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SFPD Address Safety During Pride Week Celebrations

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The San Francisco Police Department is dedicated to making Pride week events (June 20th - 26th) safe and enjoyable.

San Francisco's Pride Week is the largest LGBTQ celebration in the country, and one of San Francisco's most popular and well-attended events. With an estimated one million people attending, locally and from all over the world, public safety is our number one goal.

There will be a significant police presence during Pride activities, with both uniformed and plain clothes officers on duty to monitor the events. As with any large

public event, there are always safety concerns. Safety is everyone's responsibility, including participants, organizers, security staff and law enforcement.

We want to remind the public that while the Castro District is open for business, there is no organized event taking place on Castro Street on Saturday. There will be no street closures. Laws prohibiting possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages and drinking in public will be strictly enforced. San Francisco and the Castro District offer a wide variety of restaurants and entertainment venues and we encourage celebrants to patronize local businesses and to celebrate responsibly.

Security measures for the Pride Festival include:

Celebrants attending the Pride festival in Civic Center will be screened by either walk through metal detectors or hand held "wands" and are subject to additional searches of their person and possessions. Please allow extra time to pass through security check points. You can help reduce delays at check points by leaving unnecessary items at home.

Bags are discouraged. If you must bring a bag, it can be no larger than 18 inches x 18 inches. Bags are subject to search and there are no lockers for storage of oversize bags.

Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase inside the venue and Pride Organizers have a 100% ID check policy. No outside alcohol will be allowed into the venue and possession of open containers or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on City streets.

The San Francisco Police Department has increased staffing for Pride weekend. The public should expect to see a significant police presence including members of the Special Operations Group who will be mobile in the area of the Parade and Festival. The Department is also working closely with our State and Federal law enforcement partners to make the events as safe as possible.

Pride participants can help prevent becoming a victim of a crime by keeping in mind the below safety tips:

Pride is about community. Look out for each other and report any suspicious persons or activity to event staff or a police officer. A good adage is, "If you see something, say something." In an emergency, call 9-1-1. To provide an anonymous

tip, call the SFPD Anonymous Tip Line at (415) 575-4444.

Stay informed by signing up for emergency text message alerts by texting the word AlertSF to 888-777. AlertSF allows us to notify you of emergencies in San Francisco.

Keep your friends close and your drinks closer. Don't accept drinks from strangers.

Drink responsibly and don't drink and drive; always use a designated driver. The San Francisco Bay Area has a host of public transit options that will get you to, from and around Pride events.

Maintain possession of your cell phone, wallet and other valuables.

There is safety in numbers, so stay as a group when on the street or leaving bars and clubs. Be cautious about leaving a bar or club with a stranger. A rule of thumb is that, if you feel "unsure" about another, rely on that instinct and do not go with that person.

"The San Francisco Police Department joins the LGBTQ community in celebrating Pride Week," said Acting Police Chief Toney Chaplin. "Along with our City partners, we are working with many groups in a spirit of cooperation and good-will to make the 2016 Pride Week a safe and enjoyable event as possible for all. By working together we can make this a Safe Pride!"

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