



PATROLLER

SEPTEMBER 2022

Newsletter for the Patrollers, volunteers, 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)

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DChf. Brian Hill
(Information Technology)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Kyle Wong
(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

A PERSPECTIVE ON PATROLLING

By Greg Carey, Chief of Patrol



As the world emerges from more than two years of COVID, Castro Patrol finds the need to rebuild our volunteer base. We are lucky that we did not lose any volunteers to COVID itself, but there were illnesses, accidents, changes of employment or priorities that reduced the number people with time to devote to help keep the Castro safe. We recently welcomed a few new volunteers and have a few previous Patrollers come back to help, but need more to continue our important work.

Our primary purpose is helping people who live, work, visit and play in the neighborhood enjoy it safely. The most important is our focus as "first observers" who can provide assistance or first aid when needed but more importantly make the call when professionals are needed. We also spend most of the city grant that keeps us running to provide literature, training and safety items such

as whistles to the public. These are our usual services but there is a more important reason to keep CCOP active.

I have been involved with CCOP for 15 years. Previously I was involved with queer activism in the Midwest for 14 years. The queer community has been the lightning rod for political and religious extremists for decades and this is unlikely to improve in the current political climate. We sharpened our focus on outside threats during the Prop 8 marriage equality battle from 2008 through 2012. We were reminded what one person intending harm could do with the Florida Pulse nightclub shooting which killed 49 people in 2016. We had a closer call when the Patriot Prayer white supremacist group threatened to send a team of armed militia members to the Castro in 2017. In these and other cases, our credibility with City government let us heighten our awareness and prepare a response that kept the neighborhood safe. We worked with Rev. Diana Wheeler in 2020 to produce a training video to explain how to respond to religious extremists who sometimes come into the Castro to harass people about the sexual orientation they were born with.

https://youtu.be/-xFk_9CbnHI

Please consider whether you or some of your friends can devote 3 hours a month to help keep the Castro safe.

Send an email to info@castropatrol.org to get started in becoming a new helper and we will arrange a time to present the original training workshop.



9-8-8 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE

California launched this new Statewide crisis hotline in July of 2022, designed to connect people in need with a trained counselor who can refer them to resources.

The number is 24/7/365 and available to ANYONE.

Individuals feeling emotional distress, or feeling suicidal, can call 9-8-8.

This is a much needed and vital additional resource which is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FREE First Aid / CPR / AED For Patrollers



We have set up our next Red Cross Adult First Aid / CPR / AED and NARCAN certification training class, open to all current CCOP Patrollers and Trainee Patrollers.

The class will take place on Saturday October 1, 2022 from 2 PM to 5:30 PM and will include an on-line blended learning portion that must be successfully completed before the class, and an in-person testing portion class led by Deputy Chief Kyle Wong, KCCO.

As active Patrollers with CCOP, we encourage you to re-certify annually, as

these are skills we use often, but they are also skills that deteriorate quickly when not practiced regularly.

This training would normally cost individuals around \$130 per person, however CCOP will cover the costs in full for active Patrollers who will have priority access to the class.

As a Patroller with CCOP, we greatly appreciate your time, dedication, support, and contribution to the overall "fabric of safety" in the neighborhood. This FREE training is just one of many benefits of your involvement with CCOP. Secure your spot today by signing up on-line through the CCOP website.

This class is unfortunately not open to the public.

Castro Street Fair 2022, Volunteer To Assist Us



The annual Castro Street Fair arts event will take place as usual on the first **Sunday of October, 2022**. This is always a fun, busy, and interesting street fair right in the heart of the Castro neighborhood.

CCOP has been invited by CSF organizers to participate as a beneficiary organization once again, in our historically important role in support of the fair, and we are very excited and proud to return.

With this said, we really need to secure at least 12

Patrollers and/or community volunteers to accomplish our mission at CSF.

We are therefore asking all Patrollers to commit to the Castro Street Fair from 12 noon to 6 PM to help us accomplish this important function successfully for CSF. Patrollers can sign up on-line through the CCOP website.

Patrollers are also welcome and encouraged to invite spouses or friends to volunteer with CCOP at CSF. Simply email us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org with the volunteers full name, email, and phone #.

We will provide water and snacks throughout the event for all volunteers and pizza later in the afternoon.

SFPD Officer Numbers & Response Challenges



As most people are already only too well aware, the San Francisco Police Department is currently about 25% understaffed. Of a required minimum of 2,182 uniformed Officers to meet the needs of the City, the department is short by 525 uniformed Officers.

Some of this shortfall is due to lack of City funding to host enough Police Academy classes in the past. Some is due to normal retirements. Some was exacerbated by COVID-19 and some Officers reassessing their life priorities. A huge reason is

the significant difficulty in attracting and retaining new recruits, despite offering some of the best salaries and opportunities on the West Coast.

This significant shortfall in Officers naturally results in a diminished ability for the department to respond to some incidents, and means compulsory overtime for many Officers to fill gaps in coverage.

Sadly, it seems that current cultural attitudes are quite negative towards law enforcement as a valued and worthwhile career, which makes recruitment of young Officers very challenging at this time. Even when recruitment is successful, it takes about two years to train and prepare a fully fledged Officer.

Changes In Policy At SF District Attorney



New San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins has initiated some new policy changes to prosecute drug dealers and revoked many former misdemeanor plea offers for Fentanyl dealers.

These changes will hopefully have a significant and immediate impact in mitigating the "open sale" of drugs on city streets, and will impose greater penalties for dealers.

Since 2020, nearly 1,500 people died of drug overdoses throughout the city.

"The lethality of fentanyl presents a different challenge, and we must immediately change course," said Jenkins.

In 2018, then DA Gascon oversaw at least 90 drug-dealing convictions, however the prior DA Boudin did not secure a single conviction for dealing fentanyl in all of 2021. This lack of prosecution undoubtedly emboldened and increased the "open sale" of drugs and contributed to the overdose deaths.

We are encouraged by this change in policy, and recognize that it will empower the Police to arrest dealers with more hope that they will face substantial consequences for their conduct, rather than being released to re-offend.

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)

SAFE SPACE, SAFE ZONE, & SAFE PLACE PROGRAMS

In early 2009 the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence approached CCOP with a request that we help them to re-launch their **SAFE SPACE** program, which is designed to offer a sanctuary space for members of the public who need medical or law enforcement assistance. The **SAFE SPACE** signs featuring a prominent Pink Triangle were placed in the windows of businesses throughout the Castro neighborhood, visually offering a safe space where anyone could shelter until first responders or other resources arrive.

CCOP was very happy to partner with the Sisters on this important safety project, and we held a number of sign distribution events to encourage businesses participate and place the signs prominently in their businesses. CCOP continues to promote the **SAFE SPACE** program by distributing new signs to businesses when their old ones fade from the sun or are damaged.

The **SAFE SPACE** program was the first of three safety initiatives conceived and promoted by a community collaboration between CCOP and the San Francisco Police



Department.

In February of 2013, the San Francisco Police Department adopted the "**LGBT SAFE ZONE**" initiative, a concept born from the SFPD Chiefs LGBT Community Advisory Forum. The **LGBT SAFE ZONE** designates SFPD District Police Stations as safe zones for LGBTQQI+ community members in crisis or facing imminent danger.

The program was designed to reinforce the Police role as guardians to the public and ensure that all members of the LGBTQQI+ community who seek assistance at our stations are treated with care, respect, and dignity. All ten SFPD District Stations display the **LGBT SAFE ZONE** Rainbow Star in their lobbies, and align with the goals and objectives of the program.



Castro Patrol was a founding member, and took the Chairperson position on the SFPD Chiefs LGBT Community Advisory Forum for many years. In this role we were instrumental in chaperoning and championing this program into reality with the full support of the Chief, his command staff, and all District Station Captains and Officers.

Many LGBTQQI+ community members still harbor concerns and fears about reporting crimes, assaults, and domestic violence incidents against them, as they are unsure how the Police Officers taking their report or details may dismiss or misunderstand their lifestyle and circumstances. CCOP encouraged ALL community members to report ALL crimes at ALL times. Realizing concerns still remain, despite the LGBT SAFE ZONE program, we encourage anyone who needs to file a report who has such concerns to contact us directly at INFO@CastroPatrol.org and we will work to either accompany you, or have a trusted community member present when you file your report or are interviewed by Officers.



In early 2022, the San Francisco Police Department expanded the "**LGBT SAFE ZONE**" to include the "**SAFE PLACE**" program. This city-wide program mimics the goals of the original **SAFE SPACE** program in the Castro neighborhood, and uses a Rainbow Star sign with the banner "**REPORT HATE CRIMES.**"

All three programs help to make the city a little safer for everyone who lives, works, plays, or visits the City in general, and the Castro neighborhood in particular. If you are a business within the Castro and you would like to display a **SAFE SPACE** / **SAFE PLACE** sign and provide temporary sanctuary for anyone who needs it, please contact us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org. If you would like to participate outside of the Castro, please contact the SFPD Community Engagement Division at SFPDcommunityRelations@sfgov.org,

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”