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## **New York State, Guardian Angels partner up for online safety**

Albany – As the cities of Kingston and Poughkeepsie move forward with efforts to establish their own Guardian Angels unit, Governor Pataki Monday announced that the New York State Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure will partner with The Alliance of Guardian Angels, Inc. to promote online safety in New York's classrooms and communities.

Forming a "Strike Force on Cyber Safety," CSCIC will combine its technical expertise with The Guardian Angels' decades of experience to empower youth and communities to stay safe and resist criminal influences online. With a \$200,000 grant from CSCIC, The Guardian Angels will bring practical safety lessons to New York schools and communities through school-based workshops, online support and community outreach programs.

CSCIC is responsible for leading and coordinating New York State's efforts regarding cyber readiness, geographic information systems and critical infrastructure preparedness. CSCIC works collaboratively with the public and private sectors to foster communication and coordination.

"When the Guardian Angels were founded in 1979, the safety risks facing New Yorkers were on the streets and in the subways," said Guardian Angels' founder Curtis Sliwa. "Yet today our children face even greater threats in the online world from pedophiles and cyber-bullies. In fact, adults are not immune either as citizens report hundreds of thousands of online fraud and identity theft complaints each year. The Strike Force on Cyber Safety will help communities resist these modern dangers and take control of their own online safety."