



PATROLLER

JULY 2022

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

CHIEF OF PATROL



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(Public Relations)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



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REQUESTS FOR CCOP INCREASE AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD RETURNS TO NORMAL



June is typically one of our busiest months, with multiple requests throughout the period to support community groups and events. This year was no exception, however, unfortunately our low Patroller numbers at present meant we had to decline supporting some of these.

As the bars, businesses, and annual community events return, and as the night-life of the neighborhood continues to grow, CCOP will endeavor to return to our pre-Pandemic volunteer numbers and Patrol deployments. This will, however, take some time and dedicated effort to accomplish.

We are currently working on a Request For Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to advise and assist us in promoting the Patrol through new methods and means. Our prior, more traditional methods of relying on word of mouth, our website, and our Facebook page are simply

no longer as effective as they used to be. A new approach to attracting and retaining volunteers is absolutely necessary if the Patrol is to continue as a safety resource for the Castro.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this position, please email us to request the formal RFP document. We are a fully open and equal opportunity non-profit and this position will be filled on that basis.

SAFETY RESOURCES CHANGING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



For countless years, the Castro relied on the private services of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police to support and supplement the efforts of the SFPD. Sadly we lost our last Patrol Special Officer just before the New Year, ending an era for the neighborhood and leaving many of their clients wondering what would come next.

As is always the case, the safety resources within the neighborhood are constantly changing and adjusting based on funding and what is needed month to month. The same is true right now.

The Castro Community Benefits District – Castro Cares program is a working group comprising a number of community entities who balance services with enforcement. Castro Cares also relied heavily on the Patrol Special Officers, but is now switching gears to leverage new ambassadors more.

The SFPD also have a relatively new program in the neighborhood, SFPD Ambassadors. These are retired former Police Officers who are paid to work in certain areas of the city. They are unarmed, but carry police radio's and naturally have some innate skills in handling many situations.

The San Francisco Fire Department also rolled out some new Street Crisis Response Teams a year or two ago, which are proving very effective and useful for those suffering a mental crisis, for those overdosing, and for unhoused individuals in distress.

Resources and responses will always change, just as needs continue to change.

Patrollers Re-certify in First Aid / CPR / AED



At Castro Patrol we strongly believe in, and support, continuous education and training in a diverse range of subjects to help our Patrol volunteers be more prepared, confident, and capable at all times.

One of the regular certification courses offered free of charge to all Patrollers is the Basic First Aid / CPR / AED training offered this year by the Bay Area Red Cross program. We typically run these courses at least annually, but often try to host them twice a year.

Basic First Aid certification offers a set of skills that are extremely useful for everyone, as you never know when a family member may fall ill or injure themselves. Responding quickly, effectively, and calmly is worth its weight in gold in such moments.

CPR & AED certification teaches the key skills of identifying the symptoms of a heart attack or heart failure, and providing vital life-saving techniques until professional responders arrive. The sooner CPR begins, the better the chances of survival for the patient.

Volunteering as a Patroller with CCOP has many benefits, and FREE First Aid / CPR / AED certification is a valuable one.

SFPD & Community SAFE ZONE Programs



Many years ago, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence launched a "Stop The Violence – Safe Space" program in the Castro, using Pink Triangle signs to identify businesses and places of safety for anyone who felt threatened within the community.

In 2013, the SFPD Chief's Community Advisory Forum, of which CCOP was a part, developed an extension of the Sisters Program called the SFPD LGBT SAFE ZONE that designated all Police Stations as safe zones for members of the LGBTQI

community. This was implemented as many within the community felt they could not trust the Police, and could not report crimes to the police honestly and openly.

In June of this year, the Community Engagement Division of the SFPD launched a new SAFE ZONE program which closely mirrors the Sisters program, but which uses a LGBT rainbow colored police star as its sign. Officers and CCOP volunteers helped explain the program and post the signs in many welcoming businesses in the neighborhood, just in time for PRIDE month.

If you feel unsafe or need help, look for one of these signs for help.

CCOP Provides Training To CBD Personnel



At CCOP, we believe strongly in working closely and collaboratively with all community organizations who share the same overall goals as ourselves, namely improving the general safety of the neighborhood.

We have worked closely and constructively with the Castro Community Benefits District from the very beginning, and we sit as a member on the Castro Cares program, bringing our own unique insights and knowledge to the table.

As an integral part of our Community Engagement and Training (CET) program, we are always happy to offer support and training to others, and have done so many times over the years.

We were therefore happy to offer some basic "conflict de-escalation" training for the CBD clean-team personnel who are often the first to see things develop in the neighborhood. Using the same training and concepts we provide to our own Patrollers, CCOP Chief Carey was happy to provide a one hour class through Zoom.

We hope to partner with the CBD again to offer some additional training for their personnel in the near future.

Active Shooter And Terrorist Incident Training



It is a sad fact of life in America today, that Active Shooter incidents occur way too often. Traditional radical terrorism incidents are less common in the United States, but as 9/11 attests they are very possible.

The Castro, as an internationally recognized symbol for LGBTQI+ rights and freedom is ALWAYS a potential target for either a shooter or a terrorist related incident.

CCOP has provided training directly to individuals and

businesses for many years, and we have partnered in the past with the SFPD to bring training and information to the Castro Merchants and Night businesses in the area.

For businesses, and especially more likely targets such as religious institutions, healthcare facilities, and bars and dance clubs, having a solid response plan, training all staff members, establishing effective and instant communications, and practicing regularly is essential.

CCOP is available to meet with and train any neighborhood organization or business, in close cooperation with SF-SAFE and SFPD. Contact us if you would like to participate.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Deputy Chief Ken Craig,



Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service (L) and Chief Greg Carey, Castro Community On Patrol (R)

ACTIVE SHOOTER / MASS SHOOTING INCIDENTS

Sadly, these incidents are all too common in the United States, with more than 250 recorded this year alone to date. Castro, as a world-renowned neighborhood for the LGBTQIQ+ community could become a target at some point.

Knowing what to do, and when to do it, is an essential survival skill when faced with an active shooter or mass shooting / terrorist incident.

Shock, disbelief, and paralyzing uncertainty are common responses to a sudden, scary, and life-threatening incident. Having a "game plan" that you have practiced frequently will help you to mitigate the fear and employ your "game plan" steps.

Such incidents typically happen quickly, and without forewarning for those involved in the event.

The following concepts and steps may help you prepare, pre-plan, and develop your own "game plan" should the worst ever happen.

STAY ALERT:

When out and about in public don't be paranoid but remain alert and aware of who, and what, is around you. Don't limit your awareness by blasting music through two ear buds, or getting lost in your cell phone.

Simple awareness can often help you avoid a trip, an injury, an accident, or becoming a victim in a mass shooting or terrorist incident.

RUN:

If you can, run to a safe place well away from the incident.

Leave personal belongings behind, as seconds could count.

Try to select a route that does not take you over large open ground areas.

Keep your hands visible to any Law Enforcement resources arriving.

Once at a safe place, call 9-1-1 to report the incident.

HIDE:

Hide if you cannot run.

Lock yourself in a secure room, barricade the door, and block any windows.

Put as many barriers between you and the hallway and the door as possible.

Turn off lights, silence your cellphone, and remain as quiet as possible.

Remain in place until you are CERTAIN Law Enforcement has arrived.

FIGHT:

If you don't have time to run, or hide, or the suspect breaks into your hiding place, then FIGHT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT AND WITH ANY WEAPON YOU CAN FIND UNTIL THE SUSPECT IS NEUTRALIZED.

Use fire extinguishers, chairs, hot coffee, whatever is immediately at hand.

Strike as hard as possible at the suspects head, hands, and knees.

TREAT:

If you, or someone close, is injured, provide life-saving treatment as soon as possible until medical assistance arrives.

Stem any bleeding by packing wounds with anything absorbent. Apply pressure to bleeding wounds on top of the packing.

Reassure any injured and try to keep them calm and warm if possible.



Castro Patrol works to bring this [ACTIVE SHOOTER](#) training and the concepts it teaches to members of the LGBTQIQ+ community, and to clubs and businesses in the neighborhood on a regular basis. Contact us if you would like to set up a training class for your building, business, or location.

Review our [Community Safety information](#) under the RESOURCES section of our website for this, and other general safety guidance and 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 Raphael 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.

PG&E – Gas Leak / Downed Power Line
1-800-743-5000 or 9-1-1

San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone
415-416-6436 <https://sfsafe.org>

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

Castro Community On Patrol
415-ASK-CCOP INFO@CastroPatrol.org

STRUT San Francisco
415-581-1600 (Sexual health services, PrEP, HIV testing)

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

3 HOURS A MONTH MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE



CASTRO COMMUNITY ON PATROL NEEDS 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), a program of San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone (SF-SAFE), seeks new volunteers to help patrol the Castro neighborhood on a monthly basis.

CCOP has successfully patrolled the Castro neighborhood for over 15 years, deploying teams of three unpaid volunteer Patrollers for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves.

Our patrols offer assistance, information, guidance, and support to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Castro, interacting with thousands of people every year. We are “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.

CCOP also assists other community groups to make their events successful, and we are often a part of the developing history of the LGBTQQI+ community. In the past we’ve assisted at PROP8 rallies, Pulse Nightclub memorials, Harvey Milk annual events, and many others. We also assist at regular community events by providing safety teams to events such as the Sisters Easter in the Park, SF PRIDE safety events, Castro Street Fair, CBD Music in the Plaza, SFAF Santa Skivvies Run, PRC Holiday Dinner and many more.

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

VOLUNTEER WITH US NOW

WWW.CASTROPATROL.ORG

“SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT”