



PATROLLER

JUNE 2025

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

ESTABLISHED 2006

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I.C.E. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



As the Trump Administration continues its unprecedented, legally questionable, and significantly unprofessional efforts to detain undocumented individuals, it is increasingly likely that such actions will occur in San Francisco, and perhaps even in the Castro. It is important for **EVERYONE** to [know the rights](#) afforded to everyone under the Constitution of the United States, and especially so when faced with these Federal actions.

If an ICE agent stops you on the street:

- Keep calm and always ask "Am I free to leave?" If the answer is yes, then calmly walk away.
- If the answer is NO then DON'T walk away, DON'T answer any questions, DON'T talk about your immigration status, DON'T talk about

when and how you came to the United States.

- DO ask for a lawyer.
- DO state you do not consent to any searches of your person.

If an ICE agent comes to your home / workplace:

- DON'T open the door and DON'T invite them in.
- DO ask if they have a valid search warrant and ask to see it (they can slip it under the door or through an open window.
- A VALID search warrant must be signed by a JUDGE or MAGISTRATE (NOT by an immigration official.) It must show the correct full address to be searched. It must state in detail where the agents may search.
- If they have a warrant for REMOVAL / DEPORTATION you do not have to let them into your home or workplace unless they have a valid search warrant.

If you are arrested by an ICE agent:

- You have the right to an attorney. Ask to speak to a lawyer.
- You have the right to remain silent.
- Do not sign ANYTHING

without a lawyer.

- Do not lie or show fake documents.
- Do not talk about your immigration status.
- Do not talk about when and how you came to the United States.

Visit the [IMMIGRANT SUPPORT HUB](#) to get legal help if you, or someone you love, is detained or about to be deported.

If you see ICE agents conducting operations in San Francisco you can report that to [REPORT ICE IN SAN FRANCISCO OR CALL 415-200-1548](#)

S.F.P.D. CRIME DATA SNAPSHOT

[SFPD Crime Data](#) results citywide for the following specific categories between **1/1/2025 to 6/22/2025**

	2025	Yr - Yr %
Homicide	11	-35.3%
Robbery	783	-25.9%
Assault	992	-11.9%
Burglary	1,785	-24.0%
Veh. Theft	1,531	-43.3%
Larceny	7,529	-25.3%
TOTAL		-27.1%

During the same period last year, SFPD recorded a total of 17, 585 reports, compared with a total of 12, 828 reports this year, representing a 27.1% drop overall.

PATROL NEWS

CCOP PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SAFETY SUPPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PULSE NIGHTCLUB MEMORIAL EVENT



In the early hours of June 12, 2016 between 2:02 and 5:15 49 people were murdered and dozens more were injured at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Pulse was one of the city's best-known gay clubs, and Saturday evening was Latin Night at Pulse.

The entire country was shocked by the tragedy of this horrific event in what was PRIDE month for many. San Francisco responded, organizing a rally and memorial on Sunday evening, less than 24 hours after the incident in 2016.

More than one-hundred people attended this year's memorial at Jane Warner Plaza before marching the short distance to Hibernia Beach at Castro and 18th Street to place memorial flowers.

Our thanks to SFPD for their assistance.



CCOP PROVIDED SAFETY SUPPORT FOR THE CASTRO CBD CARWASH FUNDRAISER



Castro Community Benefit District (CBD) provides services that improve the quality of life in the neighborhood, emphasizing clean, safe, beautiful streets. CBD's operate through funds raised through a special tax assessment, but they also raise funds through special events, and the CBD hosted their first car wash fundraiser on Noe Street on June 15th.

This event was very successful and well attended with around fifty plus vehicles taking advantage of the opportunity and donating to the CBD in the process.

CCOP was asked to provide traffic control and safety support for the event. Our thanks to the CBD for all they do in the neighborhood, and to the car wash volunteers who made the event so successful.



SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

PATROL NEWS

CCOP JOINED SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE 2025 SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE PARADE



We were proud to join with other San Francisco public safety organizations to participate in the 2025 San Francisco PRIDE parade.

The gorgeous, sunny, and warm day was perfect for the million or so people who attended one of the largest PRIDE parades in the entire World. Joining with the San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Sheriff's Department, San Francisco Fire Department, and some allied departments from around California, we handed out rainbow flags and were greeted by a welcoming crowd throughout the parade.



