

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City adopts enhanced protections for San Francisco Patrol Special Police

San Francisco – San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted enhanced protections for Patrol Special Police without comment Tuesday, March 9.

Since the beginning of the year, two Patrol Special Police officers have been injured while on duty since the beginning of the year.

“Our officers do get hurt out there and do risk their lives,” said Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner, who is recovering from a broken arm that resulted from an [on-duty incident early Christmas morning](#). “This will help keep our officers safe.”

Patrol Special Police Officer Ernest Tachihara was assaulted while abating a public domestic dispute February 21. Another Patrol Special Police officer, Bob Burns, could have been seriously injured by the [Fisherman's Wharf nightclub shooter](#), while disabling the gunman February 7.

Tachihara recently returned to work after taking a week off to recover from his on-duty related injuries.

Burns has been recommended by many clients and citizens for an award from the police department in honor of his heroic actions.

“We firmly believe that the officers of the Patrol Special Police should be protected to the same degree provided to the officers of the San Francisco Police Department, with enhancement provisions for anyone who assaults them as they

are conducting their lawful duties in support of the citizens of San Francisco,” said Ken Craig, president and founder of Community Patrol USA.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, District 8, introduced the resolution January 5, after the district attorney’s office reduced the nine charges filed against the suspect, James Crayton McCullough, who assaulted Warner, while patrolling Dufty’s district. McCullough was released on [bail](#) soon after.

“It is incumbent upon us to protect these individuals from violent attacks,” said Dufty about the board of supervisor’s adoption of the resolution.

Dufty, plans to meet with Police Chief George Gascon soon. He hopes Gascon will be open to discuss and support enforcing the resolution, he said.

Merchants and residents flooded the supervisors with phone calls and emails in support of the city’s neighborhood policing force Tuesday.

Craig added, “These fine officers intervene in dangerous situations on behalf of all citizens of San Francisco, not only on behalf of their own paying clients.”

About San Francisco Patrol Special Police

San Francisco Patrol Special Police are the only private neighborhood safety service in the city that is legally permitted to patrol San Francisco's streets as well as private locations, under the city's municipal code Sec. 1750, and is on police radio frequencies. Patrol Special Police officers are screened by background checks conducted by the S.F.P.D., are trained annually at the San Francisco Police Academy, and regulated by the Police Commission.

Throughout more than a century-and-a-half of unique neighborhood policing, Special Police have supported the City's public safety needs. Patrol Special Police date their history from 1851, during Gold Rush Days. The force was written into the City Charter in 1856. Special Police have assisted city authorities with controlling historical criminal gangs such as the infamous Hounds of San Francisco. Over the years they also maintained public safety during labor strikes, riots, and natural disasters - including the devastating 1906 earthquake.

Today, Patrol Special Police augment the S.F.P.D. by providing neighborhoods with cost-effective and crime prevention services and safety education. Patrol Special Police resolve disturbances at an early stage with a view toward the welfare of all. Their early intervention and visible presence unburden S.F.P.D. officers to address other law enforcement needs. Their services are financed by private clients who include merchants, professionals, homeowners' associations, individual residents, street fair and special event organizers, government agencies, and other business and private organizations.

For more information, visit www.sfspecialneighborhoodpolicing.org.