



# PATROLLER

**NOVEMBER 2025**

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

**ESTABLISHED 2006**

## CHIEF OF PATROL



**Chf. Greg Carey**  
(Public Relations)

## ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PATROL



**AChf. Ken Craig**  
(Volunteer Training & Certification)

## DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



**DChf. Brian Hill**  
(Information Technology)

## DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL



**DChf. Kyle Wong**  
(Volunteer Scheduling & Retention)

## SOMA WEST CBD BEGINNERS SELF- DEFENSE CLASS



As discussed in our October PATROLLER edition, we have coordinated with SoMa West CBD to host our every popular 3.5 hours Beginners Self-Defense class in SoMa on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 PM.

Participants will learn the basics of how to recognize trouble, avoid it, de-escalate when possible, seek assistance from others, and when all else fails, defend themselves physically.

The class is open to ALL and is very low impact and light hearted despite the heavy subject matter. Pre-registration is required at \$30/attendee.

Join us in SoMa for this Self-Defense class in January by clicking the link below.

[01/17 Self-Defense Class](#)

## SEARCH FOR A NEW SFPD CHIEF OF POLICE



The San Francisco Police Commission and the Mayors Office are currently interviewing a number of potential candidates to take on the position of Chief of Police for the San Francisco Police Department.

Interim Chief Paul Yep is only a temporary holder of the office while the search for a permanent Chief is conducted. Appointed by Mayor Lurie, Interim Chief Yep is likely to be in place until at least January or February of 2026.

A number of candidates for the top job are being considered, including a handful from within the San Francisco Police Department itself, though Interim Chief Yep is not one of those candidates.

We look forward to working with the new Chief upon his appointment.

## PROTECT THE CASTRO BY JOINING US

Ordinary people, doing extraordinary things is how we think of our Patrollers. They come from all walks of life, all backgrounds, and live throughout the Bay Area. They all share one single focus, helping to keep the Castro SAFE for EVERYONE.

We only ask for a minimum of one 3-hour patrol a month! We provide all training and equipment.

Help us to  
**PROTECT THE CASTRO**

## S.F.P.D. CRIME DATA SNAPSHOT

[SFPD Crime Data](#) results citywide for the following specific categories between **1/1/2025 to 11/30/2025**

	2025	Yr - Yr %
Homicide	26	-21.2%
Robbery	1,538	-23.4%
Assault	1,918	-12.8%
Burglary	3,451	-28.1%
Veh. Theft	2,839	-44.0%
Larceny	15,372	-21.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-25.1%</b>

During the same period last year, SFPD recorded a total of 34, 128 reports, compared with a total of 25, 227 reports this year, representing a 25.1% drop overall.

# PATROL NEWS

## CCOP SUPPORTED THE 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CASTRO STREET FAIR



We were extremely proud to once again support the annual [Castro Street Fair](#) as they marked their 51<sup>st</sup> annual event on Sunday October 5.

CCOP has supported the Fair for around fifteen years, performing a very special and essential Treasury support function with the help of a number of community volunteers.

[Castro Street Fair](#) is a very popular annual event that always attracts tens of thousands of attendees. All functions at the fair are filled by volunteers from local Castro nonprofit organizations. Donations provided by attendees and collected by these volunteers are disbursed to those nonprofits after Fair expenses are settled. This typically means a very important influx of funds for all of these local nonprofits.

Supporting local nonprofit events and activities is a key part of our function and mission at Castro Patrol. These annual events are extremely important in building and strengthening the community in a myriad of diverse and unique ways.

Join us as a volunteer [Patroller](#), and help us to support Castro Street Fair and the other annual events that take place throughout the year.

## CCOP PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SAFETY SUPPORT FOR THE CASTRO NIGHT MARKET & HALLOWEEN



The first formal Halloween event in the Castro took place to coincide with the final [Castro Night Market](#) of 2025, on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Castro Patrol was proud to attend and assist in providing additional safety for the extremely well attended, safe, fun, and energetic event. Tens of thousands of attendees, many in costume, filled the streets, shopped at the vendor booths, and enjoyed the entertainment at the three performance stages between 5 PM and 10 PM.

The event was a great success in our view, and we look forward to supporting the [Castro Night Market](#) when they return next year.



**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

# PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

***BY Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service***

## **CAPTURING A GOOD DESCRIPTION**

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 of 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 skintight 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.

**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

# PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

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.

**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**



# 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](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org)

**San Francisco Police Department Park Station**  
415-242-3000 [SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com)

**SFPD LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum**  
[LGBTQ.forum@sfgov.org](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CommunityPatrolService@gmail.com) and we will be happy to chat with you, and enroll you into the program.

**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

# PROTECT THE CASTRO



## 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](http://www.CastroPatrol.org) | [info@CastroPatrol.org](mailto: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](http://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**

**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

**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**



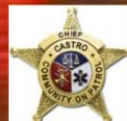
**As a COMMUNITY we need to come together to help mitigate and eradicate any violence on the streets, targeting anyone in the neighborhood, but this needs EVERYONE to participate and get INVOLVED:**

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](mailto: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."**



**This message is brought to you by the  
San Francisco Safety Coalition**



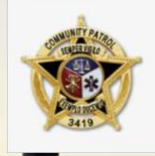
**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**



**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](http://www.CastroPatrol.org)

**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**



**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!**

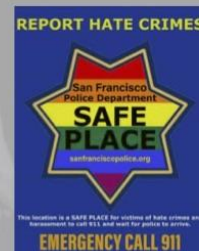
**LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project: 1-212-714-1141**

**FORGE Transgender Project: 1-414-559-2123**

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



**This message is brought to you by the  
San Francisco Safety Coalition**



**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

**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.**



**This message is brought to you by the  
San Francisco Safety Coalition**



**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**

**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](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)**



This message is brought to you by the  
San Francisco Safety Coalition



**SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT**