



PATROLLER

JULY 2023

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

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San Francisco PRIDE 2023 – A HUGE Success!



PRIDE month in San Francisco has concluded with a return to the pre-COVID events, fun, and empowerment. The world-famous PRIDE Parade on Sunday June 25th was very well attended and went off without a hitch, and SFPD reported very few incidents of concern at the celebration area in Civic Center.

It was FANTASTIC to see this important celebration and recognition conclude so successfully, especially with so many forces aligning against the LGBTQ+ community throughout much of the country over the last few years.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations to the City and County of San Francisco, to the [SFPD](#) and [SFSF](#) and [SFFD](#) who both attended and worked overtime to support these events, to the [SF PRIDE](#) organization for a wonderful celebration, and to all who participated.

Extending The SAFE PLACE / SAFE SPACE Programs



CCOP has been working to improve and enhance the safety of the Castro neighborhood since our creation, often collaborating with other like-minded groups and entities in this endeavor.

We joined with the [Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#) in 2009 to reinvigorate their [SAFE SPACE](#) program which works by offering a safe haven in businesses for anyone who is the victim of a crime, or who is feeling threatened. The business posts the Pink Triangle flyer prominently in their window and agrees to offer a safe haven and call Police for anyone who seeks help.

We joined with the [San Francisco Police Department](#) to create a new [SAFE ZONE](#) project which designated all ten SFPD District police stations as a [SAFE ZONE](#) for all members of the LGBTQ+ community. Many fear going into a police station, or reporting crimes

or even being a victim of crime themselves, as they believe they will be disparaged, ignored, or worse, persecuted for their lifestyle or sexual orientation.

Working directly with then Chief Greg Suhr and his command staff, we developed the [SAFE ZONE](#) program which posted a visible Rainbow Police Star within a Green Circle on the front doors of all Police stations in San Francisco. We also engaged in a Media outreach program to try to get information about the program out to as many LGBTQ+ community members as possible.

More recently, the [San Francisco Police Department](#) launched their own [SAFE PLACE](#) program, licensed under the original Seattle Police program. This mirrors closely the [SAFE SPACE](#) program in concept and execution.

All three programs are invaluable assets for the overall LGBTQ+ and Castro community, and CCOP will work closely with [SFPD](#) and the [Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#) over the next six-months to expand the program and the business participants through the Castro neighborhood and around the city. Contact us if you would like to participate as a business.

CCOP Provided Active Shooter Training Pre-PRIDE



At CCOP we absolutely believe in the saying attributed to Benjamin Franklin; “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” We work diligently every year to offer the community safety and resiliency training in various forms in the hope that this preventative training will prevent the need for a “proverbial” cure.

Working closely with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service \(CPS\)](#), we have been offering Active Shooter – Terrorist Incident – Event Protection training classes to LGBTQ+ bars, clubs, businesses, and organizations for many years. [CPS](#) started providing this critical training following the 07/07/2005 London bombings of London Underground trains and London Transport busses. As CCOP was formed and moved from a responsive model to a long-term training and prevention model, we responded to terrorism incidents around the world by offering this training to “our” community partners and organizations.

Active Shooter incidents within the United States are an incredible order of magnitude more prevalent than terrorist incidents, but the reality for any club, bar, business, or event organizer is that the preventative training, protocols, and processes needed to effectively respond to an incident, then recover in the aftermath is very much the same irrespective of the nature of the incident. The most significant **KEY ESSENTIAL** is that all entities must have considered and must have a prepared a plan and trained their staff and volunteers to activate that plan in response to an incident. In the absence of a plan, when an unexpected, shocking, and potentially deadly incident occurs, delays in responding will literally costs lives.



CCOP and [CPS](#) will continue to provide this training to all who wish to take advantage of it. We also work closely with our Federal and State partners at the [Department of Homeland Security](#), [Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Secret Service](#), [Northern California Regional Intelligence Center](#), [Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative](#), as well as with our City agencies such as [SFPD](#), [SFSD](#), [SFDA](#), [SFFD](#), and others.

If you own, run, or work in a bar, club, business, or organization that primarily focuses on services to the LGBTQ+ community, contact us to join an up-coming training class or work with us to arrange a future training class. **PREVENTION** is always much better than **CURE**.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

CCOP Provided Basic Self-Defense Training Pre-PRIDE



Sticking with the theme of “An Ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” we always host a FREE beginners community Self-Defense training class in collaboration with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) in June as a preparation for the San Francisco PRIDE festivities and celebrations.

We firmly believe EVERYONE should participate in at least one self-defense training class, but most especially all members of the LGBTQ+ community who are often targeted by criminals, thugs, and bigots – and especially during large celebrations such as PRIDE.



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. The overriding focus is always to avoid physical defense if at all possible.

These classes always receive RAVE REVIEWS by attendees, as they are very low impact, easy going and fun, provide logical and simple techniques, and they are easy to remember and implement. We also encourage attendees to share the techniques with their family and friends as a great way to practice and retain the concepts and techniques.

Our normal beginners self-defense class for the community is \$10/attendee. We also offer private self-defense training for non-profits at \$30/attendee and to for-profits at \$60/attendee where a minimum of 10 attendees must be guaranteed in advance.

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.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Deputy Chief Kyle Wong,
KCCO, OSC, OVC



Deputy Chief Kyle Wong
Castro Community on Patrol

“Safety is a community effort.” This is a phrase that Castro Patrol uses often, and we say it to emphasize that your community, the family and friends and neighbors around you, can help you in a time of need, or vice versa. If you and other members of your community have received the proper training and knowledge, then you can work together and as a result your community can be one of your greatest self-defense tools to staying safe.

If you’ve taken our Basic Self-Defense Class before you’ll probably remember that self-defense does not only include the use of physical combat, but it also means defending yourself from harm in ways like wearing a seatbelt, staying aware of your surroundings, knowing what to do in the event of an emergency, or knowing where the nearest fire extinguisher is. Safety as a community looks like: everyone knowing the emergency action plan, everyone carrying and knowing how to use safety whistles, or convincing other community members to join the neighborhood watch or get safety training. Because as I mentioned before,

your community can be an excellent asset in your own self-defense “toolbox” as long as everyone is on the same page about how to stay safe together.

Whistles are a great example of a simple self-defense tool. A way to attract attention or call for help and even safely deter trouble in certain situations. In keeping with the tradition brought back by Harvey Milk in the 70s, Castro Patrol has handed out over 120,000 safety whistles during our now 17 years of existence. We have heard testimony from people who have used our whistles to call for help and even one instance to break up a fight happening outside of their home. One person blowing a whistle may be useful, a few people blowing a whistle is effective, but a whole group/community of people blowing whistles at the same time could be lifesaving. This was the concept that Harvey Milk was teaching the Castro community to help keep each other safe. If you hear someone blowing a whistle in need of help, you should call 9-1-1 and if you feel safe doing so you can locate the whistle blower and add blowing your whistle too. Nowadays, people are hesitant to get involved with anything that resembles trouble or danger, and for justifiable reasons. But a whistle is something you can use from a distance and still achieve the intended effect. And if others in your community have been trained and know what to do with their whistle too, then eventually you will have a complete symphony of safety whistles that may help someone in danger or perhaps discourage or intimidate the person causing trouble. In these situations though, also remember to call 9-1-1 to describe what the situation is and report anything you witness.

Another way the community can work to protect one another is to be trained in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Getting trained yourself is a great way to protect those around you, but what about you? A good way to protect yourself from sudden illness or cardiac arrest is to convince or strongly recommend and ensure that the people close to you and in your community are also trained to use CPR and an AED. Now, nothing beats a real class with actual hands-on practice but honestly, even watching a YouTube video on CPR is better than nothing. I taught a CPR class where one girl said, “I can save my boyfriend now if he ever goes into cardiac arrest,” then she pauses for a second and says, “but what about me?” One person having the knowledge to respond and help others is good; having an entire community trained and ready to spring into action though, is something out of a superhero movie. Get trained to save a life and know where your nearest AED is located.

Lastly, at the very least we recommend becoming more involved in the community where you live and work. Get to know the small business shop owners or the cashiers at your local stores and your neighbors and the dog walkers and your police station’s beat officers and captains. Set up a neighborhood watch or talk to people about what’s going on and what’s new in the area. Join the neighborhood associations or join Castro Patrol. Don’t rely on your Nextdoor app to give you accurate information because I think we all know that isn’t always the case. Not only will it be safer to have a whole community watching your back, but it may even feel good too.

These are just a few examples of the tips that Castro Patrol teaches within the classes we offer. If you or others are interested in self-defense or CPR or new patroller training for your group or if you would like to have any of the other training information Castro Patrol has on hand, please visit our website or email us. And remember, Safety is a Community Effort!

SAFETY by GETTING INVOLVED



By Chief Ken Craig, KCTO, KCCO, St.SPCB, OVC, OSC
Community Patrol Service

One of the KEY decisions taken by the Board and Chiefs of Castro Community On Patrol in the very early years, was to move beyond reacting to the initial violent incidents which shocked the community into educating and preparing the community to better look after itself – no matter what the threat. The BEST way to keep yourself, and your community safe, is to BE INVOLVED in ensuring that safety, for you personally, and for your loved ones.

The Chiefs of Patrol at Castro Patrol recognized this need early, and embraced the obligation to delve deeply into participating with, and supporting all other like-minded individuals, entities, non-profits, and governmental departments and agencies. Very quickly they were participating in the [San Francisco Fire Department Neighborhood Emergency Response Team \(SFFD NERT\)](#) and attending monthly meetings with the Captains at [Mission](#) and [Park](#) Police Stations. We attended meetings of the [Castro Merchants](#) and the [Castro Community Benefits District](#) organizations, as well as many neighborhood association meetings. Through this time-consuming but valuable effort, we got to know the community and the people we serve through Castro Patrol, and they got to know and value us as an organization and as individuals.

In the sixteen years of Castro Patrol we have participated in the [San Francisco District Attorney's LGBT Forum](#), the San Francisco Police Department Chief's LGBTQ+ Forum, we have hosted community safety meetings which included [Assistant U.S. Attorney's](#), the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), and SFPD representatives at all levels. On response to the Club Q murders, we once again used these excellent partners refresh our Active Shooter training and we developed a new LGBTQ+ Community Safety Program to help bridge the divide between outstanding free training offered at the Federal, State, and local level that is often unknown and unattended by the very individuals and organizations that could benefit most from it. We also connected with new colleagues at the [Department of Homeland Security](#) and the [Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative \(BA-UASI\)](#).

As Deputy Chief Wong of CCOP states in his excellent "SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT" article previously, the time you invest in being involved in your own community by attending meetings and supporting non-profits in your neighborhood will be amply rewarded in benefits and knowledge you will accrue.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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

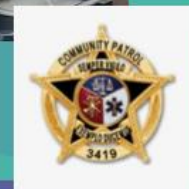
Trevor Project
212-695-8650 (LGBTQQI+ youth in need of support)

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

BEGINNERS SELF-DEFENSE CLASS



**SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2023
1 PM – 4 PM**

Hosted by Castro Community On Patrol and Community Patrol Service, with Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro.

\$10 per participant + tax. Must be 18 Years or older.

Pre-Registration is REQUIRED using the link or QR image below:



<https://SelfDefenseClass20230819.eventbrite.com>

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

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT