



Police Chief, Guardian Angels tackle crime in Davenport

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by John David

DAVENPORT, Iowa -- A new era begins with a double digit decrease in Davenport crime. There's a new bike patrol for the Guardian Angels. And a new leader at the helm makes it official with the Davenport Police Department.

Police Chief Frank Donchez took the oath of office during a brief ceremony at the Davenport Police Department on Thursday morning. Chief Donchez, who moved here from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, felt it was important to be a fully-sworn chief in Iowa.

He devoted the extra hours to study, train and meet the Iowa fitness and administrative requirements. One of his priorities will be the continuing effort to keep neighborhoods safe.

The Davenport Police Department also donated bicycles for the Guardian Angels. The volunteer foot patrol group will be taking to the pedals to patrol the riverfront and Duck Creek bike paths.

"More eyes on the street," Chief Donchez said. "The bad guys, when they see people, they know are going to be reporting things are going to shy away from that. We get that information passed on because we can't be everywhere. Our resources are limited."

"They're very well respected with the Guardian Angels themselves," added Ald. Bill Lynn. "They're also working a lot closer with the police than in the beginning. I think the police understand they're not there to take their jobs away. They're there to help."

Ald. Lynn says that the Guardian Angels should get some credit for the decrease in crime. He says they'll get official recognition from the city soon. The group is also in the running for international chapter of the year.



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