San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie addressed the Public Safety group before the parade, along with SFPD Interim Chief Paul Yep, SFSO Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, and SFFD Chief Dean Crispen. San Francisco Police Pride Alliance chairperson Sergeant Katherine Winters led the group and distributed handouts for the crowd lining Market Street.



It was a great opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues we had not seen in some time, including Officer Broderick Elton, SFPD in the picture above.

Only a couple of us from CCOP were able to attend the parade this year, but we were very warmly welcomed by the Public Safety personnel and the crowds lining Market Street to watch and support the parade. We hope more Patrollers will join us next year.

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PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

BY Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR UNPAID VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering in unpaid safety roles offers a unique blend of service, dedication, and impact that extends far beyond the boundaries of individual effort. Organizations such as Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP), an all-volunteer public safety and neighborhood watch nonprofit, exemplify how grassroots safety programs enhance community resilience, build trust, and save lives. The commitment of individuals who dedicate their time to patrol streets, engage residents, and serve as visible symbols of community strength underscores a powerful model of civic engagement. These volunteers demonstrate that safety is not solely the responsibility of formal law enforcement agencies—it is a shared duty that thrives when citizens are empowered and actively involved.



A Legacy of Service and Visibility

Since its inception in 2006 as a program of SF SAFE, and its later transformation into an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2024, Castro Community On Patrol has stood as a beacon of community-led safety. The core philosophy behind CCOP is simple yet profound: by maintaining a regular and visible presence on the streets of the Castro, trained volunteers deter crime, provide assistance, and offer reassurance to residents, visitors, and business owners alike. Visibility is an essential part of this strategy. A patroller's presence is not just symbolic—it is preventative. It disrupts the conditions in which crime or harm might otherwise take root.

This approach taps into the "guardian effect," a concept supported by criminological research which shows that the mere presence of non-aggressive, watchful individuals in public spaces significantly decreases the likelihood of unlawful activity. CCOP patrols, adorned with identifiable vests and equipped with training in observation, communication, and first aid, serve not only as deterrents but as first points of contact for those in need.

The power of such visibility cannot be overstated. In a time when many communities experience a reduction in police staffing and slower emergency response times, the presence of trusted community volunteers becomes even more critical. They create a connective tissue between official responders and the public, filling vital gaps through proactive engagement and situational awareness.

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PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR UNPAID VOLUNTEERS Cont:

Communication and Voluntary Compliance over Force

What distinguishes CCOP from more traditional safety models is its strict adherence to a philosophy of communication and voluntary compliance, rather than the use or threat of force. This principle is embedded in the training and operational doctrine of the organization. Patrollers are taught to approach each situation with calm, clarity, and respect, focusing on de-escalation and active listening. Their role is to provide information, facilitate safer behaviors, and bridge gaps in understanding between the public and local authorities.

This emphasis on communication recognizes that most safety issues in community settings arise not from malicious intent, but from confusion, lack of awareness, or momentary distress. By calmly and confidently engaging with individuals—whether that means helping a disoriented tourist, redirecting someone in a mental health crisis, or alerting emergency services when appropriate—CCOP volunteers act as safety mediators.

This approach also promotes long-term community trust. In marginalized neighborhoods such as the Castro—home to a historically vibrant and resilient LGBTQ+ population—relationships between residents and formal law enforcement have not always been harmonious. CCOP's gentle, approachable style reimagines what community safety looks like: cooperative, compassionate, and centered around dialogue rather than discipline.

Real Impact: Lives Saved and Communities Strengthened

While the day-to-day role of a CCOP patroller may include walking the neighborhood, checking on local businesses, or providing assistance during street festivals, the impact can be profoundly life-altering. Over the course of its history, CCOP has directly saved three lives due to timely and appropriate responses from its volunteers. These life-saving interventions are the most vivid and dramatic examples of how critical the organization is to the community. Trained volunteers who are motivated by altruism, and not by power or recognition, can and do perform acts of heroism that reverberate through the community.

Beyond such singular events, CCOP's ongoing work has a quieter, but no less essential, cumulative effect. The organization supports public events, helps direct people during emergencies, and acts as additional eyes and ears during times of high foot traffic or civil unrest. These functions may not always make headlines, but they reinforce a sense of order, connection, and shared responsibility within the neighborhood.

