

✓ SC - GUARDIAN ANGELS

# Mayor tells Guardian Angels their services aren't needed

12-7-84  
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SANTA CRUZ — Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt told the Guardian Angels Thursday the city doesn't need them for crime patrol of city streets.

Members of the Guardian Angels, wearing their trademark red berets, drove into town late Thursday afternoon and paid a visit to the Pacific Garden Mall.

Wormhoudt met with two of their members and said she gave them this message:

"People in Santa Cruz are good at getting actively involved in solving city problems. I don't think we need people from out of town — who don't particularly understand our problems — to patrol our streets."

Guardian Angels spokesman John McKim has said his group has come to town in response to reports of beatings of transients. He says the Angels also want to help with summer crowd control.

The Angels are noted for their patrol of the subways of inner cities and high-crime areas.

"They're nice people. I think they're sincere and mean well," said Wormhoudt.

"But, I think they're just wrong for Santa Cruz."

Although Angels reportedly carry no weapons, Wormhoudt said she does not like the "militaristic look" of the Angels on the shopping Mall.

The mayor said she has received complaints from persons saying the Angels remind them of youth groups roaming streets in Nazi Germany in the World War II era.

She suggested that the Angels — "rather than doing something showy" — should take jobs at the local soup kitchen for the needy, help find shelter for the homeless, or help residents in Beach Flats who feel terrorized by the deportation of "illegal aliens" by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Wormhoudt said main "critical" issues in the city are the INS activities and the recent layoff of 700 persons at Synertek Inc. electronics plant, not the Guardian Angels or so-called "troll busting."