

for immediate release

Guardian Angels Founder, Curtis Sliwa, here this Saturday

Join supporters and potential members of the local chapter for a Free Community BBQ from 2- 4 pm

Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels in New York City in 1979, will arrive at the Alberta Avenue Community Hall (9210-118 ave) this Saturday, May 5 at about 2:30 pm and speak at 3pm. He was invited by local Edmontonians to come to Edmonton and talk about the Guardian Angels and the work local chapters have done in communities around the world. Dave Schroder, a long time Edmontonian, one of several people working to set up a local chapter, says this will be an excellent opportunity for people to find out exactly what the Guardian Angels are all about. Schroder sees the Guardian Angels as another way for citizens to make a positive contribution and work together with police and existing citizens groups to help make our community safer.

Edmonton members will soon join the other 5000 members in 82 cities and 9 countries that help make their communities safer. The high profile street patrols are only one aspect of the Guardian Angels, also offered are educational programs for schools and communities including seminars on anti-bullying and neighborhood safety.

The CyberAngels, another division of the Guardian Angels, is the internet's oldest and largest online safety site devoted to educating parents, teachers, and children against internet predators and other online hazards. "CyberAngels give particular focus to Internet issues affecting children, this complements the emphasis that we prosecutors place on making Alberta a safe place to work, live, and raise families" as per an Alberta Crown Prosecutor. The CyberAngels were also recognized by President Bill Clinton for the work they do.

Schroder would like to remind anyone considering joining the Guardian Angels that all members must abide by the first principle and main rule of anti-violence, as well as by all Federal, Provincial, and local laws. A police criminal record check

must be provided. Membership is open to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin. Members must be at least 16 years of age and there is no upper age limit. There is a three month training program which includes CPR, first aid, fitness and conflict resolution, as well as legal rights and obligations.

Dave Schroder is extending an open invitation to the men and women in all areas of law enforcement, to come out on Saturday to hear what the Guardian Angels are all about. This invitation is also extended to the members of the various existing foot patrols, radio patrols, neighborhood watch, etc.

The website GuardianAngelsCanada.org can be visited to get more information on requirements and the goals and objectives of the organization. Dave Schroder, the local co-ordinator, can be contacted via email through this site as well. The local site, EdmontonGuardianAngels.com will in the future have information on other events.