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PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR UNPAID VOLUNTEERS Cont:

Personal Growth and Volunteer Fulfillment

Volunteering for an organization like Castro Community On Patrol offers significant personal benefits as well. Volunteers gain practical skills in communication, emergency response, observation, and community relations. They develop a heightened sense of awareness and a deeper understanding of the social dynamics within their neighborhood. More than that, they experience the satisfaction of knowing their presence matters—that their willingness to step forward makes the streets safer, the community more united, and the fabric of civil society stronger.

Many CCOP volunteers report a renewed sense of purpose and identity. For some, especially those who are retired or looking to give back to the LGBTQ+ community, the opportunity to serve aligns with personal values of justice, protection, and service. Others are motivated by a desire to honor the legacy of those who came before—those who fought for safety, dignity, and equality in the Castro, often at great personal risk.

Conclusion: A Model for Community Empowerment

As cities grapple with complex safety challenges, the model exemplified by Castro Community On Patrol offers a compelling vision for community-based engagement. The success of CCOP shows that with training, dedication, and heart, volunteers can become vital contributors to public safety. Their non-confrontational, visibility-focused approach not only reduces risk but also fosters trust and unity.

Volunteering in unpaid safety roles is not just about filling a gap left by stretched municipal services—it is about reclaiming public space for peace, support, and community pride. It is a quiet act of resistance against fear and division, and a bold affirmation that we all have a role to play in protecting each other. Through visibility, communication, and commitment, organizations like CCOP embody the very best of civic spirit—and their work, in all its quiet consistency and occasional heroism, makes our neighborhoods not only safer, but better places to live.

In a world where so many feel powerless to effect change, the volunteers of Castro Community On Patrol remind us that change begins with a walk, a conversation, a helping hand, and a heart committed to the safety of all.

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WHO / WHEN / WHERE / HOW

LIFE / PROPERTY THREATENING OR CRIME IN PROGRESS ?

Call 9-1-1

In any situation where life or property 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 Rafael 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.

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

Community Patrol Service
CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com

SFPD 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

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

Castro CBD, Castro Cares Program

castro
C A R E S



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/

SFPD LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum



Established 2010
"Working together to create a safer and stronger community for all"

The San Francisco Police Department, LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum was formed in 2010 and welcomes LGBTQ+ volunteer members from around the city. Members meet quarterly with SFPD command staff, to offer input on SFPD Policy, raise concerns, work on community projects and learn more about the SFPD.

To find out more, contact us at SFPD.LGBTQ.Forum@gmail.com and we will be happy to chat with you about how to become a permanent member..

SFPD SAFE PLACE Program



The [SFPD SAFE PLACE](#) program is a collaborative effort between SFPD and San Francisco Businesses to offer a temporary "safe haven" to victims of crime or harassment until law enforcement or medical professionals arrive.

The program mission is to reduce hate crimes, bullying, harassment, and discrimination. By working together, we can encourage crime reporting and promote safety and security.

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.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

BECOME A COMMUNITY HERO



BE THE DIFFERENCE

**GIVE US JUST THREE HOURS A MONTH AS A PATROL VOLUNTEER,
TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP / Castro Patrol) needs volunteers to help us patrol the Castro neighborhood on a monthly basis. YOU could be our next Trainee Patroller! Our next Community HERO.

We have 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 free safety whistles, 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. We **DON'T** break up physical fights or put our volunteers into dangerous situations.

Our volunteers are mostly members of the LGBTQ+ community, but we are open and welcoming to **ALL**. We provide full training, and you will always deploy with other experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated volunteers. Patrolling is fun, you get to meet lots of people, and you can feel good about helping out your community. Sign up TODAY and become a neighborhood HERO tomorrow.

www.CastroPatrol.org | info@CastroPatrol.org

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

SIGN UP. BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.



"SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT"

**NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED PEOPLE
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.**

BE THE DIFFERENCE!

WWW.CASTROPATROL.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

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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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

REPORT HATE CRIMES



This location is a SAFE PLACE for victims of hate crimes and harassment to call 911 and wait for police to arrive.

