



Special Neighborhood Policing

A professional support group
of and for Patrol Special Police Officers

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Media Advisory From Officer Jane Warner, President,
San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officers Association

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Re: Media Advisory re: Supplementary Information about Quick Action by San Francisco
Patrol Special Police Officer Robert Burns to subdue gunman outside North Beach bar on
February 7

About 1:40 a.m. on February 7, a man opened fire on another person outside of Suede
night club, 383 Bay Street in San Francisco. Prior to the incident the suspect allegedly was
arguing with his victim inside the club.

In the disturbance that followed, the suspect allegedly fired multiple shots that resulted in
one person being killed and at least four people being injured, according to police reports.

San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Robert Burns immediately responded to the
incident. He was on duty outside the night club as the incident occurred. Officer Burns
evaluated the situation. He noted that the suspect continued to threaten to fire or fired his
gun, prompting Burns to draw his side arm and return fire, injuring and stopping the
suspect.

The suspect was later transported to San Francisco General Hospital.

The San Francisco Police Department is investigating the incident. Initial evidence
indicates that only shots fired by the suspect caused injury or death at the scene. Officer
Burns' quick action avoided additional harm to the public.

Photograph from the late 1800s; a Patrol Special Police Officer sits with a San Francisco Police Department Officer



Officer Burns was not harmed and is cooperating with the on-going investigation. The SFPD and Burns are not commenting on the incident during the current investigation.

Burns is contracted by Suede for policing services additional to those provided by the SFPD. Burns also serves other businesses located in the North Beach neighborhood, under auspices of a private patrol program operational since Gold Rush Days and formally established in the City Charter in 1856.

San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officers are uniformed and legally armed, are on police radio bandwidth, and report to the chief of police and are supervised by the captain of the police district where they serve. They sign in and out with their district station before and after they take up their daily patrols or service. Like SFPD officers, Patrol Special Police Officers are trained annually at the police academy or similar state-approved police training organizations. San Francisco Patrol Special Police are overseen and regulated by the Police Commission.

The San Francisco Police Department officers assigned to the investigation are interviewing witnesses to find other people who may have details about what happened. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Police Department's confidential tip line at (415) 575-4444 or text a tip to TIP411.

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 SFPD, are trained annually at the San Francisco Police Academy and/or other police training organizations, regulated by the Police Commission and supervised by the SFPD.

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 SFPD 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 SFPD 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.