

# VANGUARD

Weekly Update Week  
of January 1, 2006

City of Glendale, CA  
Have a Happy Healthy NYE  
Celebration

**HEADLINE NEWS:** By RON FOURNIER, AP Political Writer

**FORT MYERS, Fla. - Frustrated by government and empowered by technology, Americans are filling needs and fighting causes through grass-roots organizations they built themselves — some sophisticated, others quaintly ad hoc. This is the era of people-driven politics-**Published independently by *Vanguard* -Our vision is to live in a City where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city's departments

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Vanguard calls for accountability. The City is not forthcoming. Retaliation against dissent. Vanguard is exposing the waste of our tax dollars in unnecessary meetings, in 'behind closed door' deals and in the failure to pursue \$50M questioned by the outside auditor and the reported sources of campaign financing. Come to a Vanguard meeting. Find out more. Don't hesitate. Vanguard needs your tax-deductible support now.

## 1. Council - Dark -- Wo meetings until Jan. 10, 2006

**Council — Click for Agenda**  
1:00 PM Closed Session 6:00 PM

**Redevelopment Agency - Agenda**  
2:30 PM

**Housing Authority - Agenda**  
2:30 PM -



## 2. Commentary

You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.

As promised, the California Records Act requires agencies to provide identifiable public records, for instance, reimbursed expenses of a particular elected official or an employee. Contracts issues to contractors, change orders, vehicle logs, run sheets, dispatch logs, financial documents, depreciation schedules, land purchases and more. **This Act is so important that it was incorporated into the California Constitution in November 2004 (Prop 59).** The city must assist you in identifying the public records you seek. Vanguard requested the number of vehicles owned, leased or operated by the city and were first told that there is no such list. Next we asked for the titles and registrations and then were given a number of 1049, which is coincidental^ the same as the number of employees paid under the general fund. Next we asked for documentation, like a schedule of assets or the depreciation schedule. None has been forthcoming. See LINKS to get a copy of a request form.

A recent request for a statement of economic interest form 700 was greeted with a number of responses.

- 1 Can't find it, come back when someone else is here
- 2 Another person was working with it
- 3 Why not file a request that will give us 10 days to find the data
- 4 It's holiday time and we are short staff

Maybe it is time to give raises or cross train employees.

The Form 700: Government Code section (GCS) - "Assets and income of public officials which may be materially affected by their official actions should be disclosed and in appropriate circumstances the officials should be disqualified from acting in order that conflicts of interest may be avoided." GCS 87100 - "No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his official position to influence a government decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest."

**City plans long range planning and wants us to help.** Tell the City what you want and what you are willing to pay for. **The City does not want to hear:**

Stop buying land at closed sessions, using the reserves and then expecting the taxpayers to pick up the slack

Reduce payroll

Tell the public the total amount of payroll, benefits and pensions along with consultants and contract employees.

Tell the public where the \$50M went that was an issue with the outside auditor.

Consolidate duplicated services

Have monthly Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency meetings to reduce the waste of time, money and resources on meetings that have no content other than posting the agenda and approving the minutes.

Change Fire Department to shifts like the Police Department. No more 24-hour days. The recent 'baby delivery' at Stacker and Brand may have played out differently as there is a fire station right there.

Deploy the Vanguard method for bringing in \$105M

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Of the 5 Council members, who is the leader? The Mayor is a Council member appointed as a titular mayor and gavel wielder. Vote for (alphabetically - Manoukian, Najarian, Quintero, Weaver and Yousefian). Send your vote by replying and the name of your choice for leader in the subject line and the reason for your choice in the text.**

GET YOUR OWN Electronic, sortable Excel Spread Sheet of Campaign Contributions. See for yourself the numbers. Trace the threads. Follow the trail. Only \$100 for over 800 records. Limited number available. Or your tax-deductible donation of \$150 will include this database

### **Next week...A discussion on Commissions and Boards and a welcome back to 3 of our famous 5**

Why won't the Council request answers to the outside auditors report or the errors in the award winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report? Are they fearful of what they might find?

Centennial Committee (CC) - So far the hand picked CC with a \$150K budget has 2 programs scheduled:  
Feb 18 at Civic Auditorium - music, games, displays, films  
March 25 same place a Gala Event  
The 10 members of the special centennial committee should be commended for this impressive event filled program. The gag rule is now understood.

