

Guardian Angels to patrol NZ streets



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The Guardian Angels, a group determined to help fight urban crime, are patrolling Auckland streets with plans to spread their operations.

However police chiefs say they are not wanted in New Zealand and they are concerned the group will get into trouble.

"We have a very good relationship with the 80 community patrols, a very good relationship with neighbourhood support groups and if people want to get involved this is the way they should be involved," said Assistant Police Commissioner Peter Marshall.

"The red berets, the t-shirts, the New York philosophy has little relevance to the New Zealand environment I would suggest."

But the Angels insist they just want to help.

"We do not take the law into our own hands - we don't even enforce the law. We act as visible physical deterrents to violent crime," said Guardian Angels spokesperson Andy Cawston.

Guardian Angel training takes three months, with the group learning how to deal with conflict and disarm people according to rules laid down in New York where the first Angels began protecting the public in 1979.

Henderson has been their NZ home turf since the beginning of the year, but the Angels are now set to spread their wings with chapters about to launch in South Auckland and Palmerston North.