



PATROLLER

SEPTEMBER 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)

Castro Street Fair Takes Over On Sunday 10/01



[Castro Community On Patrol](http://CastroCommunityOnPatrol.org) (CCOP), is extremely proud and honored to support the annual Castro Street Fair which will celebrate its 49th anniversary on Sunday October 1, 2023.

We have been involved in supporting the CSF for around fifteen year, or most of our Patrol's existence, and we will be doing so again this year. The fair takes donations from the public and after meeting it's operations costs, the profit is returned to those nonprofit organizations that support the fair every year by staffing the entry gates, hosting beverage booths, providing safety support, managing the stages, and so much more.

These organizations are the heart and core of the fair, and each hour these volunteers contribute is converted into a dollar amount that is provided to the nonprofit at a celebration event a few months after the fair concludes.

We are still looking for a few community volunteers to help us in our own functions in support of the Fair from noon until 5 PM. We will provide you with water, snacks, and pizza mid-afternoon for your efforts, and we can donate your hours to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of your choice. If you are interested in volunteering with us for the Fair, and helping the Fair succeed, please email us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org.

New Castro Bars Not Quite Ready By Castro Street Fair

Three Castro bars are hard at work renovating and preparing to open in the neighborhood, which will definitely help to attract people to the neighborhood once again, especially on weekends; however, they are unfortunately not quite ready to open in time for the Castro Street Fair weekend as they had hoped.



The former Harvey's space at the corner of Castro and 18th will become **BRUT LGBTQ bar and nightclub**, which will include a two-hundred capacity dancefloor and a mezzanine for people watching and promenading.

Just up the street from BRUT is the former **Badlands bar** which has been closed since the COVID pandemic in 2020. Rumors have abounded about a reopening for the space, but it now seems that the necessary pieces are in place for it to reopen soon, but unfortunately not in time for Castro Street Fair.

Q Bar at 456 Castro is also set to reopen soon. The Bar was forced to close in 2019 following a devastating fire. The Bar had hoped to open for SF PRIDE, however final inspections meant that was just not possible. Four months later, they are still not quite ready to open, but it should be very soon.

We look forward to the return of these three important businesses for the Castro.

Working With The F.B.I. On Hate Crimes Fight



FBI Special Agent In Charge Robert Tripp with SFPD Chief's LGBTQ Community Advisory Forum Co-Chair, Captain Christopher Del Gandio



SFPD Chief William Scott addressing the attendees at the Hate Crimes symposium held at the Academy SF on Market Street

[Castro Community On Patrol](#) (CCOP) was extremely proud to partner with, and support, the [SFPD Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum](#) and the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) in hosting a Civil Rights and Hate Crimes Symposium at the Academy SF on August 30, 2023.

We have been a Co-Chair of the [SFPD Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum](#) since it was founded in 2010 and have been involved in a number of important projects and programs in very close collaboration with the SFPD Command Staff, community groups, and Federal Partners such as the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) throughout that time. This was our third such community meeting, with the first two taking place around 2012, so it was definitely time to bring this information and support to the neighborhood once again.

FBI Special Agent in Charge, Robert Tripp, spoke eloquently about his personal commitment to the U.S. Constitution and the fair and equal application of the Federal statutes to protect everyone, and reinforced the FBI commitment to utilize Federal hate crime laws no matter who sits in the White House or which political party holds power in the Congress and Senate.

Six FBI Special Agents and supporting staff accompanied SAC Tripp and provided additional information and statistical information during the symposium as well as answering questions from the audience of about thirty attendees. One startling statistic is that seven-in-ten hate crimes reported in San Francisco target gay men, and this is likely to be a very under-reported crime unfortunately.

SFPD Chief, William Scott, said forums and collaborations such as this symposium are important as they lay the groundwork for solving bias-motivated crimes.

"It's really important for both of our organizations to build relationships, particular in this hate-crime world," Scott said. "Against the LGBTQ+ community, it's still a significant problem, and what we're seeing in our nation is more if it."

