



PATROLLER

DECEMBER 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)

A VERY BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CCOP



[Castro Community On Patrol](#) (CCOP) was very busy as usual during this Holiday season, supporting the many annual events that take place in the neighborhood and responding to multiple requests for training classes in early 2024.

The season kicked off with the annual Holiday Tree lighting ceremony in front of Bank of America on Castro Street. This is always a fun and festive occasion which attracted a much larger crowd than normal this year.

With the lights on the gorgeous tree switched on, the crowd moved up Castro Street to Harvey Milk Plaza to memorialize Harvey and Mayor Moscone. This crowd was also much larger than in prior years which was wonderful to see. The event culminates with a march to Harvey's former camera shop and CCOP assisted by providing safety and stopping traffic at Castro and 18th to allow the walkers to cross safely.



Another annual favorite for many is the SF AIDS foundation "Santa Skivvies Run" fundraiser which starts at Noe and Market and winds its way through the Castro before ending again at Noe and Castro. CCOP was happy to support this fun event again this year by stopping traffic at the Market and Castro intersection to allow the runners safe passage across this intersection.

Our final event was the annual lighting of the Menorah at Jane Warner Plaza to conclude the very busy Holiday season for our Patrol volunteers.

We LOVED every second of our time volunteering in support of these fun and important community events in the neighborhood.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CCOP

Santa Con has taken place, and the Santa Skivvies are neatly tucked away for another year, but we are most definitely heading into the height of the Holiday

season with shopping, parties, and festivities until the New Year bells strike (and probably for a bit afterwards.)

We wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone reading this newsletter a SAFE, FUN, and HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

2021-2023 have been a couple of tough years for many of us, and especially for many nonprofit organizations. We greatly appreciate and value your continued interest and support in CCOP and in our mission and goals.

Our own New Year Resolution is to work extra hard to find new volunteers in 2024 to help us maintain, and even expand, our mission to help keep the Castro a fun, safe, and enjoyable place to live, work, and play for everyone.

If you are a former Patroller and have been away for a while, consider coming back. If you've thought of volunteering, now would be a GREAT time to join us.



SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Chief Greg Carey, KCCO, St.WECB



Chief Greg Carey
Castro Community On Patrol

CASTRO PATROL NEEDS YOUR HELP

It all started as a response to a crisis. Reports of two or three violent robberies with associated sexual assaults in the Castro in 2006 brought a response from more than 100 local residents with the common message, "This should not be happening in our community." Castro Community On Patrol (also known as Castro Patrol or CCOP) was established and for the first two years, nine volunteers formed three patrol teams every Friday and Saturday night to watch over the safety of friends, neighbors, and visitors.

The original issue quickly disappeared, but the need for prevention continues for various reasons, including the national political theatre of finding a way to blame the queer community for some new but obscure reason (currently drag performances and trans people) to continue to elect ultra-fascists (rebranded as "conservatives") during the lead-up to the presidential election every four years.

The need for safety patrols continues, but since the pandemic the number of trained CCOP volunteers has dropped to below a dozen. As a result, walking patrols have dropped to one or two per month because we need at least three Patrollers to field a team safely. We still assist with special events such as the Castro Street Fair and the Navy band concert held in Jane Warner Plaza for Fleet Week, but you will often see the same faces each time because of our low number of helpers.

As a result, CCOP has turned its attention to improving personal safety through free or low-cost trainings. One example is the return of our popular Basic Self-Defense workshop, which has trained over 3,000 people through the years. We began delivery of Active Shooter workshops for businesses after the ClubQ Mass shooting in Colorado in 2002. We have a companion Active Shooter workshop for the general public ready, but have been unable to locate enough public interest for such a class so far.

Steve Ayala, a local university student, wrote a research paper in 2008 studying CCOP and similar groups across the nation. He learned that most groups like CCOP failed to survive beyond twelve months. The prime reason was that the original crisis that caused the group to form quickly dissipated and the original volunteers lost interest because there no longer seemed a need. Often, the original threat remained in the background and reappeared in some form later. He found that groups with a longer success changed their focus from being reactive (confronting a specific danger) to proactive (making changes to prevent reoccurrence of similar problems.)

Based on this knowledge, a primary theme of Castro Patrol has been "a visible safety presence." Our teams of three or four people in bright orange uniforms are a deterrent to those seeking to cause harm. A successful patrol is not filled with adventure, but reflects a quiet evening where we help strangers find their way to a train or specific business or come upon someone needing medical assistance. In addition to the walking patrols, we have distributed more than 100,000 safety whistles with instructive literature to help people be more self-aware. Our these is "Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Your Friends, and Take Care of Your Neighbors."

In order to keep the commitment of time reasonable, a Castro Patrol volunteers is only asked to commit to a single three-hour patrol each month. We have changed the process of training from a pre-scheduled event four times a year to an on-demand, virtual (Zoom) initial session to fit into the potential volunteer's busy life. We gladly train individuals. An even more effective training session involves two or more friends who want to patrol together.

To learn more about Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) or to schedule an initial training, just drop an email to INFO@CastroPatrol.org or check out our website at www.CastroPatrol.org.

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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

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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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