



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

FORUM NEWS


JULY 2024

Newsletter for members of the San Francisco Police Department, LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum in San Francisco, California, USA.

FOUNDED IN 2010


LGBTQ.forum@sfgov.org

SFPD CO-CHAIR



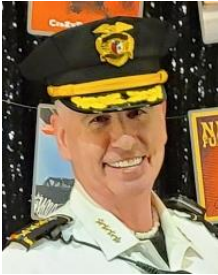
Captain Christopher Del Gandio

COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR



Greg Carey
(Castro Community On Patrol)

COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR



Ken Craig
(Community Patrol Service)

July 31 Forum Meeting At UCSF Campus

We hosted our latest Forum meeting #8 on Wednesday July 31st, 2024 at the **UCSF** campus in Mission Bay. Sincere thanks to forum member **Robert Mansfield** and **UCSF** for the space, cookies, and coffee.

Attending this meeting:

- **Captain Christopher Del Gandio**, SFPD
- **Ken Craig**, Community Patrol Service
- **Greg Carey**, Castro Community on Patrol
- **Robert Mansfield**, UCSF
- **Gary Pegueros**, South Beach Rincon Mission Bay Neighborhood Association
- **Paul Allen**, Chiefs Community Police Advisory Forum Liaison
- **Omar Rincon**, Supervisor Wiener Liaison
- **Kenneth Wright**, Individual member
- **Kelly Fradet**, FBI Community Outreach
- **Br. Synthetic Soul**, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- **Cal Callahan**, Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District
- **Dave Burke**, SFPD Public Safety Liaison

Unfortunately, our two planned guests were unable to attend, one due to a family emergency and the other coming down with COVID. We will work to reschedule with both invited guests for a later forum meeting.

Instead, this offered our new Forum member, Julius De Guia, Chief of the Criminal Division of the San Francisco District Attorney's office an opportunity to discuss a little more about his role and the functions of the DA's office.



Julius noted that his office is currently prosecuting four hate crime cases, which is a relatively stable number for cases within San Francisco. The DA has not observed any discernable rise in hate crime cases reported, however it is understood that many crimes tend to be under-reported and hate motivated crime is likely to be significantly under-reported.

Julius also mentioned that DA Jenkins is hoping to relaunch their own LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum and they are seeking community members to participate. If you are interested in participating, or know of anyone who may be interested, please reach out to Julius at Julius.deguia@sfgov.org and he will pass the information on to the coordinator of the forum meetings.

Julius has agreed to be a permanent member of our Forum and a liaison between our Forum and the District Attorney's office which will be a great resource for our Forum members.

DA Jenkins is also confirmed to attend and speak at our upcoming Hate Crimes public meeting on 09/12.

Our 2024 FORUM MEETING Dates

Mark your calendar:

Wednesday Nov 06, 2024

7 PM – 9 PM

[UCSF Mission Hall, 550 16th Street, San Francisco, CA](#)

Our 2025 meetings schedule has not been confirmed yet.

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SFPD Chief's Community Police Advisory Forum



SFPD LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum member, Paul Allen, also serves on the SFPD Chief's Community Police Advisory Forum (CPAF) which meets the day after our own forum meets.

Paul presented a very interesting line chart titled the "Number of City-Wide Overdose Deaths and Dealer/User Arrests Per Month, January 2023 – June 2024." Paul began collating the data following an assertion by a member of the San Francisco Police Commission who in essence suggested that overdose deaths increased as arrest numbers increased. As no hard data was available at the time to prove, or disprove this assertion Paul decided to gather and present the relevant data over a 12 month period.

While correlation does not imply causation, the data collected by Paul appears to suggest the assertion of overdose deaths increasing as arrests increase may not be borne out. Indeed, the drug overdose deaths reported by the San Francisco Medical Examiner's office remain relatively flat with the lowest monthly recorded deaths at 48, while the highest was 88. Of course, any death as the result of an overdose is one too many, but recent efforts to target open air drug selling markets and to arrest drug dealers seems to be having a positive impact overall for the community.

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT STATION BOUNDARY REDISTRICTING PROJECT

Every ten years, the SFPD is mandated to consider changes to the ten District police station boundaries, and to adjust them to accommodate changes in population, businesses, crime patterns, and other considerations.

The public is encouraged to participate in this process by providing suggestions for changes to the district station boundaries. Paul discussed an idea to move the Castro neighborhood out of Mission District to Park District, suggesting Park Police District has fewer calls for service and therefore should be able to focus on, and respond to calls within the Castro more rapidly.

While the Forum will not take an "official" position on this, or any redistricting suggestions, we do encourage this open discussion and consideration and we encourage all of our Forum members to submit their own thoughts, suggestions, and ideas. We are working to establish an on-line meeting with the coordinators of the redistricting effort, so you will have an opportunity to understand the process more, and so you can formally submit your ideas to the project organizers.

We will reach out to you as soon as we establish a date and time for this online meeting.



