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## Guardian Angels eye Nyack presence

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NYACK - An Orangeburg man wants to establish the Guardian Angels in this riverfront village of restaurants, shops and theaters.

Frank Moricco, 36, a former Guardian Angel in New York City, said today that the anti-crime group would start working with organizations to feed and clothe the homeless and work with youths.

Moricco said he also would want to hold some self-defense classes, training people in anti-crime patrolling. He said people don't know that the Guardian Angels provide more than just anti-crime awareness.

Moricco has been walking the streets with two Guardian Angels, all three dressed in the group's traditional red jackets and berets.

"We're trying to see if the people and business owners wants us there," he said. "We want to tap into the businesses and organizations to help people and give back to people in the community."

Yet, Moricco may meet resistance from business owners, several of whom said they saw the trio but were not sure of their motives.

Several Nyack business owners questioned the need for the anti-crime patrols, citing the work of the Orangetown Police Department, and the stigma the group brings to a community.

They also noted that Nyack groups work with young people and provide food and clothes and other assistance for the homeless.

Reality Bites owner Patti Aagaard said she experienced the Guardian Angels while running a restaurant in Manhattan along Broadway.

She was not impressed, saying they can cause problems and get in the way of the police.

"I don't see the need for them," Aagaard said. "It's presumptive of them that there's a crime problem here. If you allow the perception you need a vigilante group, they are making the statement that the streets are out of control and the police are not doing their jobs. That's not true."

The Guardian Angels tried setting up in Haverstraw village last year at the invitation of the Haverstraw Chamber of Commerce but were rebuffed by elected officials and the police.

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