



Guardian Angels patrolling lakefront following arrests

Groups of 12 members will patrol daily on two shifts

Pat Curry WGN News

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CHICAGO - Following eight arrests made Monday night along Chicago's lakefront and concerns about safety, the Guardian Angels began patrolling the area Wednesday night into this morning.

Chicago police arrested six teens and two adults after responding to a fight, the assault of a jogger, and a gang-related shooting that happened Monday night in a span of three hours between North and Fullerton Avenues along the lakefront.

The Guardian Angels began patrolling the lakefront last night between North and Fullerton Avenues, but said they'll respond anywhere problems crop up.

Guardian Angel Chicago Chapter member Miguel Fuentes said groups of 12 members will be dispatched daily on two shifts. He said some of the Angels will ride bikes while others walk.

"It's about presence," Fuentes said.

He said members will patrol in two shifts, from 7 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Last night the police were really receptive to us, and thanked us for being there. Last night was very peaceful. We will respond to any part of the Lakefront if necessary. We are there as a visible deterrent, assist if we need to, and call police if we have to," he said.

The Angels will be identifiable by their trademark red berets and white T-Shirts with a red logo that reads, "Guardian Angels Safety Patrol". Members will also be equipped video cameras to document any incidents.

Mayor Richard Daley commented at an unrelated event Wednesday when asked about safety

along the lakefront and the incidents which led to 8 arrests Monday night along the lakefront.

"The Chicago Police Department is concerned about that...lighting, safety--things like that you have to look at.. Anyplace, whether it's Humboldt Park or any place else you're concerned about any type of criminal or gang activity. (what are you going to do about it?) There are incidents every year on the beaches and parks...it doesn't say parks are unsafe. It's isolated incidents. We look at it very carefully. We make sure we have better lighting, better access, we make sure the beach patrol out there as early as possible. This is an early summer, much earlier than we've ever had it before."

This morning, Daley is scheduled to hold a press conference to announce a new curfew initiative.