If you see him within this area, immediately contact SFPD.

- Do not approach, he is considered dangerous
- Call 911 and tell the dispatcher you see a dangerous person that assaulted a peace officer and is in violation of a stay away order
- Note the exact address you saw him and be prepared to give the dispatcher your contact information in case a Citizen's Arrest (CA) Statement needs to be signed.

We are not allowed to publish his picture, but it is posted on the equipment locker at the new gathering point. Please re-acquaint yourself with his appearance at the beginning of each patrol.



Mark Your Calendar:

- 18-SEP-08 7:30 PM** Halloween Planning EVRC, 100 Collingwood Street
- 22-SEP-08 8:00 PM** CCOP Board Meeting, Bank of America Community Room.
- 5-OCT-08 11:00 AM-6:00 PM** Castro Street Fair
- 2-NOV-08 6:00 PM-9:00 PM** CCOP 2nd Anniversary Celebration, @ Harvey's, 18th & Castro
- 6-NOV-08 7:00 PM-9:00 PM** Community Safety Forum EVRC, 100 Collingwood Street
- 15-NOV-08 2:00 PM** Volunteer Training, Bank of America Community Room

New Patrol HQ

After camping out in founder Carlton Paul's living room for almost 2 years, the Castro Patrol has moved to a more appropriate location. (Thank you Carlton and your roommates for putting up with us!) Starting with the 22-AUG patrols, the gathering point has moved to the Castro Country Club at 4058 18th Street. Teams will pick up and return patrol equipment there.

We are fine-tuning the way that we manage the access to patrollers. During the first month, the keys were kept at the CCC refreshment counter. Instructions about getting and returning the keys will be included in the e-mail that comes out with each patrol. Part of this involves the varying schedules of the patrols relative to the business hours at CCC.



Patrols now start from the Castro Country Club on 18th Street.