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SOMA Leather Community Battery Incident



Our Forum member, Cal Callahan, raised the matter of a well-known member of the leather community who was battered (physically injured) by a date he had only recently met. The battery shocked the leather community and they quickly coalesced to set up a safety information meeting and to resurrect the “Stop The Violence” program of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Fortunately, the victim of this battery is recovering well, and was not severely physically injured requiring long-term hospitalization, but naturally the psychological trauma will remain for a long time to come. The victim quickly filed a police report, despite the suspect threatening him not to do so. An investigation is on-going so we cannot go into many details, but the suspect is well-known within the leather community so we certainly hope an arrest and prosecution will follow quickly.

A number of organizations spoke at the hastily arranged Safety Meeting at the Eagle Bar, including the victim, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a dating do’s and don’t’s presentation, a lawyer, and Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP) and Community Patrol Service (CPS). Cal indicated that the organizers recognized that the battery victim was a male, and most of the attendees at the Safety Meeting were also male, but that outreach and information for the female, non-gender identifying, and non-binary members of their community was essential and they are working on making this happen.

As both of our Forum Community Co-Chairs were present at the Safety Meeting, both promoted the SAFE PLACE program that we have been deploying through the Forum in collaboration with the SFPD Community Engagement Division and the San Francisco Public Safety PRIDE Alliance Officers. We supplied the SAFE PLACE poster electronically to the organizers, recommending that they distribute it electronically to their members and businesses.

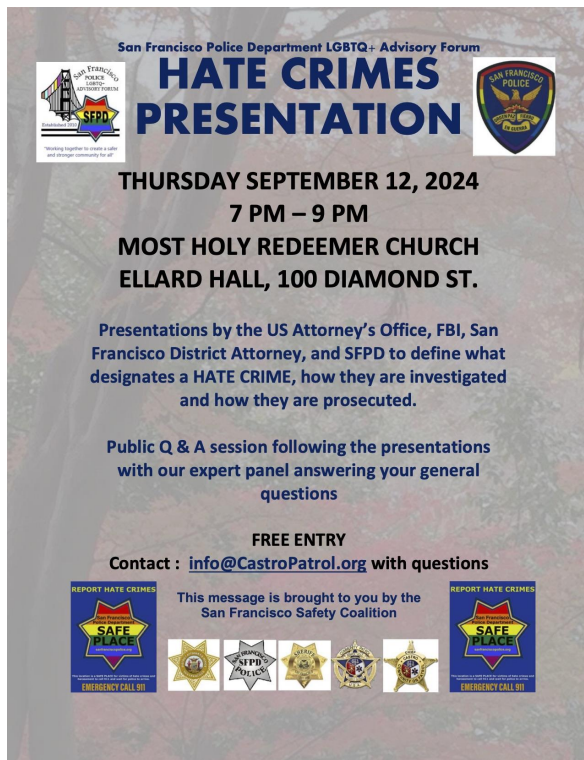
CCOP and CPS distributed 30 SAFE PLACE posters in the Castro recently, and plans to continue the Castro distribution in the near future. Our overall Forum goal is to work with Forum members and PRIDE Alliance Officers to distribute these posters to businesses throughout San Francisco. We will certainly work with Cal, SOMA CBD and others to organize an outreach and distribution effort in the SOMA (South of Market Street) district as part of this effort.

Please sign up to assist us in the distribution when we finalize a day and time for the distribution of these important posters as part of this safety project. If you own a business and want to join the SAFE PLACE program, reach out and let us know.



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Forum Will Host A HATE CRIMES Presentation



The poster features the San Francisco Police Department LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum logo at the top left, the SFPD logo at the top right, and the San Francisco Police Department badge in the center. The main text reads: "San Francisco Police Department LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum", "HATE CRIMES PRESENTATION", "THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2024", "7 PM – 9 PM", "MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH", "ELLARD HALL, 100 DIAMOND ST." Below this, it lists presenters: "Presentations by the US Attorney's Office, FBI, San Francisco District Attorney, and SFPD to define what designates a HATE CRIME, how they are investigated and how they are prosecuted." It also mentions a "Public Q & A session following the presentations with our expert panel answering your general questions". The event is "FREE ENTRY" and contact information is "info@CastroPatrol.org". At the bottom, there are logos for "REPORT HATE CRIMES SAFE PLACE EMERGENCY CALL 911" and "This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition" with logos for various agencies including SFPD, SFDA, and others.

We have finalized the basic details to host the **HATE CRIMES** presentation meeting in the heart of the Castro neighborhood at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Ellard Hall (basement), 100 Diamond Street, on Thursday September 12, 2024 from 7 PM to 9 PM.

Our Forum has officially held three prior HATE CRIMES presentation meetings in the past, with the last being just last year in collaboration with the F.B.I. That meeting was restricted to an invited guest list but was very well attended and received by those who were present. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Forum leadership discussed the need for, and importance of, providing similar information to the general public and the concept of hosting this HATE CRIMES presentation was launched.

This presentation will invite the panelists from the US Attorney's Office, the FBI, the SFDA, and the SFPD to present for five minutes on their own agency and approach, and we will then move into a question and answer session with questions from the event moderators and from the audience.

Our goal is to help members of the general public understand the differences between California State and US Federal Hate Crime statutes and the requirements needed to bring a successful criminal prosecution at the local, State, and/or Federal level. There is a great deal of anecdotal and "rumor mill" information out there, much of which is inaccurate and ill informed. This presentation will hopefully enlighten and clarify the legislation for attendees, and we will encourage them to share the information with everyone they know.

We encourage you as Forum members to attend and support this important Public Education effort of our Forum, and please share the poster and the meeting date with as many people as possible. Attendance is FREE and will be on a first come basis.

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OUTREACH PROJECT



PROJECT: 2023-001
LEAD: Ken Craig
Gary Pegueros

Outreach to let members of the broader LGBTQ+ community know that our Forum exists and the work we do is a key objective.

SFPD is creating an official Forum page on their website, though this is delayed until the other Forums are up and running.

We strongly encourage all Forum members to attend their own District Police station Captains monthly meeting. This is a great opportunity to get to know your District station Captain and their staff, and to speak for a few moments during each meeting to promote our Forum.

We are actively reaching out to brother/sister LGBTQ+ programs and projects around the world to formally list them in our "Worldwide LGBTQ+ Law Enforcement Directory."

If you are traveling around the country, or around the world, consider reaching out to the local Police Department and try to arrange a meeting with their LGBTQ+ Officers or liaison. This is a great way to build connections between our Forum and other LGBTQ+ focused entities. We can provide you with a Forum challenge coin and other items to provide as gifts when meeting other individuals or groups.

Sign up to assist on this PROJECT, by emailing us at
SFPD.LGBTQ.Forum@gmail.com

SFPD SAFE PLACE PROJECT



PROJECT: 2023-002
LEAD: Greg Carey
Gary Pegueros

The "**SAFE PLACE**" program is a collaborative effort between the San Francisco Police Department and merchants to create safe places where victims of hate crimes, prejudice-based incidents, or other crimes can find refuge and be connected with law enforcement and other services.

The "**SAFE ZONE**" program was created as a project of our Forum to help persuade members of the LGBTQ+ community that SFPD Police Stations and Officers are safe places for them, and that they can report crimes and concerns to Police and they will be treated with RESPECT and COMPASSION.

We have already distributed 30 posters within two blocks of the Castro neighborhood and will schedule additional distributions in the Castro soon. We will also be collaborating with SOMA to distribute posters there, hopefully before the Folsom Street fair in late September.

This overall project is a broader citywide Safety collaboration with other departments that is being formed as an extension of the SF Police Officers PRIDE Alliance organization.

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LGBTQ+/SFPD HISTORY PROJECT



PROJECT: 2023-003

LEAD: Ken Craig

Robert Mansfield, Gary Pegueros

The history of the relationship between the San Francisco Police Department and the LGBTQ+ community is a long, complicated, and often misunderstood one. Many people within the Police Department and within the LGBTQ+ community may be largely unaware of that long and complicated history, and of the tremendous advances and progress that have been made over the decades. This project intends to create our own version of the history art piece shown above, produced by Tasmania Police.

We have started to build our “milestone events” lists and are seeking some SFPD resources to provide statements and memories for the project.

While we initially hoped to create this as a large art installation that could be displayed at museums and moved to different locations, the difficulty in finding an artist to work with has resulted in us reconsidering this approach. We are now moving forward with this as an online website based project which we hope will make the finished product more accessible to more people.

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SFPD.LGBTQ.Forum@gmail.com

HATE CRIMES COMMUNITY MEETING PROJECT

San Francisco Police Department LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum
HATE CRIMES PRESENTATION
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
7 PM – 9 PM
MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH
ELLARD HALL, 100 DIAMOND ST.

Presentations by the US Attorney's Office, FBI, San Francisco District Attorney, and SFPD to define what designates a HATE CRIME, how they are investigated and how they are prosecuted.

Public Q & A session following the presentations with our expert panel answering your general questions

FREE ENTRY
Contact : info@CastroPatrol.org with questions

REPORT HATE CRIMES
SAFE PLACE
This message is brought to you by the San Francisco Safety Coalition

PROJECT: 2023-006

LEAD: Ken Craig

Greg Carey

Following on from our very successful FBI Hate Crimes Symposium in October of 2023, we have established a similar meeting for the general LGBTQ+ community to provide information and answer questions.

Please share the poster and information about this Public Education outreach by the forum with everyone you know to encourage them to attend, and please plan to attend yourself.

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SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum



The LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum is comprised of a broad diversity of LGBTQ+ members from around the city who meet regularly to discuss community needs and concerns, and to help influence SFPD procedure and policy.

Participation in the Forum is open to anyone within the LGBTQ+ community who lives, works, or attends school in San Francisco.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

LGBTQ.Forum@sfgov.org

“Working together to create a safer and stronger community for all”

San Francisco Police Department LGBTQ+ Advisory Forum



HATE CRIMES PRESENTATION



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

7 PM – 9 PM

**MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH
ELLARD HALL, 100 DIAMOND ST.**

Presentations by the US Attorney's Office, FBI, San Francisco District Attorney, and SFPD to define what designates a HATE CRIME, how they are investigated and how they are prosecuted.

Public Q & A session following the presentations with our expert panel answering your general questions

FREE ENTRY

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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