



PATROLLER

AUGUST 2022

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

CHIEF OF PATROL



Chf. Greg Carey
(Public Relations)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Ken Craig
(Volunteer Training & Certification)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Brian Hill
(Information Technology)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Kyle Wong
(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

NEW & RETURNING PATROL VOLUNTEERS



As we move through the next few months, we are looking forward to welcoming new volunteers to the Patrol, as well as hopefully encouraging a few former Patrollers to return to “the streets of San Francisco.”

We are still offering our core training remotely for new volunteers, a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and a format that is more flexible and accessible for many prospective new volunteers. After reading our Training Manual, new volunteers schedule a 2-hour on-line Zoom training class to certify as a Trainee Patroller (TPtr.) They are then eligible to sign-up for patrol deployments in order to accumulate the four supervised patrols to advance to full Patroller (Ptr.) rank with us. Additional training and guidance is provided during those four supervised patrols to help round out their awareness, knowledge, and skills.

Former Patrollers who did not maintain their certification

during the Pandemic can also recertify through the 2-hour on-line Zoom training class, and we can schedule those on a flexible schedule to suit your availability.

We will soon be re-vamping our recruitment and outreach efforts to attract more volunteers and re-introduce our Patrol to the Castro neighborhood. The long two years of the Pandemic have, we suspect, resulted in a lack of awareness of our Patrol and the programs we provide.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in Patrolling with us, or supporting our objectives, please have them contact us. Our goal is to increase our Patroller volunteer numbers by just twenty-five new volunteers before the end of the 2022. If you can help us accomplish this by referring friends or sharing our contact information on your own social media outlets, we would very much appreciate the assistance and support.

OUR FULL SUITE OF PROGRAMS



We deliver several KEY programs to help improve and enhance the “fabric of safety” for the neighborhood including:

- **COPS – Community On Patrol Service** which trains, certifies, and deploys volunteers (Patrollers) on regular neighborhood patrols.
- **CRESt – Community Response, Engagement, and Support** which brings emergent volunteers together with our trained Patrollers to assist other community groups with their special events.
- **CET – Community Education and Training** which develops training classes and outreach materials on a number of safety topics. This program includes our always popular FREE Beginners Self-Defense Classes.
- **CBW – Castro Business Watch** which aligns member businesses to share challenges, information, and exchange ideas.

We accomplish an incredible amount, given our overall very small organizational numbers. Contact us if you would like to participate in any of these programs.

FREE Community Self-Defense Classes To Resume



Knowledge is power, and our safety information and brochures, covering a range of different topics, is intended to provide you with some general guidance on keeping yourself, your family, and your loved ones safe and out of harms way as much as possible.

We strongly recommend that EVERYONE undertake some self-defense training. In our opinion, you can NEVER have too much knowledge and training, but you can certainly have too little when the proverbial "chips are down."

Recognizing how important self-defense training is, CCOP has provided FREE classes on a range of topics to a variety of different community organizations since our founding, including our very popular three hour Beginners Self-Defense class.

As with everything, the COVID-19 Pandemic forced the suspension of these in-person classes and the current Monkeypox outbreak will impact how such classes are provided, but we are now planning to resume these classes before the end of the year.

Keep an eye on our website, our Facebook page, and our Instagram page for details once we establish a date and location. We hope to see you there.

First Aid / CPR / AED Certification For Patrollers



If you missed our last First Aid / CPR / AED / Narcan training and certification class for CCOP Patrollers, don't worry. We are working to establish another class before the end of 2022 which will be made available FREE of charge to all current CCOP Patrollers and volunteers.

This will be a "blended learning" course where you will complete 75% of the training on-line by remote learning, then the remaining 25% for formal certification during the in-person class. Certification is provided by the Red Cross.

We will also open up this class to our Community Education and Training program AED Partner staff members. Our AED Partner program placed an AED in partner businesses in the Castro Neighborhood, which are accessible by any member of the public. We have placed two AED's at present, and are planning to place two more AED's before the end of 2022.

As a volunteer with CCOP, particularly as a Patroller, we greatly appreciate your time, dedication, support, and contribution to the overall "fabric of safety" in the neighborhood. We are very happy to provide this nationally recognized certification for FREE as a small thank you to our volunteers and partners who are essential in helping us meet our goals.

Chinatown's United Peace Collaborative Program



As a neighborhood volunteer safety organization that has been active for more than fifteen years now, we regularly receive inquiries from people in other neighborhoods who are interested in copying the CCOP model.

While we are always willing and eager to assist those other neighborhoods, and we have welcomed some representatives to our training and Patrols so they could see what we do first hand, in reality the time,

effort, commitment, and funding necessary to form and maintain a program such as CCOP is enormous, and none of those other San Francisco neighborhoods were successful in setting up a sister/brother group to date.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic however, increased assaults and batteries on members of our extensive Asian community prompted the formation of a volunteer safety group known as United Peace Collaborative.

We reached out during COVID to offer our assistance and support to UPC, and will collaborate and cooperate with any similar volunteer safety patrol organizations that form within the city. Let us know how we can help.

The VITAL Importance Of Reporting ALL Crimes



There is a very unfortunate perception and refrain that we hear time and time again when asking victims of crime if they filed a Police report.

"No, they don't care."
 "No, they won't do anything."
 "No, it's not important enough."

Some reluctance to have any contact with Police is legitimately the result of previous negative interactions with Officers in other countries, States, or towns. Some is based on the victims' legal status in the United States.

These are all absolutely legitimate reasons to be concerned about filing a Police report, but we want to encourage you to report ALL crimes, especially if you are the victim of crime.

San Francisco Police Department is committed to treating EVERYONE who is the victim of crime, respectfully, responsibly, and courteously. Police can only investigate reported crimes, so without a report, Police will not be aware of the incident and will not be able to respond to it.

If you are concerned about how Police will treat you when filing a report, reach out to us and we will work with community partners and SFPD to arrange a safer and more comfortable environment for you to file your report.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Deputy Chief Ken Craig, CPS



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

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES & TIPS FOR EVERYONE

At Castro Patrol, we strongly advocate that EVERYONE should participate regularly in self-defense training classes, to provide you with some tools, techniques, and concepts to reduce your chances of becoming a victim and increasing your chances of surviving an encounter if the “worst” ever happens.

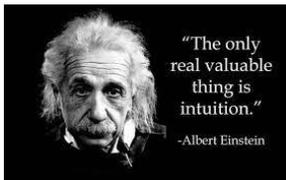
Self-defense training and awareness is not about becoming paranoid and feeling like you can never leave your home safely. In fact, it is quite the reverse. Self-defense training will hopefully help you become a little more alert, aware of your surroundings, prepared by planning ahead a little. These steps will help you to avoid problems, summon assistance quickly, and in the very worst of situations, hopefully react in a way that allows you to escape without injury.

Below are some of our General Safety Tips, developed by our partner safety organization **Community Patrol Service (CPS)**.



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.



TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS:

If anything doesn't look right, doesn't seem right, doesn't smell right, or doesn't feel safe and normal – TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS and avoid “it” if at all possible. Take an alternative route, even if it adds a mile or more to your journey if it allows you to avoid whatever “it” is. It is better to be wrong about “it” but safe, than to ignore your instincts.



TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED WITH YOU:

When leaving home, take only what you absolutely need i.e. don't carry ALL of your credit cards if you don't expect to use them all. Take only what you need for your activities that day. Try not to wear and display valuable items in public places, as this may encourage opportunistic thieves to “try their luck.”



GO WITH FRIENDS – WALK IN THE LIGHT:

Groups are generally less likely to be targeted than individuals, so if you must travel late at night or into unknown areas, try to travel with one or more friends. Stay in busy, well populated, and well-lit areas whenever possible. If possible, take a Taxi or rideshare service if you must travel late and night and don't have friends to travel with.



REPORT ALL CRIMES OR SUSPICIONS:

If you are the victim of a crime, call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe to report the incident to Police and summon assistance to you. Provide a statement to Police as soon as you can, as you will remember more details in the immediate aftermath of the incident. Be willing to press charges and go to court to give evidence.

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.

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

Mental Health Services For Everyone
9-8-8

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)

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

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.

JOIN US TODAY, AND HELP US BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

WWW.CASTROPATROL.ORG

"SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT"