



# **NEWS** From **Assemblyman José R. Peralta**



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**39th District**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ASSEMBLYMAN JOSE R. PERALTA HONORS THE GUARDIAN ANGELS FOR THEIR HEROICS IN CATCHING A GANG OF THIEVES AND FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE EVACUATION OF A BURNING BUILDING**

Corona (05/07/04) – Today, Assemblyman Jose R. Peralta and Curtis Sliwa, founding president of the Guardian Angel, presented members of the Guardian Angels a citation for their heroics in apprehending a gang of thieves. A Separate group of Guardian Angels were also presented with a citation for their assistance in the evacuation of a burning building. Assemblyman Peralta stated, "The good work of the Guardian Angels has been demonstrated one more time with the actions of these young men. It brings me great joy to honor these individuals. Through their efforts and dedication they are guaranteeing the safety of our community."

On April 17, 2004, a squad of Guardian Angels were on patrol when the conductor of a Queens 7-train called them to assist a Middle Eastern man who was being robbed by a group of men. The Guardian Angels squad consisting of Miguel "midrange" Vazquez, Frank "Gunny" Lee, Ricardo "Doughboy" Guzman, Andre "Dre" Elliott and John "Shaggy" Wilfred gave chase and apprehended 3 young males. The police arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and arrested 19-year-old Fareed Hosein, 18-year-old Joel Nieves, and a 14-year-old male whose name could not be released. The Assailants had with them property belonging to the victim including: an I-pod, a mobile phone, and a wallet with money and credit cards. Further investigation revealed that these teens were linked to 9 other robberies on the 1 and 7-train lines.

On April 17, 2004 Guardian Angels John "Shaggy" Wilfred, Raul "Dash" Marquez and Ramiro "River" Georgescu were on patrol and witnessed a fire-in-progress in a building located on 97<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 40<sup>th</sup> Road. The Guardian Angels assisted in alerting the occupants of the danger at hand prior to the arrival of the FDNY. Once fire units arrived, the Angels proceeded to assist the members of the FDNY outside the building.

Assemblyman Peralta introduced the Guardian Angels to the Corona, Queens, community in November of 2003 to combat increases in gang activity. Since then, they have been working together with the local police and the community. Curtis Sliwa stated, "We thank Assemblyman Peralta for bringing the Angels to Queens and providing all the amenities necessary to allow us to do our work. What we have here today is part of the dividend of that good investment. An investment made in the community which provided positive results." Assemblyman Peralta



concluded, "I said it when the Guardian Angels first came to Queens, and I will say it again, 'the Angels will improve our quality of life and provide us with a better sense of security when we walk our streets.' The two incidents brought forth today are reflective of the circumstances we are faced on a daily basis and how the Guardian Angels have stepped up to the plate together with NY's Finest & Bravest and become the 'guardians' of this community.

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