



PATROLLER

JANUARY 2024

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

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Retention)

2024 BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CASTRO COMMUNITY ON PATROL. JOIN US IN THIS NEW AND EXCITING JOURNEY.



[Castro Community On Patrol](#) (CCOP) looks towards 2024 with energy, excitement, and a renewed commitment to dedicating ourselves to the mission and goal of "enhancing the safety and security of the Castro neighborhood."

This has been our goal for many years, and we have accomplished much since our first tentative steps in 2006 and 2007. We are now sought out to support community events, we now participate annually in many nonprofit activities, and we are now recognized as leaders in the educational outreach and training arena for the LGBTQ+ community in a variety of key topics.



Our ground-breaking [ACTIVE SHOOTER](#) training class which focuses on the

LGBTQ+ clubs, bars, and nonprofits was developed in collaboration with the FBI, DHS, SFPD, and SFFD and has been widely praised and very well attended.



Our [Beginners Self-Defense](#) training class is also extremely popular and receives rave reviews from attendees. Providing basic and simple concepts for anyone to avoid, de-escalate, and mitigate threats whenever possible.



"Working together to create a safer and stronger community for all"

Our participation in the SFPD [LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum](#) and many other organizations that benefit the community in many ways is something we

will continue to foster and grow in the New Year.



[PATROLLING](#) regularly is one of our KEY functions, as the visibility patrols of three or more Patrollers really helps to enhance the overall fabric of safety in the neighborhood, especially our night patrols. We will focus attention on this function, seeking new and committed volunteers to join us and to Patrol with us. We think it is fun, rewarding, interesting, and extremely fulfilling. We think you will also, so why not join us?

Another long-term objective for us in 2024 is to establish as our own independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the IRS and the State of California. This will allow us more flexibility and operational diversity to expand and enhance the services we provide, and the training we offer.

We wish you a safe, successful, and prosperous New Year!

A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023

JANUARY

Active Shooter Workshop in the Castro Held Just Hours Before Mass Shooting in Monterey Park, CA Photos by Rink



We kicked off January still reeling from the horrific murders at Club Q in Colorado Springs in November of the prior year. Leveraging the public attention, we followed up our first “[Active Shooter – Terrorist Incident – Event Protection](#)” basic training class focused on LGBTQ+ bars, clubs, and nonprofits held on December 21 with a second class on January 21, 2023 at the Eagle Tavern in SOMA.

Both classes saw around seventy attendees in total who learned safety and security concepts, simple staff training ideas, and a recommendation to utilize visible security personnel as deterrent to possible violent incidents. The class focused on staff training and preparations, development of an Emergency Response Plan, as well as post-incident recovery ideas.

We worked closely with our safety partner [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) and with both Federal, State, and Local entities to refine the training class and ensure we were as up-to-date as possible, including FBI, DHS-CISA, Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative, SFFD, and SFPD.

The first class in December of 2022 attracted significant print and television media attention which definitely helped project our message to a broader audience. Both classes were extremely well received by all who attended, and a number of attendees followed up with requests for specific training for their own locations and facilities which we continue to accommodate as time and opportunity presents.

APRIL

April saw us host one of our ever popular [Beginners Community Self-Defense](#) class at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the heart of the Castro. We have led these classes for more than fifteen years in the community and they continue to attract new attendees who find the class incredibly valuable, informative, and empowering.

April also saw us assisting the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at their annual Easter in the Park, with CCOP providing additional safety coverage throughout the day. This is one of the most fun events we participate in every year, seeing tens of thousands enjoy the unique and irreverent entertainment of the Sisters for a fun Easter Sunday afternoon.



Working with the San Francisco Park Rangers, San Francisco Police Department, and San Francisco Fire Department we helped ensure the event was as fun, entertaining, and trouble free as everyone has come to expect. We have performed this additional safety role with the Sisters for their Easter in the Park event for ten-plus years now, and it is one of those easy and fun days when everyone is just happy to be there.

