



# PATROLLER

June 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  
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(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

## **CCOP RETURNS TO EVENING PATROLS**



COVID-19 significantly impacted CCOP, severely limiting the patrols we could deploy, and the services we could provide for much of the COVID period.

We did assist the San Francisco Health Department in the early days of the Pandemic by distributing social distancing posters around the Castro, when they didn't have enough staff to accomplish this task. Otherwise, we mostly reverted to remote meetings and offering email support and guidance.

Into the second half of 2021 as Delta began to diminish, we supported a number of community demonstration and march events, but the Castro nightlife had not returned so evening patrols did not make sense for us.

Now, as we begin to ease out of the Omicron wave, we are finally returning to our regular late-night patrols in the Castro. The neighborhood is still very

quiet compared to pre-pandemic visitors, but getting our Patroller "boots on the ground" helps us to reconnect with the community, the door staff at the bars and the business employees.

Sadly, we lost a lot of volunteers through moving away, injuries, or just life changes during the Pandemic, so we're really low on volunteers and as a result we're focused diligently on outreach to find new community minded individuals to join us as new Trainees. We welcomed three trainees in May, and we hope to encourage more people to join us as we move through the remainder of this year. If you have considered volunteering with us, or know someone who may be interested, please sign up for training. We'd LOVE to have you with us.

Despite not actively patrolling during the Pandemic, we did work throughout the period on solidifying our connections and collaborations with other community groups and efforts. These many valuable relationships help us keep a finger on the proverbial pulse of the neighborhood, and they help us offer guidance, suggestions, and support where appropriate.

As noted later in this newsletter, we purchased and supplied two new AED devices, placing them in two neighborhood stores for use by anyone who needs them. This is a long-term community emergency response effort, and in support of this we are inviting the staff at both locations to undertake Adult First Aid / CPR / and AED training and certification which we will pay for. This will help provide some trained and capable first aid people who may be critical in the minutes before first responders arrive, or in the worst case large-scale disaster.

We are also working to resume our extremely popular and valuable Community Beginners Self-Defense Class which offers concepts and techniques to assess growing threats and respond appropriately. These classes are always very well attended, and always receive glowing accolades from attendees, so we are eager to resume them to benefit everyone.

As we provide these classes free of charge, we are looking for suitable physical locations where we can host the classes on a regular basis. Keep your eyes on our website and Facebook and Instagram page and we will announce the dates and times.

## Castro Patrol Celebrated 15 Years of Service



We marked our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November of 2021 at “The Academy” on Market Street with an intimate event attended by Patrollers, supporters, and their spouses.

Due to COVID-19 it was a smaller event than normal, but California State Senator, Scott Wiener attended to present us with a beautiful certificate of appreciation, and San Francisco Supervisor Raphael Mandelman, also attended to present us with a Certificate from the Board of Supervisors.

Both Senator Wiener and Supervisor Mandelman are former Patrollers with Castro Patrol which made their attendance and presentations all the more appreciated.

Castro Patrol presented certificates and recognition to a number of individuals and groups that we work with regularly within the community, such as the San Francisco Patrol Special Police and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended, and all who have supported us or volunteered with us through the last fifteen years.

We are eager to see what the next chapter, post COVID, will hold for Castro Patrol.

## SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT



There are MANY challenges faced by the Castro and Duboce Triangle neighborhoods at present, with reduced staffing at SFPD, a slow economic return from the COVID pandemic, and many businesses closing in the area.

It is undeniable that a general safety concern is heightened at the moment, often exacerbated by relatively isolated incidents, such as the Walgreens and Sunglasses stores

- gang-burglaries and reported batteries in the area.

The Pandemic also resulted in more people living on the streets, while fewer residents and visitors were “out and about.” All of these factors, and more, leave many feeling unsure and unsafe in the neighborhood.

Castro Patrol continues to work “in this space” by supporting and assisting both Governmental and community entities working to enhance and improve safety, such as the Castro CBD, Castro Merchants, the SFPD Ambassadors program, and the SFPD Street Crisis Response Team.

Get involved, volunteer, and help to make a difference.

