



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

The Patroller

“Creating a Visible Safety Presence”

Sept. 2009

Patrol Assists with Free Concerts Held in Plaza



All three of the free summer concerts held at 17th and Castro had great weather and an appreciative audience. The Patrol provided safety for the audience and performers.

The Castro Patrol provided security for the free concerts sponsored by the Castro CBD in the pedestrian plaza at intersection of 17th, Market and Castro Streets. These were held on the first Saturday of each of the months of July, August, and September.

Each event provided the opportunity to pass out several hundred safety flyers and whistles to the public. The safety work involved providing safe passage for the “F” Muni streetcar, protection of the performers from over-anxious street people, and in one case the dispersal of 2 individuals who were insistent on playing amplified music at the Muni bus stop on Castro Street within earshot of the concert.

New Crime Reports

The Patrol board has begun seeking information about unsolved crimes from several sources to provide patrol volunteers with more information that can help identify possible suspects. This may help the SFPD locate persons or groups involved in various crimes. These reports will be sent out as the information become available, so there may be some weeks with several reports and others with none.

Strictly Confidential

The information often includes descriptions of persons of interest who have not been convicted or even accused of certain crimes. Because of this, these reports are not for distribution to the general public nor to be shared with news media. If a Patroller spots any of the described individuals, the SFPD should be notified and allowed to take appropriate action.

Safety First

Some of the recent crimes involve violent crimes, including some with weapons. The Patroller must always maintain personal safety. This includes taking all actions needed to avoid direct contact with an identified person. Reports to the police might need to be delayed to ensure safety, but the reporting of the person’s recent whereabouts, clothing, direction of travel, mode of transport, etc. may help the police to then locate some of the people responsible for recent crimes.

Castro Street Fair

Patrollers have three different ways to be involved with the fair on 4-OCT. All volunteers are asked to spend a few hours in uniform to help with the day’s events. You may take part in more than one.

CCOP Booth: We will again have a booth to distribute safety whistles and to answer questions about the Patrol. Last year’s booth was a great success. We recently received a new whistle shipment to cover this event.

Treasury Security: CCOP will team up with Triangle Martial Arts Association (TMAA) to move donations from the gates to the bank for accounting. The fair will donate funds to CCOP based on the number of volunteers.

Security During Setup: Jane Warner of Patrol Special is looking for help with the security needed from the time the streets are blocked off in the early morning through the last clean-up at the end of the day. This covers the time period from 3:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Members can contact Jane at 415-559-9955 to discuss details and schedules. The people doing this work will be paid an hourly rate.

Fraudulent Solicitors

Over the past several months, the number of people soliciting signatures and donations has risen to an uncomfortable level. There are often as many as 9 people canvassing Castro Street from Market to 19th Street, and the chances of being accosted by more than one person from the same group are very high.

We have confirmed that at least some of these are legitimate agents of groups such as HRC, Equality California and Greenpeace. However, we have also confirmed that some of these individuals are fraudsters, seeking either money or names for purposes other than the cause being claimed. It is relatively easy to get a t-shirt or fake literature that duplicates the genuine solicitors.

The Patrol began working with the SFPD and the Castro CBD to reduce the fraudulent activities. Beat officer Kate Joshua has arrested one person in August on two occasions and continues to work with the Patrol and other groups to find others.



It's Fun-Fundraising Season



Erik Leve and Brian Gougherty help a Lookout patron select the best mode of delivery for his next shot of Jello.

The first of three fun-fundraisers was held on 13-SEP as part of the "Jock" party at the Lookout Bar in the Castro. There will be a second Lookout event and an evening at the Powerhouse in October.

City Grant Renewed

A large part of the annual funding comes from a grant from the City of San Francisco. This year's grant was in jeopardy until Supervisor Bevan Dufty was able to secure another year of support. The grant is only \$20,000, but brings The City great benefit by providing security for events like the Castro concerts, the protests surrounding Prop. 8, the Pink Saturday party, and the regular neighborhood walking patrols. Without the donated time of the patrol volunteers, The City would either have to find hundred of thousands of dollars in additional overtime pay for police or private security, or else would have to reduce the number of public events.

Local Fundraisers

The City grant covers costs of uniforms, safety whistles and flyers for the public, and a part-time staff person. However, the City money comes with strings, so the Patrol also does independent fund raising to compliment the municipal money for social events, the Castro Street Fair booth, and the anniversary celebration held each November. In this way, tax money is not used for projects that provide the important social aspects that help keep volunteers involved.

Private Donations

Private donations can also be made through our parent organization, SF-SAFE. You can make tax-deductible donations through SF-SAFE at: <http://www.sfsafe.org/get-involved/donate/> Click the "Donate" link and include "CCOP" in the "Designate my donation" field.

Preparedness Works—Are You Ready?

Ken Craig, Training Director and Vice-Chair

Scenes of disaster replay on televisions with numbing regularity: A hurricane blasts through Florida... fire sweeps through the California wildlands... floods destroy a local business district... or a large earthquake hits a city like San Francisco. Individuals, communities and businesses can limit injury and damage and return more quickly to normal operations if they plan ahead. Preparedness works.

While this seems like an obvious statement to make, during the 2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a new report: *Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey*, that offers comprehensive data on the public's thoughts, perceptions, and behaviors related to preparedness and community safety.

The results indicate that 30 percent of Americans have not prepared because they think that emergency responders will help them. Over 60 percent expect to rely on emergency responders in the first 72 hours following a disaster. While government will execute its functions as best it can following a major disaster, recent experiences indicate that every person, business, and community should be prepared to 'go it alone' for a period of six days.

The survey also found that many people who report being prepared have not completed important preparedness activities or do not have a sound understanding of community plans. Of those who perceived themselves to be prepared, 36 percent did not have a household plan, 78 percent had not conducted a home evacuation drill, and 58 percent did not know their community's evacuation routes or emergency assembly areas.

Only 27 percent had taken a CPR or first aid training. Another 14 percent of survey participants indicated they lived with and/or cared for someone with a physical or other disability. Of these individuals, less than 40 percent had taken CPR or first-aid training and only 53% had supplies in their home needed to care for the disabled person.

Practicing response protocols is critical for effective execution. Fewer than half the surveyed individuals (41%) had practiced a workplace evacuation drill, only 14 percent had held a home evacuation drill.

As a Castro Patrol volunteer, are you prepared?

We strongly encourage all of our volunteers to become an involved, trained, and prepared member of the FEMA Citizen Corps movement by getting First Aid & CPR trained, going through the San Francisco Fire Department free Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training and getting involved in your local chapter, connecting with your local communities neighborhood watch, citizens groups, business associations and so on.

FEMA's Citizen Corps grassroots community resilience movement and the Ready.gov awareness campaign work together to actively involve citizens and their communities to better prepare to handle any emergency. 2,400 communities nationwide have created Citizen Corps Councils to strengthen collaboration between government and civic leaders and to educate, train, and involve the public. For more information, visit www.citizen-corps.gov. To learn more about the Ready.gov Campaign, visit www.ready.gov.

To read the survey report, go to <http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtm>.



Mark Your Calendar:

19-SEP-09 2:00 PM–4:00 PM New Volunteer Training, MCC Church, 150 Eureka Street

4-OCT-09 11:00 AM–6:00 PM Castro Street Fair *NOTE: See page 1 for other service opportunities*

11-OCT-09 3:00 PM–7:00 PM Jock Fundraiser, Lookout 3600 16th Street

19-OCT-09 8:00–9:30 PM Board Meeting, Chase Bank Community Room, 2112 15th Street (at Market) *NOTE: New location and day of week.*

23-OCT-09 7:00 PM–Midnight Fund Raiser, Powerhouse 1347 Folsom Street

10-NOV-09 7:00 PM–9:00 PM New Volunteer Training, MCC Church, 150 Eureka Street (Tentative)