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San Francisco Patrol Special Police Set up Fund to Co-sponsor with City a Permanent Memorial Plaque Naming Plaza in the Castro for Officer Jane Warner

(San Francisco, Wednesday, November 17, 2010) – San Francisco’s Patrol Special Police Officer Association President Alan Byard is pleased to announce that the Patrol Special Police Officer Association has established the “Officer Jane Warner Memorial Fund” for contributions from the public to co-sponsor with the City, a permanent plaque for the Castro pedestrian plaza named on Sunday, November 7 after Patrol Special Police Officer Warner.

Officer Warner, an 18-year veteran neighborhood police officer in the Castro, Noe Valley, and Mission neighborhoods, and past President of the Patrol Special Police Officers Association, passed on May 8 after a brief illness.

The fund has been established at the San Francisco Police Credit Union at the branch located at 2550 Irving Street. Contributions may be mailed to the SF Police Credit Union, P.O. Box 22219, SF, Ca. 94122-0219, or delivered in person to the above-listed branch. Checks should be made payable to the: *"Officer Jane Warner Memorial Fund."*

Officer Warner was honored by the City on what would have been Warner’s 54th birthday on Sunday, November 7. On that day the pedestrian plaza located at 17th and Market Streets in the Castro neighborhood was re-named the “Jane Warner Plaza.” The celebration was attended by many hundreds of Warner’s clients, friends and supporters, and festivities were kicked off by rousing musical numbers by the City’s famed Gay and Lesbian Marching Band.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty sponsored the unanimously-approved Board of Supervisor’s resolution authorizing the honor, and presided over the ceremony. After welcoming the crowd he introduced speakers who also warmly remembered Warner’s long contribution to the Castro. Dufty then unveiled the prototype for the permanent plaque that will be installed, which said in part: “(Officer Jane) was dedicated not only to the business owners who contracted with her for private neighborhood safety services, but also to protecting the residents and visitors in the areas she patrolled.”

Speakers included Supervisor-elect Scott Wiener of District 8, SFPD Officer Lorraine Lombard and Sgt. Lisa Frasier who patrolled with Warner out of the SFPD Mission Station, President Steve Adams and former president Patrick Batt of the Upper Market-Castro Merchants Association, and Board President of the Castro Community on Patrol Gregg Carey. Also speaking were Dawn Warner, Officer Jane’s life partner and wife, and Michelle Hadley-Ourlan, a close friend who assisted Officer Jane during her final illness.

Patrol Special Police Officers in attendance listened intently to words of encouragement from Dawn Warner, who said: “Jane was very proud of the work that all of you officers did everyday to make your communities into safer places. As you move forward under new leadership, she would encourage you to work together and to always look for ways to improve and strengthen the organization. I know she is with you in spirit.” Warner continued with a reminder that her partner “chose community policing because she believed in its power to unite a community and make a difference in the quality of people’s lives. This is the best Birthday Present all of you could have given her.”

Alan Byard, President of the Patrol Special Police Officers Association, closed the ceremonies by reminding participants that his former colleague was not only a member of the community, but felt it was her home. “Jane strived to do her best for everyone and to treat all people fairly and with dignity and respect. She was genuinely concerned about this district and helped to elevate its problems and find solutions to them, always ready with a

helping hand and to offer assistance to everyone.”

Byard then introduced Patrol Special Police Officer John Fitzinger who will now serve the Castro District. Byard told the crowd that Fitzinger had “some big shoes to fill to live up to the reputation of the best Patrol Special who ever worked the Castro.” He urged everyone to rely on Fitzinger to continue to offer safety and security to all.

The ceremony closed with a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday,” accompanied by enthusiastic chords from the Gay and Lesbian Marching Band.

Officer Jane is survived not only by Dawn Warner, but by her mother, Carol Warner, and two sisters, Lynn Fitch and Kathryn Ness who reside in the Tacoma, Washington area, and were unable to attend the ceremony. Hadley-Ourlan read a statement of appreciation from them, and later emailed them a full report and pictures memorializing the event.

“The day was bittersweet for all of us,” affirmed Ann Grogan, who worked closely with Warner and her officers to educate the public about the concept of neighborhood policing provided by the Patrol Specials. “The true icing on Jane’s birthday cake came at the very end of the ceremony after we sang Happy Birthday. It had rained all morning but just then the rain stopped and the sun burst through the clouds for about five minutes. Several of us chuckled out loud,” said Grogan.

Fitch reported to Grogan that a family gathering in Tacoma was held at the same hour as the ceremony in San Francisco. At approximately the time the local ceremony concluded, the cork suddenly popped out of a champagne bottle set on the luncheon table.

“You just can’t make up things like that,” Grogan said. “We know she’s looking over our shoulders, and making sure we do the right thing to protect her beloved neighborhoods,” said Hadley-Ourlan.

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 Police 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/or other police training organizations, regulated by the Police Commission and supervised by the S.F.P.D.

Throughout more than a century-and-a-half of unique neighborhood policing, Patrol Special Police have supported the City's public safety needs. Since the Gold Rush Days, Special Police, later known as Patrol Special Police,

Special Police were first sworn in by Police Chief Marshal Malachi Fallon in 1851. Five years later 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.

Patrol Special Police 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.

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