



# Guardian Angels Launch Watt Avenue Patrol

SACRAMENTO, CA - It's Saturday evening, around 5:00 p.m.

A group of people dressed in red baretts and white t-shirts with red-lettering say it's the first night of what will be a regular patrol, focused on tracking down those who engage in drug-use and prostitution on Watt Avenue, near Interstate 80.

The Guardian Angels believe it is their mission, because the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department has been hit so hard by budget cuts.

"It's been visually known to have prostitution in this area," said Angels' organizer Patrick Kent.

"The prostitutes are doing whatever they want to do at any time of the day, any time of the night," said fellow Angel Rocky Twitchell.

"There has definitely been an impact on patrol presence in the Watt Avenue area since our budget cuts," admitted Sgt. Tim Curran of the Sheriff's Department.

Curran said his department welcomes the help from the Angels -- to an extent.

"Where it becomes a problem is if they inject themselves into the situations," said Curran.

The Angels insist that's not their mission. On their patrol, they walk in a group of five or six, looking for anything suspicious along Watt Avenue.

If they see something, their plan is to talk with the people involved and perhaps report them to authorities.

"We don't carry any kind of weapons," said Kent. "The only weapons we carry is our knowledge, a pen and paper, cell phones and flashlights."

For the first part of their patrol Saturday, they didn't need any of those tools as there were no visible problems on the streets. The only instance happened around 10:00 p.m. when the group tried to confront two women believed to be prostitutes.

According to Kent, the women ran away as the Angels approached.

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