Chief Scott also introduced Captain Christopher Del Gandio, the departments first out gay Captain and the executive sponsor of the Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum. The Community Advisory Forum provides an opportunity for community members to work directly with the command staff of the police department, advising on new policies and offering a conduit of two-way information. The Forum currently has about twenty permanent members from the broadest LGBTQ+ community.

[Castro Community On Patrol](#) (CCOP) and the [SFPD Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum](#) will continue to work diligently to bring these types of resources and educational events to the LGBTQ+ community.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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



Chief Ken Craig,
Community Patrol Service

IS SAN FRANCISCO SET TO “BOUNCE BACK?”

San Francisco is a city that has a long and celebrated history for its iconic Golden Gate, steep rolling hills, unique and diverse neighborhoods, rich cultural tapestry, and openness to counter-culture lifestyles. Of course, the gold rush first put San Francisco on the proverbial map, and the 1906 earthquake cemented the city in the psyche of the country as it recovered from that devastating destruction, adopting the Phoenix as it's symbolic animal.

The city has always faced its fair share of challenges throughout history, from natural disasters to a vastly shifting job landscape and population, from rising crime rates to the regular influx of many who end up living on the streets, from rising housing costs to various bubbles bursting with the requisite disruptions. Many believe the city is on a downward death spiral that cannot be arrested at this point, however it is my firm belief that San Francisco remains, and will always remain, an exceptionally desirable location for people to move to, live in, work in, and visit on vacation.

San Francisco has a deep-rooted legacy of innovation with the city driving many technological advancements, making it an attractive destination for individuals seeking to make their own unique mark on the world. The city also benefits from the innovations and creativity of Silicon Valley, the epicenter of the high-tech revolution which continues to draw investment and innovators from around the world. The city has a history of fostering creativity and the entrepreneurial spirit spawning the counterculture movement of the 1960's in the Haight-Ashbury, challenging social norms with the emergence of the LGBTQ+ community, and embracing diversity in art, individualism, and environmental leadership in many areas.

In my humble opinion, San Francisco's breathtaking natural beauty and iconic landmarks are significant contributors to the appeal of the city which will continue to encourage many to move to the city, and remain in the city. The city's picturesque hills and stunning bay views have enchanted generations of residents and visitors alike, and they continue to enthrall me every day.

The city has never been any stranger to adversity throughout its history, and recent challenges such as the COVID-19 global pandemic, the housing crisis, the homeless crisis, the drug overdose crisis, and the general high cost of living have tested San Francisco's mettle once again. Many of these are challenges which the city has faced in the past, often with many foretelling the demise of the city time after time – a prediction which has never materialized. The city's ability to pivot and reinvent itself, to face down and overcome immense difficulties such as the HIV/AIDS crisis, the dot com crash, the financial crisis and many others convince me that the city will not only survive, but it will ultimately thrive and continue to be a desirable destination for independent thinkers, job seekers, entrepreneurs, and artists.

This is undoubtedly a very personal opinion which you may well entirely disagree with, but to me San Francisco is more than just the city I live, work, and play in. It is a symbol of hope, progress, and the pursuit of dreams for so many. Its legacy of innovation, natural beauty, cultural diversity, educational excellence, job opportunities, resilience in the face of adversity, willingness to push the environmental envelope often as a leader in protecting the planet, and openness to challenge the traditional norms which often restrict and limit progress mean to me that the city will always rise from the proverbial ashes, stronger and more vibrant than ever.

Its enduring appeal lies not only in its iconic landmarks, but also in the enduring spirit of its residents. As I look to the future I believe it is clear that San Francisco will always be a timeless beacon of desirability, a city that inspires and welcomes those who seek to be different, to create new paradigms, and to advance society as a whole.

I firmly believe San Francisco's future is bright, and it is “bouncing back” as you read this.

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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

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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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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

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