

NYT 6-16-88

'Angels' Detain Suspect for Arrest by Police

Continuing their patrols in midtown Manhattan, the Guardian Angels yesterday detained a man they said was a drug dealer and held him for arrest by the police.

The man, Giovanni Pena, 24 years old, had eight vials of crack when he was arrested at 45th Street and Eighth Avenue, the police said. He was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor. The police said Mr. Pena, who did not give an address, had been confronted just after 4 P.M. by a patrolling Guardian Angel, who notified an officer from the Midtown North station house that he had seen Mr. Pena with the drugs and that he had made a citizen's arrest.

The arrest was the first of its kind

since the police informed members of the anti-crime group that they were not to interfere with pedestrians unless they saw a crime being committed.

Also yesterday, the police said that sergeants on duty in the Midtown North precinct had been instructed to act as liaisons between the police officers and the Angels assigned to patrol Restaurant Row — West 46th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues — to avoid further confrontations.

Curtis Shwa, head of the Guardian Angels, said he had assigned six members of the group to patrol the area's theaters before and after shows and matinees, bringing the total number of Angels in the operation to 36.