Treated like a



How many employees, consultants and contract workers does the City employ? The General Fund indicates there are 1049 employees and Ron Ahlers says there are 1049 vehicles owner/operated by the City. One per employee?

We need *Vanguard* to help retrieve information and share it with you. In order to do that, *Vanguard* needs YOUR financial support!!

**Lord Acton: "Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely.**

**The Crystal Ball Knows...  
and Tells...**



***Vanguard predicts:***

ADA compliance issues will become very costly to the city - in penalties as well as in costs of compliance.

IRS will require full audit of Dreaming of Roses and Glendale Rose Float Association including bank statements from ALL accounts.

An elected official will resign before end of term.

Well known community member will be indicted.

**3. *This Just In:***

Rose Float Committee raised \$95K coupled with money in the bank should provide two years worth of full reimbursement to the City for the Parks & Rec budget of \$90K.

Glendale City Attorney's office searches Pauline Field's election campaign website in November and December. Wonder why?

The list of pages visited appears on the Vanguard web site.

City Council member votes on sale of property without disclosing his financial interest except on his statement of economic interest form.

Council members received \$4500 from husband of Aline Kradjian of the Elk Development where costs went up on a project that has been on the books since 2003.

Newest member of TPC contributed \$5000 to one Council member. Isn't this like 'Pay to Play' like in Los Angeles?

**California Records Act Requests: The things**

**that the City doesn't want you to know but you can get if you are persistent:**

City is late on California Records Act request to see documentation on the number of City vehicles owned, operated and leased by the City. The City provided a number for not the documentation. The Audit report indicated that millions of dollars worth of assets were given away without proper authorization.

Logo: City Attorney Scott Howard indicated that the City encourages the use of its logo by vendors. In a response to a CRA request, the City denied there was any documentation or policy regarding the use of the City logo. So far only Vanguard has been singled out and told not to use a 'characterization of the logo.

Sr. Investigator's Log: City has provided two copies of the log and they do not 'jibe'. The report from November 28<sup>th</sup> has one more item than does the November 29<sup>th</sup> version. How can the City be trusted when they fly in the face of State Law? The log did not disclose an open case of workers comp fraud.

**4. *Public Service Announcements***

**INon-profit needs automobiles in running condition to be used by charity in exchange for tax-deduction letter and form 8283.**

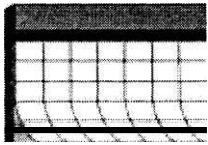
**> Donate your working Windows computers to non-profit for an end of year tax deduction.**

**Changes in Tax Laws:**

When donating a car check to see if the car will be resold or used for the mission of the charity. If it is used by the charity then your deduction is Full Market Value of the vehicle. Write your check for deduction this year. You can declare it even though it will be cashed in 2006. Check out donating stock instead of proceeds.

**Non-profit community** groups need meeting space in Glendale

**A Security Consultant and a Business Management Consultant** offer to donate 10% of contract revenues to non-profit organizations as a result of business generated through the *Vanguard* weekly updates. Build your business profitability - add sales and reduce expenses - strategic planning, add new markets and communicate your success. Then you can protect your assets. For a telephone consultation email **Vanguard** with the best time to be contacted by phone.



## **CALENDAR THIS: Save these Dates**

Jan 11, 5:30 PM City Planning Dept Public Hearing on Downtown Specific Plan (Glenoaks - North; Colorado - South; Central - West; Maryland - East) - **Note Date Change**

January 9, 7pm GHCC at First Congregational Church, 2001 Canada Blvd. More info? Call Gary Cornell at 244-1471. Elaine Wilkerson will be discussing the Hillside Ordinance.

**5. Please help keep up this information service**, our mission, including the weekly update and (soon) web site, is dependent on your tax-deductible contribution. Contribute by check or credit card. Ask about sponsorships, monthly and annual contributions.

This is the only source for the REAL STORY and the FACTS —

Thanks to those who have sent their checks in. Won't you, too, help keep this update going and fund a website?

**Send your tax-deductible contribution today!**

### **Give the Gift of Vanguard**

What better gift to give your neighbor, co-worker, friend or other Glendalian than a subscription to the Vanguard weekly newsletter. They can have a whole year of knowing what is going on in their backyard, what Council is doing - and not doing, what Glendale City government is doing and not doing. Call right now 818-243-1502 with your credit card and check those gifts off your list! Prefer to pay by check, Scroll down to #9 for the address.

### **For donations see 9 below...**

### **6. Letters & Quotes: -**

**ED NOTE: The opinions in this section are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Vanguard. This op-ed section represents the pulse of the people. Please note that only initials are used for your anonymity.**

*We get a number of emails on a variety of topics. Regrettably we cannot publish them all. Once the website is established, they will be posted there. A number of people object to the content of the letters. Vanguard chooses not to censor the letters, as they are representative of the community and the feelings of those that live here.*

Reading the comments in the GNP made by Yousefian regarding Pauline Field voting against her own motion I reflected on her attempts to get the Charter Review Committee to seriously consider some of the very important issues such as districts, Council oversight on contracts, State mandated requirements for the City Treasurer, an elected City Attorney and increasing the number of council members to seven. In order to discuss a proposal it MUST BE moved and seconded before there is a discussion. Without a second, there is no discussion. Ms Field wanted to get a proposal on the floor so that there could be open debate. This she was able to accomplish. Maybe the hired attorney could give the Council some lessons on Robert's Rules, along with Brown Act serial meetings. CW

I guess with the major traffic congestion I have become a no growth person. It seems as if Glendale is going backwards. B

It was a disappointment to know that the removal of Pauline Field from the woman's commission appears to be retribution on your advocacy for transparency and for disseminating important data to the public. But it gives me no solace to know that the retaliation was not totally unexpected. Council has demonstrated that now many times.

Electors can't seem to vote on the larger picture. It seems as if only their local neighborhood issues matter and they will only vote on those. The larger issues on budgets, social issues, inequity in the distribution of funds, a growing bureaucracy, etc, don't seem to matter.

Showing the larger picture to the public will allow you to use the results of your investigation more productively.

I believe that campaign contribution limits gives us the best platform upon which we can effect change. Remove the money from special interests and you allow other initiatives to take hold and be more successful.

Special interest money allows the opponents to disseminate their own distortion to the public. I already have the Vanguard database of political contributions and find it quite useful when I want to see who is getting value for their campaign contribution. The message of corruption will resonate with all native voters and most immigrant voters as well. MH

**7. Vanguard Meetings:**

The word is getting out about Vanguard, the Vision and the Mission. It would be my pleasure to visit with you, your neighbors and friends to talk about Vanguard. Vanguard is about protecting our community, advancing new ideas and keeping the public in the loop.

**Please contact Vanguard to set up a time to meet you and your neighbors to dialogue about our city.**

**8. CUP & Variances Hearings are available via email.**

These are important issues as often the variances reduce parking, e.g. an ordinance may require 40 spaces and a variance may reduce that to 20. Also you may recognize names of campaign contributors appearing as owners or developers. Be involved.



**Vanguard**  
818.243.1502

9- Thanks to those who have sent their checks in. Won't you, too, help keep this update going and fund a website?

**Send your tax-deductible contribution today!**

**Vanguard** - Contribution Form

Please make checks payable to **Vanguard**

Mail to: 1315 Ruberta Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201-1409

If contributing by Credit Card

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address on Bill: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 or 4 Digit Code: \_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Fifty-Fifty Leadership will show on your credit card statement**

**Contributions are tax deductible - Rev. Proc. 92-85,1992-42 I.R.B. 32**

**You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes**

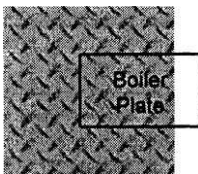
**Please mail to address above or Fax to 818 243 2601**

**Or email vanguard1@charter.net**



10.

City council member says he wants Glendale to be just like San Diego. Was it just a Freudian slip? Read the whole story.



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# VANGUARD

## **Government holds the people accountable - who holds government accountable?**

The **mission** is to:

- ◆ Provide, without bias, the timely dissemination of information and knowledge of government activities to the community and elected officials
- ◆ Build, train and empower a knowledgeable, aware and involved city-wide group to monitor the integrity, performance and responsiveness of elected officials and each of the city's departments
- ◆ Encourage, by example, a community free to exchange facts and opinions on public issues by facilitating open debate and discussion on the issues
- ◆ Demand accountability, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government without which there is a system out of control and ripe for corruption
- ◆ Make government acutely aware there is a community watching, monitoring and measuring their activities