



PATROLLER

NOVEMBER 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)

REMEMBERING THE CLUB Q VICTIMS



[Castro Community On Patrol](http://CastroCommunityOnPatrol.org) (CCOP) remembers all of the victims of the horrific Club Q murders in November of 2023.

The victims were not only those who sadly lost their lives, but also all who were physically injured in the club during the incident, those who were not physically injured but who undoubtedly face psychological after effects of the horror and survivor guilt, the family members and loved ones of all involved and the staff members of the club.

Other victims of this horrific incident are all of the emergency responders who rushed to the incident and provided care, support, and investigative services in the aftermath of the murders. While it is easy to disregard

first responders as it is “their job” to run towards and handle such issues, they still have a huge and long-lasting impact on first responders.

One year later and little has changed materially in terms of safety for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies from violence, aggression, prejudice, and targeting by violent extremists.

CCOP responded in the immediate aftermath of the Club Q murders by hosting multiple “Active Shooter” training classes for San Francisco bars, clubs, and nonprofit organizations. Training and preparation will not prevent these incidents in the future, unfortunately, but training can help the community respond more effectively.

Reach out to us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org if you, or your bar, club, or organization would like to receive our “Active Shooter” training.

Preparing For A Busy Holiday Season

The holiday season is upon us, and this is always a very busy time for everyone, including our Patrol volunteers at CCOP.



As soon as the Thanksgiving break is over, our volunteers will be out in support of the community to provide additional safety for the annual Castro Merchants holiday tree lighting at Bank of America. This year, the tree lighting will coincide with the annual Harvey Milk Memorial walk which our volunteers will assist with also.

The annual Menorah lighting event will take place just a few days later, and we will be assisting with this event at Jane Warner Plaza.

In early December the annual Santa Skivvies Run fundraiser will take place and as always CCOP Patrol volunteers will assist to help the runners cross Market Street at Castro Street safely.

It will undoubtedly be a busy holiday period for CCOP as normal. We could certainly use YOUR help as a trained volunteer if you are available, or sign up to train with us today.

Castro Street Fair, Fleet Week Concert, & More



Volunteer Team for Castro Street Fair



Patrolling for the Fleet Week Concert

[Castro Community On Patrol](#) (CCOP) was extremely proud to provide our Patrol volunteers once again to the annual Castro Street Fair on the first Sunday in October, marking more than ten years of annual service to the Fair. Our volunteers undertake a special Treasury function in support of the fair which sees our special team work throughout the afternoon from noon to 5 PM.

“We always look forward to the annual Castro Street Fair,” said CCOP Assistant Chief, Ken Craig.

“It is a wonderful daytime fair which normally enjoys sunny weather, happy attendees, and a trouble-free afternoon for everyone. This year was no exception, and we were very happy to support the Fair once again.”

CCOP is one of about ten community nonprofit organizations that provided volunteers to the fair in various supporting roles. The fair tabulates the hours of each volunteer, then provides a donation to the nonprofit based on those hours.

“The funding we receive from Castro Street Fair is a critical annual input to our discretionary fund which we use to make our community self-defense classes and Active Shooter training classes available.” added Craig.

Immediately after Castro Street Fair shut up shop, Fleet Week rolled into San Francisco, and our Patrol Volunteers were asked to assist by providing safety support for the U.S. Navy Band and the San Francisco LGBT Freedom Band who hosted a free concert at Jane Warner Plaza.

We were absolutely thrilled to support this fantastic event, enjoying the incredibly talented musicians, meeting the service men and women who performed and attended in support, and chatting with many members of the public in the audience. The evening was gorgeous, sunny, and warm and the smiles of the audience was equally warm and sunny throughout the evening.

We have also been busy with private organization request for our ever-popular “Self-Defense” class and our “First Aid / CPR / AED” training and certification class through the Bay Area Red Cross. While Patrolling is a core and primary function of CCOP, offering educational outreach and training is most definitely the proverbial second pillar of the “fabric of overall community safety” we promote for the entire city.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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



Chief Ken Craig,
Community Patrol Service

CCOP IS THE LONGEST SERVING COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROL IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Castro neighborhood in San Francisco has long been a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and activism. As a haven for the queer community, it has played a pivotal role in the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance. One unique aspect of this vibrant neighborhood's history is the development and evolution of LGBTQ+ volunteer safety patrols, aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of community members.

To understand the emergence of LGBTQ+ safety patrols, it is crucial to delve into the historical context of the Castro neighborhood. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the LGBTQ+ community was beginning to assert its rights and demand recognition. The Stonewall riots of 1969 marked a turning point, igniting a wave of activism that reverberated across the United States. The Castro emerged as a hub for LGBTQ+ activism, drawing individuals seeking a safe haven from discrimination and persecution. As the community thrived, so did the need for ensuring the

safety of its members in the face of harassment, violence, and prejudice.

The Pink Berets, a groundbreaking LGBTQ+ safety patrol group, was formed in response to rising violence against queer individuals in the Castro during the late 1970s. Comprising volunteers from the community, the Pink Berets aimed to create a visible and assertive presence to deter potential attackers and provide support to those in need.

The early days of the Pink Berets were not without challenges. The group faced opposition from some segments of society, including law enforcement and conservative groups. Despite these hurdles, the Pink Berets persevered, gaining recognition for their commitment to community safety. The group's successes included a reduction in hate crimes, increased visibility of LGBTQ+ individuals, and fostering a sense of unity within the community. As a symbol of resistance, the Pink Berets left an indelible mark on the history of LGBTQ+ activism in San Francisco. The Pink Berets were functional for around five years before ultimately disbanding.

As the LGBTQ+ community continued to evolve, so did the strategies employed by safety patrol groups. In the 1990s, the San Francisco Street Patrol (SFSP) was formed. Initially called DORIS SQUASH (Defend Our Rights In the Streets / Super Queers United Against Savage Heterosexism) the group was active from 1990 to 1994. Its mission was to promote GLBT people's safety by primarily discouraging queer bashing through organized and regular nighttime patrols of the Castro. SFSP also worked to increase awareness of self-defense and violence avoidance methods. This was the first group to hand out whistles and fliers with safety tips. The group drifted apart in 1994 as members moved out of the Bay Area for various reasons.

Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) built upon the foundation and history laid by the Pink Berets and SFSP, adapting to the changing needs of the community and the socio-political landscape. Formed in 2006 in response to violent physical assaults against Gay men in the Castro, CCOP forged partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, businesses, and other community organizations. These collaborations were instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of safety patrols and addressing broader issues such as self-defense training and active shooter classes within the LGBTQ+ community.

The history of LGBTQ+ safety patrols in the Castro provides valuable lessons for the broader LGBTQ+ rights movement. The resilience and adaptability of CCOP has led to it being one of the most long-lasting, effective, and recognized safety programs within the LGBTQ+ Castro community. Looking forward, the LGBTQ+ community in the Castro and beyond must continue to advocate for inclusive policies, social acceptance, and safety for all. The legacy of safety patrols serves as a reminder that the fight for LGBTQ+ rights extend beyond legal victories and requires ongoing community engagement. As the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights continue, the lessons learned from the history of safety patrols in the Castro can inform future initiatives, fostering a sense of community, pride, and activism. Through collaboration, visibility, and ongoing advocacy, LGBTQ+ safety patrols remain a crucial component of the broader movement for equality and acceptance.

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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 LGBTQI+ 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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