## Castro AED’s Help Make Things A Little Safer



Seconds can literally mean the difference between life and death when someone is experiencing a heart attack.

Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) devices can provide critical care in the seconds and minutes following a heart attack, and before the professional responders arrive. Most Government facilities, and many large public spaces have AED devices available in the event of an emergency for public use.

Castro Patrol recognized that there were few AED devices in the Castro neighborhood, and those became unavailable later at night when facilities closed for the evening.

To mitigate this gap, and provide AED devices to the public “most of the time” in the neighborhood, we worked with two local businesses, Orphan Andy’s on 17<sup>th</sup> at Castro, and Oz Pizza on Castro at 18<sup>th</sup> to provide and install AED devices in both locations. The devices are available to ANYONE who needs it.

We are hoping to purchase and deploy a few more devices to offer better coverage along Market Street also. If you have a location willing to host one, let us know.

## Renters Rights & Sisters Easter In The Park



We were happy to provide a small safety team to assist at the “Renters Rights” event which took place at Harvey Milk Plaza in March. The event was very well attended by members of the public and the press.

Civil Rights activist Cleve Jones spoke, as well as many Government representatives at the rally which filled up most of the Plaza. Many attendees expressed their thanks for our presence which is always very much appreciated.



We were happy to provide a small safety team in support of the long-awaited return of the annual Sisters Easter In The Park event in April.

Hosted in their inimitable and unique style, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence returned to Dolores Park for this annual, fun, irreverent, and extremely popular free event.

SFPD, SF Park Rangers, and EMT’s were also on hand, but as always it was a safe and fun event with no problems at all.

# 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)

At Castro Patrol the motto we live by and have promoted over the last fifteen years, since our beginnings in late 2006, "**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**" is not merely a catchy advertising phrase. It is literally our core belief and our guiding principle in all that we do. Just as the phrase "It takes a village" suggested the need for a communal and coordinated approach, we see SAFETY in precisely the same way. It takes us ALL to improve and enhance safety, for everyone.

From early in our existence, Castro Patrol has worked to bring that motto into reality, by collaborating with other governmental departments and community groups, by developing and distributing safety education to the businesses and general public, by offering FREE self-defense classes for residents, and by deploying regular uniformed safety patrols. All of these various efforts are our way of connecting all parts of the community in the common purpose of enhancing and advancing safety in the Castro and Duboce Triangle neighborhoods.

If you're receiving, or reading, this newsletter, YOU have a vital role in this communal effort. We encourage you to GET UP and do something:

## LOOK UP:

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 earbuds, or getting lost in your cell phone.

Simple awareness can often help you avoid a trip, an injury, an accident, or becoming a victim.



## SPEAK UP:

If you see something that is not "right" say something. This is the Harvey Milk whistle concept! If one person speaks up, it can often be ignored. If ten people speak up to say something is not "right" that tends to be more impactful. As a community, we need to speak up more and be willing to follow through if needed.



## CALL UP:

**MAKE THAT CALL** when you see something that needs to be addressed, whether 9-1-1 or the non-emergency 415-553-0123 or 3-1-1.

Too many people leave it to "someone else" and no-one ends up calling.

Be willing to "get involved" by making that call. You may just save a life, or a few lives by doing so.



## TRAIN UP:

Attend any training provided by the various governmental and community organizations offered. Training will offer you ideas and techniques you may not be aware of yet, and it can improve your confidence and ability to respond when needed. You can NEVER know TOO MUCH, but you can certainly know too little.



## STEP UP:

Get involved and become "part of the solution." Volunteer with any of the many organizations that interest you. Donating a few hours of your time each month, if everyone else does the same, contributes a HUGE benefit overall to the community at large. Find something you love, and volunteer regularly.



Castro Patrol works diligently to ensure information, advice, guidance, and resources are shared equally with everyone in the community. We all benefit by working together for the common good.

As we enter PRIDE month, we hope you will consider GETTING UP to something positive for the community at large. Whatever makes sense for you, and whatever appeals to you, every little bit helps.

# 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](http://WWW.CASTROPATROL.ORG)

“SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT”