

# Angels crack down

By **TOM RAFTERY**

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Guardian Angels have begun patrolling Restaurant Row after they received a plea from Theater District restaurant owners who say police protection is inadequate, Angels founder Curtis Sliwa said today.

Restaurant Row, on 46th St. between Eighth and Ninth Aves., is one of the jewels of the city, explained Sliwa. In response to the proprietors' plea, his group started 24-hour patrols Wednesday.

"It's a very physical patrol," Sliwa said. "If we find someone smoking crack, we break the stem of the pipe and destroy the crack in front of him. We then escort that person out of the area. If he

## Eateries guarded

has more than five vials, we hold him and call the cops."

"Once you get the community, the merchants and the street persons on your side, you can ring down the curtain on crack, prostitution and restore the area to the people," Sliwa said.

A spokesman said the Police Department was not happy about the civilian patrols, because the Angels did not have any authority or training to deal with criminals.

Each of the 15 restaurants

involved, upset by a decline in police patrols, has put up \$300 to help finance the Angels' patrol. The owner of the building that housed the shuttered Cafe de France donated it as the Angels' headquarters.

The 46th St. patrol follows Angels' efforts in the East Village and near Madison Square Garden, Sliwa said. The organization began as a subway patrol.

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