



# PATROLLER

**AUGUST 2023**

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

**ESTABLISHED 2006**

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(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

## Castro Patrol NEEDS YOU!



[Castro Community On Patrol](https://www.CastroPatrol.org) (CCOP), established in 2006, stands as a vital guardian of safety and visibility in the Castro neighborhood. Through its unwavering commitment to foot patrols, CCOP has forged a resilient bond with the community, enhancing security and fostering a sense of belonging and safety.

However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has cast a shadow on CCOP's walking patrols. The resultant reduction in Patroller numbers has left a concerning void in the security fabric of the neighborhood, at a time when Police are also struggling. The need for active and engaged volunteers has never been more pressing.

The core mission of CCOP, to provide safety and visibility patrols, is more than just a task; it's a cornerstone of community safety. The foot patrols not only deter potential wrongdoers but also establish a comforting presence, reassuring residents and visitors alike. They epitomize unity and civic responsibility.

We continue to provide essential outreach and training opportunities during this challenging period, such as our self-defense and active shooter classes, as well as actively collaborating with and supporting other groups. This is important, but patrolling is vital.

It's paramount that we rally [new volunteers](#) to resuscitate our diminished Patrols program. By stepping up, individuals can directly contribute to the restoration of a secure and vibrant neighborhood. CCOP's legacy of safeguarding the community stands as a testament to the impact of collective action. As we navigate the post-pandemic world, CCOP's call for volunteers echoes louder than ever, beckoning guardians of goodwill to rebuild the protective shield around the Castro neighborhood.

## New Businesses & New Life For The Castro



One of the keystone retail spaces at the corner of Castro Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Street is undergoing renovation to create the new BRUT LGBTQ bar and nightclub.

Formerly the Harvey's and Puff n Stuff spaces, the new bar and nightclub will transform the space to include a two-hundred capacity dancefloor and a mezzanine for people watching and promenading.

Right now, the bar features historical pictures of the Castro in its windows, offering a glimpse into the past, when the bar was known as the Elephant Walk during the time of Gay San Francisco Supervisor, Harvey Milk.

The bar has a long history, intertwined intimately with the LGBTQ+ community of the Castro, so it will be nice to see it open and welcome customers once again in the near future.

# CCOP Self-Defense Training Remains Popular



One of our primary missions at Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) is to empower community members to “Look after themselves, their loved ones, and the community” by getting involved, getting trained, and stepping up when needed. We offer various community training opportunities throughout normal years and our 3-hour beginners Self-Defense training class in collaboration with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) has always been one of our most popular and well received.

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.



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** costs \$10/attendee and is open to anyone of 18 years or older with no upper limit. The class is very low-impact, and we endeavor to make it fully accessible to all.

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](mailto: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 Chief Ken Craig, KCTO, KCCO,  
St.SPCB



Chief Ken Craig,  
Community Patrol Service

## THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING “EVERYTHING”

It is a very common refrain, which I'm sure everyone reading this article has heard for some time now, that ***“there's no point in reporting [that] because the cops won't do anything.”***

The sentiment is certainly understandable, as many actual crimes often go unsolved for a variety of reasons, however the impact of not reporting all incidents to Police or 3-1-1 is considerable and often completely misunderstood by the very people promoting the “don't bother reporting” advice.

Many “low-level” property theft and vandalism crimes, while often deeply impactful to the victim, leave little actionable evidence if any, and offer no investigative avenues for Police to pursue. In response, many Police departments around the country elect to ask victims to report such crimes on-line through their website, freeing up their Officers to attend more

serious incidents and crimes where investigative avenues are viable to secure an arrest and prosecution. This apparent lack of concern on the part of Police agencies only serves to support the “Cops don't care” assertion.

What most people don't realize is that the act of reporting ALL criminal activity is vital to the Police agency and the City government in developing a clearer, more nuanced intelligence picture of what crime is occurring, with what frequency, and where and when the crimes are happening. Based largely on this intelligence picture, City government and Police command staff allocate their limited resources to address identified spikes, trouble spots, and problems. They also initiate special investigations and task force teams to deliberately mitigate or suppress identified criminal activity or conduct.

It is very easy, and absolutely understandable, to believe that your car window that was broken for the third time this year, with nothing else stolen is of absolutely no interest to Police and therefore taking the time to report it on-line is not worth the effort. Nothing could be further from the truth as your report will form a critical data point which “may” indicate the presence of an organized criminal gang targeting vehicles in your specific area right now to authorities. If your report is added to fifteen or thirty similar reports within a half-mile area, this will catch the attention of your District Station Captain and his staff, and quite frankly the Police love nothing more than having the opportunity to stakeout, identify, and arrest criminals whenever possible. If however you take the “common knowledge” advice and elect not to report your broken window, and the fifteen or thirty others in your area do likewise, Police may only see one or two such incidents reported and may never develop the independent intelligence to help them identify the crime trend and respond to it effectively.

Despite many disparaging media stories and social media assertions, the vast majority of Police Officers go to work every single day, literally potentially putting their lives and safety on the line, to serve and protect to the best of their ability and with the best of intentions. They want to safeguard and protect the community, and they hope to be able to identify those who prey on the community through crime, develop enough evidence and probable cause to arrest them, and provide this information to the District Attorney to see them successfully prosecuted for those crimes. These dedicated Officers need OUR HELP AND ASSISTANCE to do this.

PLEASE be sure to REPORT EVERY crime, either on-line when the crime has already occurred, and no suspect or criminal remains present; or call 9-1-1 for all crimes in progress or when the suspect or criminal is still present. Your single on-line report could be one of many similar reports that tips the balance and creates a response which will benefit you, your loved ones, and your neighbors in the long run.

PLEASE also encourage everyone you know to report ALL CRIMES they are the victim of. Police often recover stolen property during special operations, but due to non-reporting by victims, they cannot identify who the property belongs to, so it cannot be returned, and it cannot be positively identified as stolen. Every single report helps law enforcement, helps prosecutions, and helps the community as a whole.

**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

### 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/)

### 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](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.

## 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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# 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](http://www.CastroPatrol.org) | [info@CastroPatrol.org](mailto:info@CastroPatrol.org) | 415-735-5337

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