



# PATROLLER

MARCH 2023

**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)

### Return Of Our Popular Self-Defense Classes



Knowledge is power and our extremely popular and FREE community Self-Defense beginners class offers a wealth of knowledge, guidance, suggestions, techniques, and ideas to help individuals protect themselves, their family, and their loved ones.

The three-hour training class which is open to ANYONE of 18 years or older provides a graduated thought process to help identify possible risks, and take appropriate defensive actions. As the risk escalates, the defensive actions grow at pace. The primary objective is to avoid physical defense, but if all else fails the class offers some simple yet extremely effective techniques that anyone can use.

These classes were suspended throughout the COVID-19 and Monkeypox impacts, but we are working to schedule these classes within the community in the next month or so. Watch our website for more details.

### Active Shooter Training For The Public



As much as we dearly wish this training was not needed, recent shootings and increasing threats and rhetoric targeting the LGBTQ+ community reinforce the need for everyone to understand this very real threat, and to have some training and concepts of what to do if they encounter an active shooter.

We presented two extremely successful Active Shooter classes focused on bars, clubs, and businesses which provided very specific concepts and resources in those areas.

In the next month or two, we will now pivot to provide Active Shooter training focused on individual community members. The class will be very low-impact and entirely lecture based. It will offer guidance and suggestions on what to do if you find yourself in one of the worst situations possible. Watch our website for more details.

### Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence Fundraiser



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are icons in San Francisco, and among its more recognizable ambassadors. The Sisters promulgate joy and exiate stigmatic guild on a daily basis. While their outward presentation as queer and trans nuns may be colorful and outrageous, their mission is serious. They stand up and speak out for human rights, expose bigotry and complacency and make the world a better, safer, and more joyful place for everyone.

**“The Saints Come Marching In”** is a benefit for the Sisters to raise funds heling them to continue their mission and work. Join the Sisters and those they have “Sainted” at The Edge Bar, 4149 18<sup>th</sup> Street in San Francisco on **Sunday March 19** from **4 PM** to **7 PM**.

This will be a fun, festive event including performers, raffle prizes and surprises for an excellent cause.

# SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Chief Ken Craig, KCTO, KCCO,  
St.SPCB



Chief Ken Craig,  
Community Patrol Service

## COLLABORATION & COOPERATION IS KEY

The many challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community throughout the United States at times often seem overwhelming and daunting. This is as true today, as it was when Castro Patrol was first founded in 2006 in response to serious sexual assaults in the Castro neighborhood.

Initially, Castro Patrol was viewed with some suspicion by many within the LGBTQ+ community, and by those within the formal Law Enforcement and government agencies, where our patrol activities would take place. We were an “unknown” entity, formed in reaction to a serious threat, and no-one really knew in those early days what

our focus, our long-term mission, and our overall objectives were. Caution was certainly prudent and understood by those of us in leadership positions with the Patrol during those early formative days.

Traditionally, there has been a long and deeply troubled history of persecution, vilification, mistrust, and outright hatred at times between government, law enforcement, and the LGBTQ+ community. Much of this mistrust of “officialdom” was based on real world experiences suffered by many community members and shared through stories and discussions. Governments were vehemently anti-LGBTQ+ for centuries around the world, enacting laws, policies, and social constructs that deliberately targeted and persecuted the LGBTQ+ community in unconscionable and horrific ways.

It is therefore not uncommon for the LGBTQ+ community, and individuals, to have an instant distrust of all government and law enforcement officials and entities, especially from those who have personal negative experiences in the past. The same was true of many within government and law enforcement who were unsure of Castro Patrol and our “political” motivations and goals. Would we be rabidly anti-law enforcement, making their job and function much more difficult, complex, and convoluted.

As one of the initial founders of Castro Community On Patrol, I was quickly tasked with developing the volunteer training model as a result of my former policing experience in the UK and my martial arts background in leading Triangle Martial Arts Association in the Castro at the time. It was immediately apparent to me that the mistrust, uncertainty, and lack of effective communication at all levels of government, law enforcement, and community organization was a potentially huge impediment to the success of the Patrol, and to the overall safety and security of the Castro and the community. There were individuals within government and law enforcement who were working hard to bridge these gaps, and honestly sometimes they were more like Grand Canyon chasms at times, but I perceived a vital role for our Patrol as working diligently and consistently to build bridges and begin to overcome these limitations.

In the fifteen plus years Castro Community On Patrol has served the Castro neighborhood and the LGBTQ+ community, we have forged solid, respectful, collaborative, and supportive relationships with all levels of Federal, State, and Local government and law enforcement entities, while maintaining equally strong, respectful, collaborative, and supportive relationships with the many community organizations and individuals we have grown to know and work closely in support of.

# SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

## CONT:

These relationships certainly took time to grow and develop. They took careful attention, and at times required delicate communication and understanding, but these relationships have been vitally important on many occasions for the safety of the neighborhood and the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

Castro Patrol initially developed close ties to the LGBTQ+ liaison officers assigned to the Castro neighborhood through Mission Police Station. We also developed equally positive ties with the non-profit San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone (SF-SAFE) who agreed to act as our fiscal sponsor, and with then Supervisor Bevan Dufty who represented the Castro at the Board of Supervisors. From this small beginning, we grew our outreach, connections, and reputation by connecting with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, and the San Francisco Sheriff's Office. As the Captains who commanded Mission Police Station moved up the ranks through the San Francisco Police Department, we maintained those relationships over the years.

As our reputation and credibility grew, we were invited to participate in the SFPD Chief's LGBT Community Advisory Forum and SFDA LGBT Forum. This led to strong connections with the Federal Agencies who investigate and collaborate in the prosecution of Federal Hate Crimes and so on. In recent years, our connections to the Federal agencies has solidified even more as a result of the Active Shooter threats against our community. In responding to the Pulse Nightclub and more recently the Club Q murders, we reached out to these Federal partners and have received an incredible amount of support, encouragement, and invaluable information and guidance from them.

We regularly maintain communications with the Department of Homeland Security (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI). These connections have been invaluable as we received requests from individuals, groups, and organizations well outside of the San Francisco Bay Area, seeking training and assistance in Active Shooter and anti-LGBTQ+ threats and violence. As a small non-profit with unpaid volunteers, we cannot readily travel the country to provide this information, training, and guidance – however much we may like to – but we have been able to make successful referrals to the DHS and FBI who were able to assist in this way.

There are certainly still those within the LGBTQ+ community who continue to have reservations about these close connections, but we strongly believe that these relationships have proven time and time again to be much more positive and productive, than negative. Castro Patrol volunteers are currently engaged actively in many other invaluable efforts that are founded and organized by Federal, State, and Local governmental and law enforcement agencies. Through these connections, we have the ability to present alternative ideas, suggest policy changes or adoptions, and represent the Castro and LGBTQ+ community in positive and impactful ways.

Castro Patrol is now widely recognized as a leader in the safety and security space for the LGBTQ+ and Castro neighborhood by Federal, State, and Local governmental agencies and by the many LGBTQ+ individuals, organizations, and entities we support and work with every year. We hope to continue this work for many decades to come.

## Castro Cares Program Report



be a part of the solution

Castro Cares is a unique community collaborative providing supplemental outreach and hospitality services throughout the district to the city's homeless support services and the work of the San Francisco Police Department. The program is funded by a city grant and through public donations.

The program deploys uniformed Community Ambassadors 7-days a week. They interact with the residents, business employees and owners, visitors, and with those living on the streets.

To find out more about the Castro Cares program, or to donate in support of the program, check out their website at [www.castrocbd.org/castro-cares/](http://www.castrocbd.org/castro-cares/)

## Community Safety Program



The San Francisco LGBTQI+ Community Safety Program (SF-LGBT-CSP) is a joint effort between the community and various Federal, State, and local agencies to provide training, guidance, advice, and support in developing a "fabric of safety" for all individuals, businesses, and events.

Through collaboration and cooperation, the CSP establishes some basic training concepts and standards, and facilitates the exchange of information and ALERTS that are crucial to preparedness, responsiveness, and recovery in the aftermath of any incident or attack.

To find out more, contact us at [INFO@CastroPatrol.org](mailto:INFO@CastroPatrol.org) and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

## Castro Business Watch Program



Castro Business Watch program is a unique business collaborative allowing owners and employees to share information and support each other. Modeled on the Neighborhood Watch program, CBW is a FREE program open to all registered businesses in the Castro / Duboce Triangle neighborhood.

CBW is overseen by San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone ([www.SFSAFE.org](http://www.SFSAFE.org)) which offers additional safety and security services to businesses throughout the city.

To find out more, contact us at [INFO@CastroPatrol.org](mailto:INFO@CastroPatrol.org) and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

## Community Patrol Service



Community Patrol Service (CPS) is a not-for-profit community organization that works with neighborhoods throughout the United States who wish to develop a Community On Patrol Service (COPS) organization such as Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP).

CPS will offer free advice, guidance, training information, suggestions, and non-fiscal support throughout the development of your own COPS group.

To find out more, contact us at [CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com) and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

# 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

**24 Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
1-800-799-7233

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

**SF Adult Protective Services (APS) Hotline**  
415-335-6700 or 1-800-814-0009

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

**“SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT”**