



PATROLLER

JUNE 2023

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

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Preparing For San Francisco PRIDE 2023



PRIDE month is HERE in San Francisco!

As June arrives, the rainbow flags will go up along Market Street and in many windows around the city to help celebrate. It is a month where many people leave town, before the hundreds of thousands descend on the city for the annual PRIDE Parade, while others are preparing their fabulous outfits, their floats, and their bodies to walk, dance, and enjoy the many events that accompany this month.

The huge influx of visitors, and the revelry of the celebrations can sometimes lead to a lowering of your safety guard during this time. We would like to suggest a few safety tips to help you enjoy PRIDE month safe and sound:

- **DO** let someone know your plans when you head out to enjoy yourself, and when you plan to return.

- **DO** think carefully before heading out and carry only what you really need.
- **DO** dress as fabulously as you desire and plan your route to and from your destination. Have a back-up plan, just in case.
- **DO** limit your use of intoxicants in public, so you can look after yourself and get home safely.
- **DO** watch and protect your drink in public to avoid an unexpected headache, or much worse.
- **DO** report anything, or anyone suspicious. This is especially important during PRIDE.
- **DO** report if you are the victim of any crime as soon as possible.

We are hosting a few safety training classes for the community just ahead of PRIDE weekend itself, and we'd encourage you to attend if possible.

You can NEVER have too much training and knowledge, but you can CERTAINLY have too little when you find yourself in a bad spot.

We wish everyone a safe, fun, memorable, and empowering San Francisco PRIDE 2023.

Supreme Court Injunction Remains In Effect

On December 23, 2022 U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu issued an injunction on the City & County of San Francisco to stop the City from removing anyone from a homeless encampment without offering them immediate shelter.

The injunction does not prevent the City from acting when health and safety is breached or when sidewalks or streets are blocked, but otherwise the City cannot break up encampments without sufficient shelter accommodation available.

The City has been working on creative solutions including Navigation Centers and Wet shelters where residents can drink while receiving services and counselling, but the whole problem is difficult, convoluted and challenging.

Some basic suggestions:

- Avoid confrontations with the unhoused whenever possible.
- Call 911 immediately if you are the victim of, or witness, a crime in progress.
- Call 311 or 415-533-0123 if an encampment is blocking the sidewalk or a roadway to the point where it is impassible.

CCOP Supports The Heklina Memorial Event



CCOP was on hand to assist with safety and crowd control at the recent celebration of life memorial in the Castro for drag performer Heklina 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 7 PM and 8 PM when the formal Memorial would take place within the Castro Theater.



CCOP deployed six Patrollers from 6 PM to 9 PM on what turned out to be a very windy and cool evening, but large crowds attended, and thoroughly enjoyed the on-stage performances from many drag artists, and then stayed to watch the memorial broadcast on the large screens from within the Castro Theater.

Rest In Power, Heklina. Your friends and fellow performers and fans salute and remember you fondly.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

Basic Self-Defense Training For Private Entities



While we host FREE community Self-Defense training classes in collaboration with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) on a regular basis, we also provide this training to non-profit partners and private entities on request and when our mutual calendars match up. The FREE class, and the paid classes cover exactly the same content. The only real difference is we come to you, rather than you coming to us, and your class fee helps to fund this important educational outreach and helps us to provide the FREE classes.

Private classes run at \$30/attendee for non-profit and partner organizations with a minimum of 10 attendees required i.e. a deposit of \$300 is required. Our for-profit entities rate is \$60/attendee with a minimum of 10 attendees required i.e. a deposit of \$600 is required.



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.

If you would like to schedule a private self-defense class for your non-profit or for-profit organization, feel free to reach out to us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org. We will be happy work with you to find a suitable date and time, and ensure you have a space suitable for the class.

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



Chief Ken Craig,
Community Patrol Service

WHY I VOLUNTEER WITH CASTRO COMMUNITY ON PATROL, AND WHY I THINK YOU SHOULD

I have always been a willing and eager unpaid volunteer for many organizations and causes that I found interesting, fun, or generally beneficial to the overall community. I started volunteering as a young boy growing up in Scotland, attending Scottish Clan meetings and supporting the Scottish National Party political efforts.

My volunteer involvement has always been a significant part of my life, and of my personal time commitment. I'm shy and introverted by nature, and I'm not really one who enjoys huge parties full of strangers or spending time in a bar where I don't know anyone at all. It is just not my comfort zone. Yet, when I volunteer with organizations and achieve leadership roles, I'm very comfortable standing in front of a room of strangers to explain what the organization does and providing training and instruction to those same strangers.

Born and raised in Scotland, I first came to the United States in 1989, working in Pennsylvania, then New York City, before finally landing in San Francisco. I was volunteering with a number of organizations, and I was an assistant martial arts instructor at a commercial studio in Pleasant Hill when Matthew Sheppard was brutally murdered in Wyoming. One year later I had founded Triangle Martial Arts Association and I was teaching free martial arts classes at Eureka Valley Recreation Center in the Castro three nights a week, and one Saturday morning while also working a forty-hour week and volunteering with a couple of other worthy organizations. My hope was to prevent anyone else from ever ending up as a victim of violence simply because of who they love, or someone else's ignorance and prejudice.

Triangle also started as many people were being kicked out of many clubs and organizations due to fear of HIV and AIDS which was devastating our community at the time. Triangle provided a safe-haven and a place to train, learn, grow, feel welcomed, recognized, and valued. Through Triangle we trained hundreds of students, many advancing to Black Belt rank and beyond.

One of my Assistant Instructors at Triangle asked me to attend a meeting at Joe's Barber Shop in response to some violent assaults in the Castro, and following the meeting I was asked to develop a training program for the volunteers of the newly created Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) by Sergeant Limbert of the San Francisco Police Department. I had no real intention of becoming so deeply involved in CCOP at the time, but seeing the incredible positive influence CCOP had on the volunteers participating, and on the community at large, it drew me in. More than sixteen years later, Triangle is no longer teaching martial arts students, but CCOP is still providing invaluable safety and educational support to the LGBTQ+ community and the Castro neighborhood.

Why should YOU volunteer with CCOP? For an outlay of just a few hours of volunteering time each month, you will provide an invaluable service to all who live, work, and visit the Castro. You will meet some fantastic community volunteers, and I'm sure you will feel fulfilled after every volunteer participation.

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SAFETY by SHARING INFORMATION



The strength of the **Castro Business Watch (CBW)** program is in SHARING information with your fellow business program partners in a useful, timely, and effective way. This keeps others alert to whatever situation or incident you, your property, or your business have experienced, and it helps others to protect themselves from similar incidents. It may even allow them to identify possible suspects involved in your incident and report them to Police!

Sending out an email ALERT through the CBW system as soon as you are able to is an essential process to keep everyone “in the loop” and aware of what is going on in the neighborhood. Some KEY essential information when sending the ALERT is:

- **DATE** and **TIME** of the incident (start time and conclusion time if applicable)
- **LOCATION** of the incident (normally your building or a street address adjacent to you)
- **DESCRIPTION** of the incident or situation to allow others in the group to grasp the salient details
- **SUSPECTS** involved in the incident or situation. Provide as much detail as possible.
- **CAD NUMBER** associated with the incident if you called Police (the dispatcher will give you the CAD# when you call IF YOU ASK FOR IT)
- **PHOTOGRAPHS** or **VIDEO** that shows the incident or the suspects involved

We strongly recommend having an ALERT template document that you, or your authorized staff members, can simply copy and paste into an email, then fill in the “blanks” with the relevant details involved in the incident or situation. This will save time, and assist with the consistency of the ALERTS when others are reading them.

We also strongly recommend having more than just one or two authorized users who can post and receive CBW ALERTS. If a significant safety ALERT is posted, but none of your authorized users are available to read or respond to it appropriately, it may leave your facility or business more vulnerable than it need be. Simply email us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org to add authorized users by including their FULL NAME, POSITION, EMAIL and be sure to identify the CBW business member they should be added to.

Working together, and sharing information, is a powerful tool in our proverbial arsenal to address a number of concerns in, and around, the neighborhood and to help make things a little safer for everyone.

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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.

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.

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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

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

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

3

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.

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

5

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.

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

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B SAFE 4 PRIDE

BE SAFE, HAVE FUN,
TAKE AWAY ONLY GOOD MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

- **REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR CRIMES**
- **DON'T GET WASTED**, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN
- **GO WITH FRIENDS**, AND WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS
- **TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU REALLY NEED WITH YOU.**
CARRYING MORE CASH OR CARDS OR JEWELRY THAN YOU REALLY NEED ONLY INCREASED THE CHANCES YOU MAY LOSE IT.
- **DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING UNATTENDED**, IN YOUR CAR, ON A COUNTERTOP, IN A CLUB. DON'T LEAVE IT SO YOU DON'T LOSE IT.
- **PLAN AHEAD**, SO YOU KNOW HOW YOU'LL BE GETTING HOME.
- **HOOKING UP? SNAP A PIC!** IF YOU HOOK UP WITH A STRANGER, SNAP THEIR PIC AND SEND IT TO A TRUSTED FRIEND.
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** IF YOUR GUT IS TELLING YOU SOMETHING OR SOMEONE ISN'T RIGHT, WALK AWAY.
- **BRING YOUR SAFETY WHISTLE.** BLOW 3 SHORT, SHARP BLAST REPEATEDLY IF YOU NEED HELP. CALL 9-1-1 IF YOU HEAR A WHISTLE BLOWING LIKE THAT.

This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition



DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED



FOR BARS & CLUBS

Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) and Community Patrol Service (CPS) offer practical guidance and information on how to:

- Prepare your business,
- Train your staff,
- Respond to an incident,
- Recover following an incident.

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2023 1 PM – 3 PM

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

[HTTPS://ACTIVESHOOTER20030611.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://activeshooter20030611.eventbrite.com)



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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

FREE COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE CLASS



**SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2023
1 PM – 4 PM**

Held in the HEART of the CASTRO Neighborhood.

Pre-Registration is REQUIRED to attend.

<https://SelfDefense20230617.eventbrite.com> or use the QR code

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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 LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ 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.

www.CastroPatrol.org | info@CastroPatrol.org | 415-735-5337

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