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A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023

MAY



We were on hand to provide additional safety and assistance at the memorial service at the Castro Theater for drag superstar Heklina who passed away so unexpectedly and so prematurely in London, UK. Thousands gathered to remember Heklina and the incredible impact she had on the overall community.

The 400 block of Castro Street was closed for this special event, and CCOP worked alongside SFPD and SFDPT to ensure the event was safe for everyone to enjoy.

The event went off without a single hitch, and with no problems to report – which is just the way we like things!

JUNE

June is PRIDE month in San Francisco, and is always a very busy time for us in so many different ways.

We provided another “[Active Shooter – Terrorist Incident – Event Protection](#)” basic training class focused on LGBTQ+ bars, clubs, and nonprofits held on Sunday June 11 to help them be more prepared for the influx of visitors to the City and to PRIDE.

We also hosted a [Beginners Community Self-Defense](#) class on Saturday June 17, in an effort to help the community at large prepare for the PRIDE celebrations throughout the month of June.

CCOP always works closely with the SFPD and community organizations to help ensure the safety and security of the neighborhood and community during this important period for the City.

We always publish safety reminders such as this B SAFE 4 PRIDE poster, and we provide training classes to offer information and guidance to all who wish to attend and participate.

Fortunately, PRIDE 2023 was safe, fun, and greatly enjoyed by all.



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A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023

SEPTEMBER



One of the key initiatives CCOP follows is collaboration and cooperation with many safety partners, including active involvement in other safety efforts we support. One such effort is the San Francisco Police Department's [LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum](#) which meets quarterly and provides advice, guidance, and suggestion to the department on a variety of matters important to the LGBTQ+ community at large. CCOP and [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) took the lead in helping to promote and present a special Civil Rights and Hate Crimes Symposium delivered by the FBI San Francisco. We actually paid for the meeting space at The Academy SF, and we sent out

special invitations to LGBTQ+ leaders and activists to attend this very special meeting.

The meeting was extremely well attended by around fifty people and included SFPD Chief William (Bill) Scott and FBI Special Agent in Charge, Robert Tripp. The event was opened by LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum SFPD Chairperson, Captain Christopher Del Gandio who is the first out Gay male in the department to raise to the rank of Captain.

OCTOBER

The first Sunday of October is always reserved for the annual Castro Street Fair which draws thousands of visitors to the neighborhood, to enjoy the art works for sale, the music on the many stages, and wandering the fair to people watch in what is normally fantastic weather. This year was no different, with warm sunshine flooding the fair and the streets swarming with happy, relaxed, and fun-loving attendees.

CCOP and [Community Patrol Service](#) (CPS) have supported this fair for well over thirteen years, performing an extremely critical function in support of the Treasury functions. This year we invited emergent volunteers to join us in this special role, and we will donate the hours they provided as a dollar value to their selected nonprofit organizations.

Castro Street Fair is always a fun and enjoyable event to participate in, and the fact we had volunteers from Team Tsunami (Water Polo) and from San Francisco Frontrunners as well as our own Patrollers was a great way to let others see our role and function.



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A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023



October also saw us providing additional safety at the request of the Castro Community Benefits District in support of the U.S. Navy Brass Band who performed at Jane Warner Plaza in the heart of the Castro as part of the Fleet Week celebrations in San Francisco.

The band was very well received, and they performed with the San Francisco LGBT Freedom Band for a large and very appreciative crowd that gathered to listen, dance, and enjoy the free concert.

The weather was warm, the music was fantastic, and the crowd was very appreciative, so it was a great event to attend and support for CCOP.

CCOP also supported the annual Glow In The Streets block party on Noe Street for the 6th year, hosted by Comfort & Joy. This is a very fun event which incorporates luminescent paint, elaborate construction art, and wonderful music, attracting a large attendance of fun attendees who dance the night away. The event begins around 6 PM and runs through 10 PM, with the darkness falling to help the luminescent creativity to shine brightly.

This is another very fun event which we enjoy supporting and participating in, alongside private security personnel and EMT personnel and in collaboration with the SFPD.



NOVEMBER



November begins the run in to the Holiday busy period for CCOP with multiple events seeking our support and assistance throughout the month. It typically begins with the annual lighting of the Castro Holiday Tree at the Bank of America plaza on Castro Street shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday.

This year brought larger than normal attendance to see the tree lit, to the strains of the San Francisco LGBT Freedom Band and with speeches from State Senator Scott Wiener, Mayor London Breed, Castro Supervisor Raphael Mandelman and others.

CCOP worked closely with SFPD Mission Station who sent along eight Officers to assist with traffic control and ensuring the attendees and pedestrians were safe from traffic throughout the event.

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A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023



In a change this year, the annual Harvey Milk Memorial and candlelight march took place immediately following the lighting of the Holiday Tree, starting at Harvey Milk Plaza with music and speeches, then moving down Castro Street to the former Camera Shop that used to be his store.

Working closely with SFPD and SF DPT we helped to ensure that attendees were safe from passing traffic during the speeches, and then escorted those marching on Castro Street, through the busy Castro Street and 18th Street intersection and on to the Camera Shop location on the 400 block of Castro Street.

DECEMBER

CCOP was proud to support the annual World AIDS Day INSCRIBE Their Names event on December 1st in the heart of the Castro. This incredible event is extremely simple in concept, yet tremendously powerful in execution and impact. Volunteers provide free chalk allowing anyone who wishes to participate to write the names of those lost to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The writing of names typically takes place during daylight hours, and then a formal event occurs at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golder Gate Park later in the evening.



CCOP also supports the annual Positive Resources Center (PRC) Santa Skivvies Run HIV/AIDS fundraiser which begins and ends on Noe Street, with red skivvies clad “Santa’s” running through the Castro on a roughly one-mile route. The event is hugely fun, festive, tongue-in-cheek, and a great fundraiser for a very worth cause.

CCOP in collaboration with Community Patrol Service (CPS) assists by stopping traffic at the Castro Street and Market Street intersection as the first large group of runners reach that point – ensuring they can cross in safety without any problems or delays.

The weather this year was absolutely gorgeous with glorious sunshine and mild temperatures which certainly helped to encourage many runners to display more flesh before, during, and after the run itself.

Music and entertainment is part of the festivities in the event plaza both before, and after the race concludes which adds to the fun of this unique and very San Francisco event.

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A YEAR IN REVIEW – CCOP 2023

One of the regular events we support and attend is the annual Menorah Lighting event at Jane Warner Plaza, and this year our presence and participation seemed all the more important and necessary, given the increased anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts that have sadly been making the headlines around the country.

Working with SFPD Mission Station who assigned a number of Officers for the event, we maintained a visible presence throughout the event which went off without any problem or counter-protests which was precisely as we hoped it would.



As we look forward to this New Year of 2024, we reaffirm our commitment to the goal of enhancing and improving the overall safety and security of the Castro neighborhood, by collaborating with Law Enforcement and community organizations and supporting nonprofit events and community events as requested and appropriate.

Join us as a volunteer [PATROLLER](#) and help us to make the Castro a little safer, after all, **SAFETY** is a **COMMUNITY EFFORT** and we could do so much more, with more volunteers just like [YOU](#)!

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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



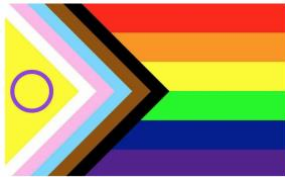
be a part of the solution

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-LGBTQ-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 who walk for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves.

Our patrols provide assistance, distribute information, offer guidance, and deliver 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, Glow in the Street events, CBD Music in the Plaza, 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 volunteer 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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