

## On guard! Guardian Angels look to curb wave of violence on North Side beaches

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Chicago Guardian Angels -Miguel Fuentes 3rd from right courtesy: Guarding Angels

They're not the National Guard, but at least they are extra eyes and ears patrolling a stretch of lakefront where gang violence has cropped up in recent days.

The Chicago Chapter of the Guardian Angels went on patrol last night in the areas of the Fullerton and North Avenue Beaches.

Leader Miguel Fuentes said this morning his group will be back out there this afternoon starting at 2:30 p.m. He says Angels will work in groups of 6 to 14, depending on individual job schedules. The Guardian Angels is a volunteer organization.

Monday night was particularly rough on the lakefront. A jogger was assaulted and there were assorted fights, including one that ended in a shooting.

Fuentes said they decided to patrol the area after seeing news reports on the violence. They don't clear their plans with police and they don't carry weapons but they do carry cell phone.

Fuentes said they work on foot and bike. If they see a minor fight, they try to break it up. "If noses are being broken and teeth are being knocked out, we call police," he said. "We may try and make a "citizens arrest" and detain someone for the police".

The Guardian Angels wear distinctive red berets and t-shirts identifying themselves as part of the organization. Fuentes says the Chicago chapter has 35 members.