EMERGENCY CALL 911

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

SAFETY FOR EVERYONE



As a **COMMUNITY** we need to come together to help mitigate and eradicate any violence on the streets, targeting anyone in the neighborhood, but this needs **EVERYONE** to participate and get **INVOLVED**:

1. **TRAIN** so you know how to defend yourself and what to do when you are threatened, or feel threatened,
2. **USE** the community support opportunities available throughout the neighborhood if you need them, and encourage loved ones and friends to do the same,
3. **HELP** anyone in trouble by using your **SAFETY WHISTLE** to call attention to the incident, and hopefully many other community members will do the same,
4. **CALL 9-1-1** immediately to report any acts of violence or threats of violence so Police can respond as quickly as possible – time may be of the essence,
5. **PROVIDE** the details of what you saw to Police if you are a witness to a violent incident. Only witness statements can lead to an arrest, charges, and ultimately conviction. YOUR statement may be critical,
6. **FILE A REPORT** with Police if you are the victim of a violent incident. SFPD are trained and required to be professional, empathetic, and understanding when you need to report a criminal act against you. San Francisco and California are **SANCTUARY** locations so don't worry about your immigration status in the U.S. when reporting. Have a trusted friend or organization with you when you make your report.
7. **SHARE** your incident details with INFO@CastroPatrol.org so we can not only support you through the legal process, but we can also track these incidents to help us recognize patterns and work with SFPD to target dangerous areas or times with more enforcement.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT. The WHOLE community needs to respond and shout with one voice "WE WILL NOT BE VICTIMS, WE WILL NOT BE TARGETS, WE WILL FIGHT BACK."



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San Francisco Safety Coalition**

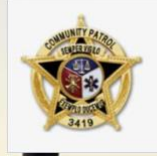


SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED



DATING SAFETY



USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM. Share emails, online profiles, and details of your new date with a trusted friend.

CHECK IN. Ask your BUDDY to reach out to you by phone or text during your date to verify you are good.

NO – IS NEVER NEGOTIABLE. SAY NO TO ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.

ESCAPE ANY WAY YOU CAN. If you feel threatened or at risk do what you need to ESCAPE to safety.

DEFEND YOURSELF. You are entitled to defend if you need to. Better to be tried by 12, than buried by 6.

REPORT IT. If you are threatened, abused, or injured by a date, report them to 9-1-1 and let your friends know.

SEEK SUPPORT. From friends, from the community, and from government and nonprofit entities.



www.CastroPatrol.org

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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IS AGAINST THE LAW
AND OFTEN LEADS TO SERIOUS INJURY OR WORSE.
DON'T BECOME A MARTYR.**

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- **Are you regularly subjected to acts of degradation, physical or verbal abuse, intimidation, or excessive control?**
- **Do you feel UNSAFE with your intimate partner?**
- **Do you feel empowered to make decisions for yourself?**

Abusers rarely stop their abuse, but frequently escalate to more serious attacks. Ask for help!

LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project: 1-212-714-1141

FORGE Transgender Project: 1-414-559-2123

Youth LGBTQ Help Center: 1-800-246-7743



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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

ANGEL SHOTS

**THIS ESTABLISHMENT RECOGNIZES AND SUPPORTS
THE ANGEL SHOT SAFETY PROGRAM**

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- **Are you on a DATE that is not going well?**
- **Do you feel UNSAFE?**
- **Is anyone BOTHERING you or making you feel UNCOMFORTABLE?**
- **Are you being FORCED to do something against your will?**

**ASK OUR SECURITY STAFF OR YOUR SERVER FOR
AN "ANGEL SHOT."**

**WE WILL HANDLE THINGS DISCRETELY AND WE
WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL YOU ARE SAFE &
SECURE.**



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DON'T BE AFRAID, GET TRAINED AND PREPARED

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS SLAVERY BY A DIFFERENT NAME.
TARGET THE TRAFFICKERS AND HELP SAVE THE VICTIMS.**

DO YOU NEED HELP?

- **Are you FORCED to work for little or no reimbursement?**
- **Do you face physical or psychological abuse if you do not work as demanded?**
- **Can you leave at any time, without fear of retribution?**
- **Are you expected to do things outside of your comfort zone, such as performing sexual favors for strangers?**

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1-888-373-7888

Text: HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)

www.humantraffickinghotline.org



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