



Guardian Angels Honored For Fighting Crime, Saving Lives

by [Paul Menchaca](#), Western Queens Editor

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Assemblyman Jose Peralta honored the Guardian Angels in Corona for apprehending three robbery suspects and helping assist in a fire rescue. (photo by Paul Menchaca)

While honoring the Guardian Angels last Friday, Assemblyman Jose Peralta remembered that when he first announced last November that the crime-fighting avengers would be coming to Corona, some critics told him it would not work out.

“Some of my colleagues said they would not work well with the Fire Department and the Police Department, but it is working,” Peralta said. “I am so happy today to be standing among the red jackets and the red hats.”

The assemblyman recognized two squads of Angels on Friday. One was given a citation for apprehending three men who had robbed a man on the Number 7 train, while another squad was given citations for assisting in the evacuation of a burning building.

Miguel Vazquez, Frank Lee, Ricardo Guzman, Andre Elliot and John Willfred were awarded certificates for chasing down three assailants who had allegedly robbed a man on April 17th, stealing an I-pod, a

mobile phone and a wallet. After police arrested the three suspects, they linked them to nine other robberies on the Number 7 train.

Willfred, Raul Marquez and Ramiro Georgescu witnessed a burning building on 97th Street and 40th Road and notified the occupants to get out. Once the FDNY arrived on the scene, the Guardian Angels assisted the firefighters outside the building.

“The Guardian Angels have done what they said they were going to do,” Peralta said at the group’s temporary office at 37-77 103rd Street. “They have shown what you can do when you’re focused, energized and you want to help the community.”

The Angels also received recognition from Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly for their efforts. Now Peralta’s colleagues in the Assembly appear to be changing their tune.

“I have been approached by a few colleagues about bringing the Guardian Angels into their neighborhoods in Brooklyn and the Bronx,” he said.

Curtis Sliwa, founding president of the Guardian Angels, credited Peralta for ignoring his critics and turning to the Guardian Angels for help.

“I know it wasn’t very popular with (some in the Assembly), but Jose Peralta stood alone and stood strong,” he said. “Assemblyman Peralta grew up in this neighborhood and was concerned with the gang violence and the crime.”

When Sliwa evaluated Corona before bringing the Angels into the neighborhood, he observed what he believed to be a need to help the NYPD in the early morning hours with extra manpower. He also believed the Angels could help in communicating with Spanish-speaking residents

Approximately 20 to 25 members of the Guardian Angels are from Corona.
"I think it reinforces to the community that we are a positive addition," Sliwa said.