



# CCOP PATROLLER

## MARCH 2015

### MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR ACTIVE PATROLLERS

#### WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRAINEE PATROLLERS!



We held our 45<sup>th</sup> new volunteer training class on Tuesday March 10th, adding three new Trainee Patrollers (TPtr.) to our ranks.

We are happy and proud to welcome:

- 15-0244 Mark Vogel
- 15-0245 Bernie Murphy
- 15-0246 Leandro Gonzalez

Our next training class will take place on Saturday May 9, though we have not yet secured a location for the training. It will however, as always, take place within the Castro / Duboce Triangle neighborhood.

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up, train and patrol with us. You are our BEST advertisement of what CCOP is all about – and once your family or friends join up, you can even patrol with them if you want to. Help us reach 100 active volunteers in 2015.

#### CASTRO CARES STARTS THIS MONTH



The Castro Cares project has officially started in earnest, with the assignment of some off duty 10b Police Officers occurring over the next month in various days and shifts.

CCOP will patrol with some of these Officers on some of our patrols in support of the program and to help orient any Officers who may be unfamiliar with the neighborhood and the nature of the quality of life problems the program is intended to address.

Homeless Outreach Team members will be increasing efforts as part of the program also.

“We fully support the program and have high hopes that it will have a very positive on the neighborhood,” said Deputy Chief Ken Craig of CCOP.

CCOP has donated \$1,200 in support of the program and its goals.

#### PATROLLER METAL STARS



The stars we discussed last month are in the process of being ordered, so there may be a delay in their arrival and use. While we anticipated a mid-March arrival, it may be mid to late April before they get here. We will let you know as soon as they get here.

important events throughout our patrols.

“We will only have a relatively small number of camera’s as they are quite expensive,” said Deputy Chief Ken Craig.

“Initially they will be issued based on the number of people deploying for patrol on any particular shift and primarily to the Team Lead’s or most senior people on each team.”

The cameras are expected to be available for issuance to deploying teams by mid-May.

#### PATROL VIDEO CAMERAS



The Patrol Chief’s & Directors Group approved the purchase of a small number of Law Enforcement quality body worn video cameras for use during active CCOP Patrols.

The cameras, produced by Taser International, will clip to safety vests or jackets and have enough battery life and recording time to capture

#### SPEND EASTER SUNDAY WITH CCOP

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will host their annual irreverent, but highly entertaining and fun, Easter Festivities at Hellman Hollow in Golden Gate Park on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, and once again, CCOP has been asked to support the event as safety monitors.

Help us to help out the Sisters and the community by signing up for this Special Event Patrol. The shift will be from 11am to roughly 5pm.

We are hoping to secure ten volunteers in support of this special event

## Pride Weekend Challenge For The Castro



As you have undoubtedly heard by now, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have decided not to produce the annual Pink Saturday street party event on the evening before the San Francisco PRIDE Parade.

While this was not entirely unexpected, it has led to concerns about thousands of revelers turning up in the Castro, expecting a party, with no effective security in place to help manage and control the crowds.

Recently we have heard news that the City will

take on the event in a very modified format, from Supervisor Scott Wiener's office. The event will have no music stages or food vendors and it will conclude by 8pm, if the "word on the street" is accurate.

CCOP discussed this, and the likely safety issues that may present themselves in what will be a "first of its kind" new Pink Saturday event and our possible role, if any, in supporting community safety on that evening.

"We will communicate directly with Supervisor Wiener's office, and with Captain Perea at Mission Station regarding the proposals and plans," said Deputy Chief Ken Craig of CCOP.

"We'll decide on our role once we have a clearer picture of the event."

## Supreme Court Marriage Equality Decision



The Supreme Court is expected to hear oral arguments on whether the U.S. Constitution ensures that same sex couples enjoy the same marriage rights as different sex couples, hearing all four cases from the Sixth Circuit.

Oral arguments are expected to begin in April, but a decision on the case is not expected until late June or possibly July. Many believe that prior denials by the Supreme Court the review lower court cases which approved same sex marriage in various states is indicative of the likely outcome of the decision by the Supreme Court when it is written.

As with the Proposition 8 and Day of Decision milestones for the LGBT community, the national implications of this Supreme Court decision for the LGBTQI community are enormous, and will undoubtedly lead to public demonstrations immediately following the announcement.

Our hope is the demonstrations are of joy and happiness at a validation of same sex marriage, but as always the Supreme Court could surprise everyone with a negative decision.

CCOP is committed to helping the Castro and surrounding neighborhood on the "day of decision" just as we did in 2014, so we'll ask our Patrollers to watch their e-mail and news outlets closely, and make themselves available to "that day" deployment when the decision comes down. Stay tuned !!

## PATROLLER STUFF

### WE'LL BE MOVING



We are still trying to secure a suitable alternative patrol deployment location as we must leave MCC by the end of March.

A few options have come up thanks to the work of our Staff Admin, Liem, but no final decision yet. We'll let you know.

### THE NUMBERS



Through 03/17/2015

**Active Patrollers= 18**  
Inactive Patrollers = 9

Regular Patrols YTD = 14  
Special Events YTD = 2  
Patrol Hours YTD = 255

New Trainees YTD = 6  
Re-certifications YTD = 10

## CCOP CALENDAR

### PATROL VOLUNTEER BASIC TRAINING CLASS PVBTC-046

**SATURDAY MAY 09**  
**1PM – 4:30PM**  
To Be Determined

**To recertify:** If you need to re-certify, send us an e-mail to let us know you will attend, and turn up **no later than 8:30PM** for the practical patrolling portion.

Know some friends or family who want to join you on patrol, have them sign up on-line for the class TODAY.

### PATROL DIRECTORS & VOLUNTEERS MONTHLY MEETING

**EVERY 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**  
**of each month.**

**8PM – 9:30PM**  
Chase Bank Community  
Room  
2112 15<sup>th</sup> Street

ALL Patrollers, non-patrol volunteers, supporters and members of the public are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings.



# Castro Community On Patrol PATROL ACADEMY

## Capturing A Good Description Takes Lots Of Practice

*BY Deputy Chief Ken Craig, CCOP*



In a fleeting moment, a suspect in a serious crime may disappear from view and it may be up to you to provide Police with an accurate and effective enough description to give them a fighting chance of locating that suspect. Capturing suspect descriptions are difficult for the untrained, lay person, but with training and practice you can become much more proficient and confident.

### **START FROM THE TOP, OR THE BOTTOM**

The first thing to do, is consistently assess the information you will need to define the description by ALWAYS starting and ending in the same place. Some people prefer to go from the head down to the feet, while other prefer to do the opposite. Either way is fine, but always starting and ending in the same place will help you become more effective and consistent.

### **SCAN FOR THE GENERAL, FOCUS ON THE UNUSUAL**

Humans are incredibly adept at assimilating basic information visually, just by glancing at other humans. We can often make snap assessments of sex, race, approximate age, their health and well being and so on. These generalized and non-specific details are a great starting point in a description, but it is the unusual characteristics or items of clothing that a suspect is wearing that will really help to set them apart from everyone else, and those unusual things are typically the key to helping police locate and apprehend them

The generalities of a “white male adult, about 25-35 years old with an average build and wearing a blue t-shirt and blue jeans” may help to exclude a number of people in a possible police search area, but it could still leave a lot of innocent

white male adults wearing light blue, royal blue, and every other combination shirts, and blue jeans on the suspect list. Finding something unique, unusual and something the suspect cannot or will not be able to change is the real key.

The same description with the added clarification that the suspect has skin tight dark blue jeans that stop about four inches above his red and white Converse basketball shoes is likely to define the description enough to exclude everyone but the actual suspect in question.

Looking for these unique and unusual characteristics, items of clothing or combinations of the two are the key to providing good and useful descriptions to police, but they take practice, practice, practice to perfect. We always recommend making such practice fun, by working with other Patrollers when on patrol. Pick a person walking towards you and give the “player” five seconds to capture their description, then have them turn their back and provide the verbal description while you can still see the subject. As you get better at this, reduce the time available, or the distance the subject is viewed at.

As we ALL know, from watching the television show COPS, male criminals always throw away their shirts when they run from police, as so many of them are topless when arrested, so items of clothing that can be discarded or changed do not make good description uniqueness identifiers. Look for things they cannot or will not change such as shoes, pants, tattoos, scars, unusually colored or styled hair,

### **AVOID MAKING ASSUMPTIONS**

One big mistake that many people make when providing descriptions is making unfounded assumptions and relaying those assumptions as facts.

Many people will take those generalized assumptions and allow them to solidify into remembered facts, which can be problematic if those assumptions were entirely wrong in the first place. Rather than assuming therefore, only provide what information you are sure on.

### **NIGHTTIME VERSUS DAYTIME**

Remember also when making color statements, that low light and night vision often change the colors we see, so stick with dark or light vehicle colors at night to avoid inadvertent mistakes.