



Guardian Angels increasing presence in Lee County

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FORT MYERS: The Guardian Angels, a group of crime-fighting volunteers, is stepping up its presence across Lee County this Fourth of July amidst cutbacks with several local law enforcement agencies.

Two Angels were set to patrol Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach Sunday, looking and listening for what law enforcement officers might miss.

The Angels are armed with only a cell phone, but are skilled in marshal arts, CPR and first aid.

Members patrol high-crime streets every evening and holiday.

Right now the volunteers are only working in Fort Myers, but by the end of July, they will set their watchful eyes on Lehigh acres, Cape Coral and Bonita Springs.

"We've been out here for the last couple nights every night until 2 a.m., when we know things calm down enough and it's safe for us to go home and there's enough cops out," said Katelynn Burlingame.

With national cuts in local law enforcement, the Guardian Angels are creating new chapters by the week.