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S.F. skateboarders ditch Dolores, plan notorious Hill Bomb in new neighborhood

By Rachel Swan, Staff Writer

Oct 10, 2025



Skateboarder Mark "Shark" Urbieto bombs down Church Street in 2024.
Jason Henry/Special to the Chronicle



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S.F. skateboarders didn't hold the Dolores Hill Bomb this year. They're taking
Twin Peaks instead

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The thrilling scenes became a staple of July in San Francisco: Teens whooshing down Dolores Hill on skateboards, careening past palm trees and Edwardian homes while onlookers cheered and craned their cell phones.

But after a death, a traumatic head injury and multiple skirmishes with police, the Dolores Hill Bomb didn't happen this year. Instead, a group of skaters will hold a separate event Saturday on Twin Peaks, in a far more organized fashion.

"We're definitely trying to fill a void," said Ciaran Trevino, who conceived Saturday's event both as an extreme-sports stunt, and a demonstration to support Palestine and other social justice causes. It won't have the feral quality of past events, when throngs gathered at Liberty and Dolores streets as the sun set, taking the hills at blistering speeds.

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Trevino hopes for no drama, no police kettling, no negative news headlines. He'll dispatch about 25 "spotters" with yellow vests and walkie-talkies to patrol the three-mile route, from Christmas Tree Point through Noe Valley and the Castro. Medics in reflective red garments will be on hand for emergencies. Trevino and other Hill Bomb planners have secured permits and presented a safety plan to law enforcement, who allowed them to block off the roads. They're promoting the event through a conventional website, rather than spreading the word via TikTok or burner Instagram accounts.



San Francisco Hill Bomb 2025 organizer Ciaran Trevino said he hopes for no drama at his event.
Courtesy of Ciaran Trevino

In short, Trevino is breaking what some would see as a sacrosanct code and sensibility of skate culture — that you don't sell out to authority. He's cognizant of that. Spokespeople from the San Francisco Police

Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

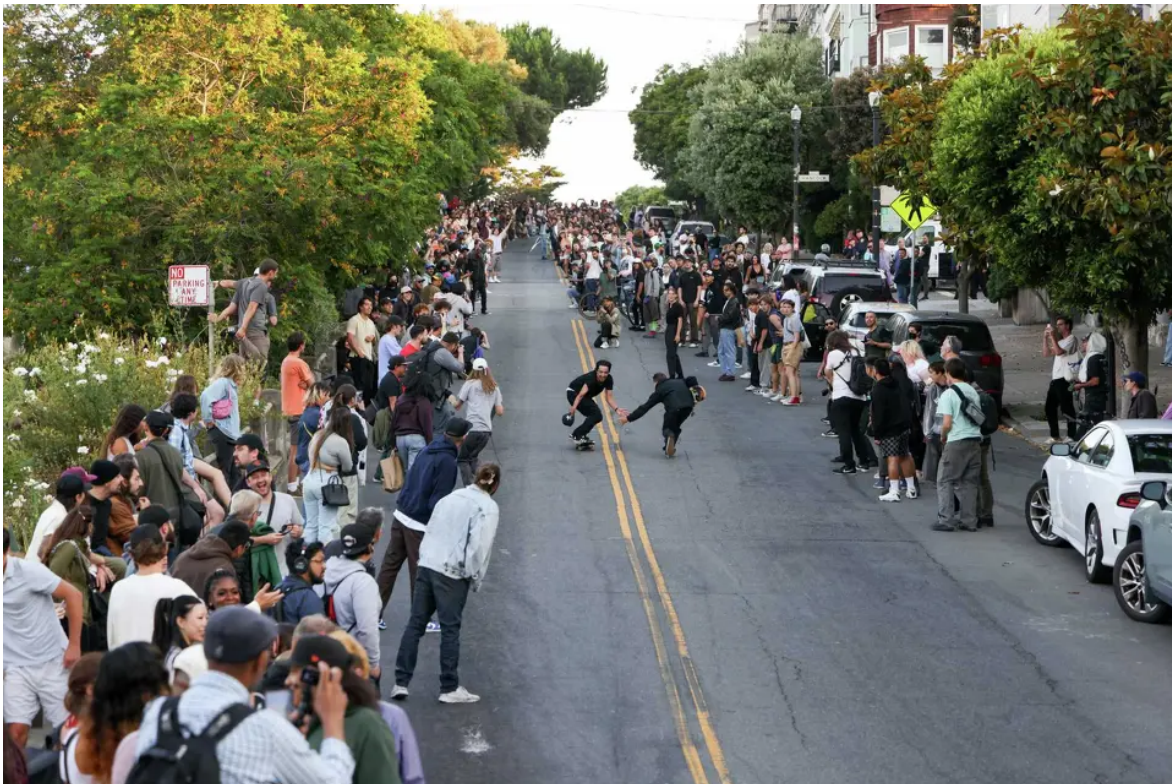
“I was sort of forced into cooperating with police,” he conceded, referring to “a call that was made” shortly after he began publicizing the event. “So I decided I’m going to co-opt the police — all these state resources — to facilitate our inherently anti-capitalist anarchist-tilt event.”

Co-opting state resources might be a wise strategy to resuscitate an event that’s stumbled over the past few years. In 2020, a cyclist died after colliding with a skateboard during the third annual Hill Bomb spectacle, prompting the city’s transportation chief, Jeffrey Tumlin, to put raised markers on the pavement. Three years later, the Hill Bomb devolved into chaos. Spectators clashed with police officers who accused them of setting off fireworks and trashing Muni trains. Officers made more than 100 arrests.

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By 2024 the Dolores Hill Bomb had become a full-on cat-and-mouse game, with skaters slaloming under police vehicles or swerving around barricades that the city erected around Dolores Street. Some people moved to Church Street on the west side of Dolores Park, which skater Mark “Shark” Urbietta described, in an interview at the event, as a much “gnarlier” ride.



A crowd watches a skateboarder bomb down Church Street in 2024 in San Francisco.

Jason Henry/Special to the Chronicle

Ryen Motzek, a partner at DLX Skateshop in the Mission District and president of the Mission Merchants Association, expressed dismay at how the Hill Bomb had evolved. But he was cautiously optimistic about the version Trevino will test out Saturday. Motzek cited a similar politically themed skate

exhibition, “Bomb Hills for Black Lives” that drew an upbeat, peaceful crowd to Twin Peaks in 2020. Trevino said he’d looked to the Black Lives Matter event as inspiration.

“When you think of Twin Peaks, it’s not straight downhill or super crazy,” Motzek said, noting that the gentler descent would likely lead to fewer injuries, while the wide road would provide less room for bystanders to egg people on.

“It doesn’t run right through a residential area with a lot of houses,” Motzek continued. “People won’t be just back-and-forth bombing with lots of beer spilling on the ground.”

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A skateboarder bombs down Church Street in 2024.
Jason Henry/Special to the Chronicle

For Trevino, the absence of beer-swilling and sideline heckling is part of the appeal of this year’s Hill Bomb. He’ll get a sufficient adrenaline rush from carving his 8.5 Baker deck down a twisty road, knees bent as he picks up a tailwind. He loves that ineffable sense of freedom, of suspended time, of limitless speed.

Yet when it comes to his role as an event organizer, Trevino is happy to have structure.

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REPORTER



Rachel Swan is a transportation reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. She joined the paper in 2015 after stints at several alt weekly newspapers. Born in Berkeley, she graduated from Cal with a degree in rhetoric and is now raising two daughters in El Cerrito.