

Guardian Angels will patrol some Milwaukee buses

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The Guardian Angels, a national citizen volunteer crime-fighting organization, will begin patrolling two Milwaukee County Transit System bus routes today, a member of the Milwaukee chapter of the organization said Thursday.

Willie Brooks, the spokesman for the Milwaukee chapter, said the patrols are in response to two incidents Monday in which a bus driver and a passenger were assaulted.

The patrols on Routes 19 and 63 will start at 10 a.m. at the intersection of N. 27th St. and W. Atkinson Ave., Brooks said.

"We'll be paying passengers like any other citizens but will be ready to intervene for the security and safety of passengers and drivers," Brooks said.

"It's a moral obligation to not just stand by," he said.

Also Thursday, the union that represents transit system drivers issued four proposals for improving safety aboard buses.

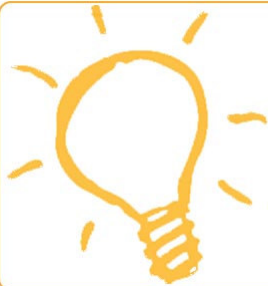
In a news release, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 called for installation of security shields for drivers on a trial number of buses, more police and sheriff's office patrols, more transit security officers and training bus drivers in the use of pepper spray.

Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. has

been calling on transit company officials to install the safety shields and has offered pepper spray training.

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