



PATROLLER

MAY 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)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Brian Hill
(Information Technology)

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



DChf. Kyle Wong
(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

Heklina's Celebration Of Life Memorial



CCOP will be on hand to assist with safety and crowd control at the recently expanded celebration of life memorial in the Castro on Tuesday May 23.

Legendary San Francisco drag performer Heklina died suddenly while touring in London, United Kingdom on April 3. This unexpected death shocked the entire community.

Initial plans for a celebration of life memorial at the Castro Theater saw tickets sell out for the event almost immediately, and this resulted in a pressure on organizers to figure out a way to allow more people to participate.

Thus the plans were significantly expanded, to close off the 400 Block of Castro Street to traffic at noon, to erect a stage outside the Castro Theater which will allow for tributes to Heklina between 6 PM and 8 PM.

The formal memorial event, for ticketholders only, will allow entry to the Castro theater at 7 PM.

Heklina's impact on the drag scene in San Francisco cannot be over-emphasized. She was a driving force in the city's vibrant drag culture for more than three decades, inspiring and entertaining audiences with her unique brand of irreverent humor and fierce performances.

As the world of drag continues to evolve, change, and grow Heklina will undoubtedly be remembered as a trailblazer and role model for generations of drag performers to come.

Thousands are expected to attend this memorial event for a much beloved drag artists and San Francisco icon.

New Patrol Volunteers Are Desperately Needed



While we LOVE supporting community events and other organizations in their goals,

one of our PRIMARY missions at Castro Patrol is to deploy well-trained, well-equipped, visible, walking safety patrols in the neighborhood, especially on those weekend nights when "things can happen."

COVID resulted in a number of our most reliable Patroller volunteers leaving the city or no longer being available to deploy with us, so we find ourselves seriously understaffed and therefore limited in the number of safety patrols we can put on the streets.

All volunteer organizations are having a hard time finding people right now, so we are not alone by any means, but as PRIDE month approaches and external threats to our community grow, we really want to train as many new volunteer Patrollers as possible.

If you, or someone you know, has been thinking of volunteering, please encourage them to give us some consideration. We can train you on-line from the comfort of your home, and we only ask for ONE three-hour regular patrol each calendar month.

Three hours a month that can make a HUGE positive difference in the community and to the neighborhood. Join our team TODAY!

CCOP & The Sisters At EASTER In The Park



One of the undeniable highlights of the CCOP special events calendar is always the annual Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Easter in the Park extravaganza. An Easter weekend tradition for thousands of people, the day is always full of fun, happiness, joy, and celebration – just as it should be.

CCOP Patrollers are always excited and proud to support the Sisters by providing additional safety patrolling throughout the event in close collaboration with the San Francisco Park Rangers, the San Francisco Police Department, and the San Francisco Fire Department EMS staff. No official crowd numbers have been issued yet, but we would conservatively estimate that by the time of the infamous “Hunky Jesus” contest there were at least 10,000 sitting on the grass on the meadow and on the hills surrounding the stage, enjoying the gorgeous weather and the entertainment on stage.



CCOP deployed five Patrollers and we were joined by two volunteers from the Sisters for the afternoon. Patrolling the crowd during this event is always a fun experience, as attendees are always in a good mood and are always complimentary to our Patrollers.

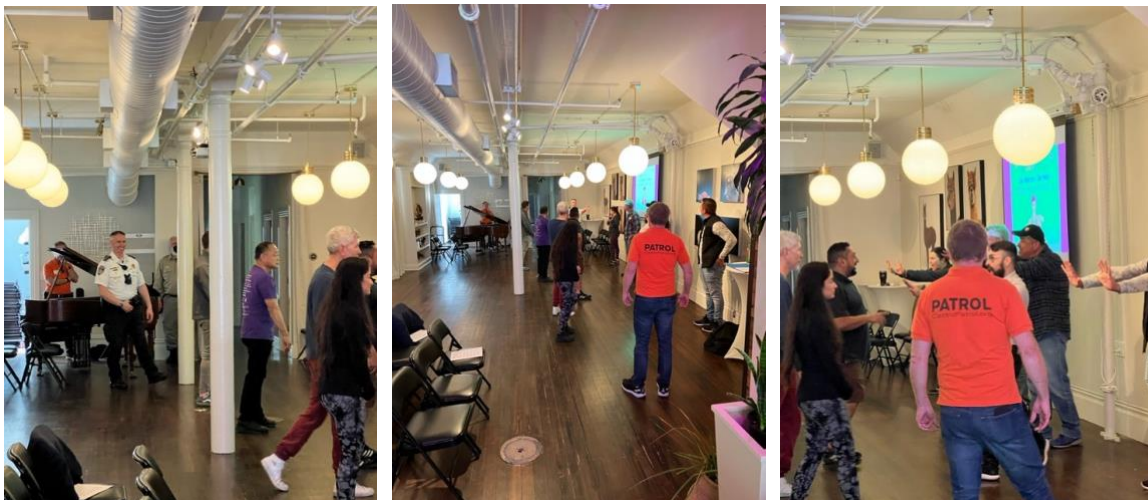
The fun day concluded with only one single medical injury, a suspected broken ankle when the victim turned their ankle going downhill on the grass. It was a wonderful afternoon in the sun, at Dolores Park.

Join us as a Patroller, and volunteer for our Easter In The Park, 2024 special events team in support of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. It is a fantastic way to see the show, meet many of the Sisters and performers, and receive thanks and appreciation for volunteering, as well as doing something really important and worthwhile.

Long Awaited Return Of Basic Self-Defense Training



On Sunday April 29th we hosted our first FREE basic Self-Defense class for the community at the Academy SF meeting room on Market Street since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. This marks a return to our community educational outreach program in collaboration with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS).



The class takes attendees through a simple to understand, logical, and intuitive process to assess threats and escalate defensive techniques in response. The focus is on avoiding problems by remaining alert and walking away from trouble if at all possible. De-escalation concepts are reinforced and tips for obtaining assistance and helping witnesses realize you need help are repeated to help lock them in. Finally, some simple physical defensive techniques are provided to attendees.

We have trained more than one-thousand members of the public in this basic course to rave reviews and many compliments. The course is designed to be very low impact and is suitable for anyone from 18 – 88 and beyond.

At CCOP we firmly believe that KNOWLEDGE IS POWER and this three-hour class offers attendees the knowledge and confidence to look after themselves, and their loved ones, when they need to. Our goal is to host these FREE community classes once a quarter, but we will try to host another class just prior to PRIDE month in San Francisco. If you didn't have a chance to attend our April 2023 class, watch our website and Facebook page, and be sure to PRE-REGISTER to secure your spot in our next class when it happens.

In the meantime, check out our [COMMUNITY SAFETY](#) page for general safety information and guidance. Feel free to download, print, and share the brochures with anyone you think would benefit from the knowledge.

SFPD Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum



CCOP is a proud and long-term permanent member of the San Francisco Police Department, Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum.

The Forum was first created under then Chief George Gascon in 2010, and functions as a liaison and conduit for communication, support, and exchange of ideas, and raising concerns directly with the command staff and the Chief of the Department.

The Forum is comprised of members of the LGBTQ+ community, drawn from the broadest possible demographic to ensure all voices are heard. Forum permanent members are unpaid volunteers who dedicate their time and energy through regular meetings, special events, and outreach efforts. The Forum is also comprised of SFPD Officers who offer their insights, guidance, and knowledge to benefit the permanent community members.

All Chiefs of the SFPD have supported the Forum since it was first formed in 2010, and the Forum has successfully implemented several initiatives with the full support of the Chief's and their Command Staff personnel.

“Some of the work that has been done thus far has made tremendous progress in building trust and legitimacy with the SFPD and the LGBTQ+ community. This work includes training department members in principled policing and implicit bias, training every member on the history and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community, being one of the first departments in the national to have a comprehensive policy on interacting with transgender and non-binary people, and being the first department to authorize its members to wear Pride patches during the month of June. We are indebted to the community members, City leaders and LGBTQ+ SFPD members, past and present, who started this work.” said Chief William (Bill) Scott.

Chief Greg Carey and Deputy Chief Ken Craig, both of Castro Community On Patrol, have served on the LGBTQ+ Forum since it was first formed in 2010. The Forum suspended during the COVID-19 Pandemic but was reconstituted in February of 2023 under the leadership of Captain Christopher Del Gandio, the highest ranking Gay Officer within the SFPD at this time. Chief Carey and DC Craig are current Community Co-Chairs with Captain Del Gandio acting as the Department Co-Chair.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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



Chief Ken Craig,
Community Patrol Service

MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFORMATION

The murder of Mr. Lee in our own city last month caused understandable concern in the community, concern that is heightened by many social media and press stories which reinforce the “concept” that San Francisco is unsafe and crime-ridden.

While we don’t know the full details of Mr. Lee’s murder, we do know that standardized crime statistics really don’t support the “unsafe” and “crime-ridden” accusations, for the most part.

In a comparison of the number of homicides per 100,000 residents, according to local and FBI crime data for 2021, San Francisco

ranked at 14th at 6.9.

St. Louis led with 66.5, Detroit with 47.9, Philadelphia with 34.8, Milwaukee with 33.9, Atlanta with 32, Chicago with 29.8, Oakland with 28.4, Minneapolis with 21.6, Houston with 20.1, Washington with 16.3, Miami with 10.7, Los Angeles with 10.3, Austin with 8.2, then San Francisco with 6.9.

Crime fluctuates and changes constantly depending on the season, the laws and penalties in place, and the opportunities for criminals to exploit. For many years high-tech cell phones were hot commodities that were worth hundreds of dollars per unit stolen, until technology caught up and now stolen phones can be disabled. The criminals then returned to their former targets of breaking into vehicles and burglaries from homes by entering through the weakest point in many homes, their garage.

San Francisco has certainly had its unfair share of publicity for some nationwide problems, such as the groups who were targeting retail thefts en-masse, but these incidents were certainly not isolated to only San Francisco. Many other cities and jurisdictions struggled to address the same criminal conduct.

It is always a “hard sell” to advise residents and business owners that the city and neighborhood is actually quite safe in general, especially when high-profile incident garner so much consistent media attention. It is even more difficult to sell when individuals experience crime personally. Referring individuals to [Crime Data](#) reporting also doesn’t often help allay those natural concerns and fears.

While our efforts within the Castro Community On Patrol will rarely prevent certain crimes such as homicide, our network of programs, community training opportunities, and our safety patrols do make the neighborhood safer than many others in general.

Violent crime and homicides in San Francisco were much more prevalent in the 1970’s and 1980’s, but only a few of the stories would make the newspapers or nightly television news. Social media and increasingly fast news-cycles result in a drive for the latest “Breaking NEWS” story, and that often leads to a heightened sense of insecurity and lack of safety for many people.

SIX STEPS TO ASSIST IN PROSECUTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1

IF YOU SEE A CRIME IN PROGRESS, OR A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION:

CALL - 911

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS OR SOMETHING AUTHORITIES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

CALL - 415-553-0123

MEET AND PROVIDE A WITNESS STATEMENT TO POLICE.

If Officers don't see the incident you called about themselves, and find no other criminal activity when they arrive, they cannot CITE or make an ARREST without a witness to the incident.

2

GET THE COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) NUMBER THAT IS ASSIGNED TO THE INCIDENT

Officers will provide this when you provide your witness statement. This number will allow you to track the case from investigation to prosecution.

3

FOLLOW UP WITH SFPD INVESTIGATORS

Call the SFPD Station that responded to your incident and provide the CAD # to get updates on the status of incident.

4

FOLLOW UP WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Using the CAD#, work with the Assistant District Attorney assigned to the case, and let them know what YOU WANT to happen in the case.

5

GO TO COURT, AND STAND AS A WITNESS

If the case goes to court, be sure to attend and be willing to provide witness testimony on the stand, and/or victim impact statements.

6

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/

SF LGBTQ+ Safety Program



The San Francisco LGBTQ+ 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 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) which offers additional safety and security services to businesses throughout the city.

To find out more, contact us at 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 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

SFPD Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum
LGBTQ.forum@sfgov.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

JOIN US IN MAKING A 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 since 2006, deploying in teams of three unpaid volunteer Patrollers for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves.

Our patrols provide assistance, information, guidance, and support to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Castro, interacting with thousands of people every year. We are often "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 always deploy with experienced 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 | info@CastroPatrol.org | 415-735-5337

"SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT"