



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

*Learning from the past is our
responsibility*

Enhancing the present is our mission

*Providing for a better future is our
vision*

Vanguard

News Service Vol V

Week of January 3, 2010

www.vanguardians.org

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Vanguardians Purpose: To Inform, Educate, & Motivate for Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:— It was gratifying to see the corrections of the errors that Vanguard found in previous CAFRs (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) in the 2009 CAFR. Those errors were found by using the Public Records Act (GCS 6250-6270) to support our observations of glaring errors. The problem being that neither the City Council nor top management caught those errors.

WHITE HOUSE FORUM: Vanguardians Board Member Dr. John Kraft was selected by White House Staff to convene a COMMUNITY FORUM ON JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. If you are interested in participating or attending this critical program please email info@vanguardians.org with your contact information. There are two morning meetings scheduled at the Alhambra Library this week on January 7th & 8th.

VIGILANCE leads to ACCOUNTABILITY

Dear Reader,

Your extraordinary generosity will help us get 2010 off to a strong start – thanks to the gifts so many of you have made this month, Vanguardians can continue to **make a difference, thanks to your** support of our investigative journalism work in the months ahead.

There is always more to do, though, and more people to reach with our standard-setting journalism. It's **not too late** to be a part of the important work we do – there's still time to make your 2009 tax-deductible donation to support Vanguardians.

I am deeply grateful for the support and effort of friends like you, and I look forward to providing you with a series of updates on our investigative projects and achievements throughout our 7th Anniversary year. **Thank you so much** for being a part of our work, and please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barry Allen".

Barry Allen
Executive Director

Mail to:
Vanguardians
POB 11202
Glendale, CA 91226

P.S. Our work is only possible through the support of friends like you. Make your tax-deductible gift today to promote transparency and accountability in 2010!

FRIDAY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Join us for the first meeting of 2010 on January 8th at Foxy's

We direct people to the appropriate resources, empower them to engage with their local government, and from those who have attended, given them hope and some good humor. It is an excellent way to start the weekend.

"With all that can be said, justly, against journalists," W.H. Auden wrote in his 1970 book, "A Certain World," "there is one kind of journalist to whom civilization owes a very great debt, namely the brave and honest reporter who unearths and makes public unpleasant facts, cases of injustice, cruelty, corruption, which the authorities would like to keep hidden, and which even the average reader would prefer not to be compelled to think about." Thank you Vanguard for being the kind of media that encourages and supports the quality of journalism that you do using both public resources and those that require anonymity. The articles you publish are factual and to the point, I can even forgive the verbosity of some commentaries. Your editor, Pauline Field, doesn't censor content to keep the real issues and background from the public. Please keep up the good work. Carl A. Edwards [ED-The quote was taken from an LA Times article. [Click here for the article.](#)]



Vanguard is published independently by **Vanguardians, Inc.** Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

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

From the Publisher... [SPOILERS](#)



In 16 months there will be another City Election where the public can look at starting to clean out those elected officials who have overlooked the consequences of their financial decisions. John Drayman, first elected in 2007, quickly spent \$8,500,000 on a formerly income producing property, RockHaven, a property for which consultants have been hired to find a use. Then Drayman successfully brought in a Trader Joe's that received a phenomenal, tax-payer subsidized lease, under the guise of the revenue it will produce even though groceries are exempt from sales taxes. Drayman told the public on November 17, 2009 that business was good, yet he, according to public documents obtained under the public records act, something his attack dog spoke out against, showed he closed his business in June, 2009. After chiding residents about being good citizens Drayman paid penalties on his Montrose BID assessments for late payment. Presently he uses his rental property as a storage facility in violation of the CR zoning restriction while he chastised a city official for following up on an investigation of those violations.

Next up for re-election is Dave Weaver an artifact of the past, an anachronism who was first elected in 1997. Weaver had two bouts of sexual harassment of a worker in the City Manager's department; used the services of an appointee to a Commission for architectural work on his addition; paid a \$9,000 fine for public corruption in violations of the Political Reform Act.

Candidate	Votes
2009---61213 votes cast	
ARA NAJARIAN (2005)*	9,473
LAURA FRIEDMAN (2009)*	9,237
FRANK QUINTERO (2001)*	8,857
BOB YOUSEFIAN	7,427
BRUCE PHILPOTT	6,996
CHAHE KEUROGHELIAN	6,836
VARTAN GHARPETIAN	3,603
LENORE SOLIS	3,091
ARAM KAZAZIAN	2,795
MICHAEL TEAHAN	1,562
EDWARD LAFIAN	780
ARAMAZD STEPANIAN	556

*First elected to office

One of the Weaver techniques for winning re-election is to have his attack dog tell people that Weaver isn't going to run because of yada, yada, yada. This gets everyone with \$25 excited so they run for election becoming spoilers instead of supporting a good reform candidate that isn't owned by the municipal union PACs.

There will be a number of spoilers, candidates that have \$25 to get on the ballot that are asked to run to give the incumbents an even better chance to win. The same phenomenon that is already surfacing in the 43rd district. Vanguard will be listing the questions to ask the candidates and will provide an opportunity for each candidate to have a personal and public forum. **BARRY ALLEN**

COMMENTARY: TOWARDS A 2020 VISION



The hours move quickly toward the end of the decade as I write this on the last day of 2009, and for untold millions, the decade could not end soon enough. We look back at the year as a compartment from which we could exit with the hope of a new beginning tomorrow. But tomorrow also starts a new countdown toward 2020.

By 2020 Californians living in urban areas must cut water consumption by 20% that's the goal of California's Water Resources Board. But I wonder if we have the leadership in place to set firm yearly objectives to achieve it. We have a declared environmentalist on city council - Laura Friedman - but the question is whether she can gather three councilmen who will allow her to exercise prudent conservation policy city-wide.

By 2020 lower fossil fuel emissions requirements will demand either a major reduction in energy consumption or a major increase in the use of renewable energy. The California Energy Commission is setting a goal of 33% of energy use from renewable sources. By 2020 all new residential construction must be zero net energy.

By 2020 the number of government retirees under the enhanced pension benefits approved by the city council in 2001 and 2005 will put a choke-hold on Glendale's finances. CALPERS' investments have tanked and the city guarantee of 7.75% annual return on those investments will only demand a higher share of the General Fund. Already nearly 25% of payroll for safety personnel is tacked on the budget to meet that pension obligation.

By 2020 the city's Scholl Canyon landfill will be nearly topped out under current practices. Recycling policies must take a major improvement or we'll be sending our trash by train to the desert someplace. The added costs will just be the beginning. Environmental challenges will not be far behind.

In the next ten years, the city must come to terms with the straight jacket the city councilmen have put it in. To meet the excess pension demands and higher payroll, the city has relied on the money it has pulled from the city's electric and water utility. Records I've gathered from the cities of Pasadena, Burbank and Los Angeles, show that Glendale is now charging its residents and commercial establishments electric rates that are 50% higher to allow for the money transfers into the general fund. The bad news is that the city's finances are bound to get worse as legal rulings against that practice are now becoming more frequent.

The city management extricated from the city councilmen higher salaries and pensions in the last ten years by circumventing Proposition 13. Besides raising utility rates, and raising other city fees, from sewer, parking, parkland, raising rates on water and electricity allows the utility tax to rise as well. The local taxpayers have been hit hard enough locally on top of policies engendered by politicians in Washington and Sacramento.

Ten years ago, before I started learning about city governance, I could swear that the future of the city was in prudent hands. But, the data show a different picture. I never suspected how hard it would be to explain to the general public the reality of just how entrenched the city unions are in extricating financial benefits from Glendale's treasury then happily drive off to their homes elsewhere.

Anyone who would care to look at Glendale's financial trends in the last ten years can corroborate the myopic policies that are sinking the city's finances. The real question is whether we can elect people of sufficient prudence and maturity to see beyond their self-serving ways. **HERBERT MOLANO**



COMMENTARY II: FELONIOUS FUNK AND ALL THAT QoL JAZZ

What's with the delay in coming to terms with the Quality of Life indicators? Why the funk? Never have I seen such cowardly attitude towards a run-of-the-mill report by five fearful council members. It's the true state of the city report with which they can't come to terms or to which they won't be held accountable.

I can just imagine Mayor Quintero postponing the results of his latest medical tests: "Hey doc, don't tell anyone about the cholesterol results. Just tell them that compared to Weaver's, my Cholesterol is just splendid!" The mayor wants to wait to see if the city can come up with a list of other cities where the statistics are worse. The better to make Glendale's governance look better.

Though other cities like Pasadena and Quintero's former home - Santa Monica - make the QoL indicators an integral part of the city's planning and results-based governance, Quintero can't seem to find the political maturity needed to promote transparency. If people don't know about the worsening situation for residents, the better off the city council will be. His motto seems to be: "Don't ask me any questions, I won't tell you any lies."

It is very likely that in the last ten years, to the average resident, the quality of life in Glendale has not improved. But to those who are at the bottom half of the council's attention, it is almost assuredly that their QoL has worsened. Drug use is up, traffic congestion has worsened, traffic injuries have gotten worse, more non-profits are struggling and child obesity is up.

What will become obvious to those who experience the worsening of the QoL in Glendale, are that the results show the areas normally neglected by the city council. Social issues and most QoL measurable areas are

typically not on the weekly agenda. But, city contracts and development projects are often on the front burner. There, the councilmen warm up to the friendly faces waiting to savor the profits of the next deal with the city. Come to a redevelopment meeting, or to the Housing Authority meeting early enough, sit at the back of the room and watch the glad-handing and warm rapport on first-name basis.

The challenge with the QoL indicators is that it places the evidence in front of the public and begs for the city council to develop policies to correct them. The start of the decade can't be more fortuitous. It will be discussed on the heels of the census and will give the city an opportunity to set goals to accomplish by the end of the decade. Between those two dates, the city should formulate yearly performance reviews.

But the council acts and behaves as if they are beholden to the city managers' union. In the managers' MOU, the agreement stipulates their pay to be commensurate with similar pay of similar positions of compatible cities. The city's managers don't want performance measures, they want compatible pay. The payroll expenses demonstrate the bloat. In just nine years the city has grown from about 73,000 households to around 75,000. But police and fire expenses have doubled. Fire from 26 million in 2001 to 56 million for this fiscal year. Police from 31 million in 2001 to 61 million for the 2010 fiscal year budget.

If the city council decides to move towards city-to-city comparisons, they should determine the cost per household per year to maintain police and fire services then compare that to the best run cities. The next step is to compare results such as the number of stroke victims who survive after a 911 call or the ratio of arrests to convictions. Performance measures for well-run cities are all over the internet. But it takes political fortitude to make an entrenched bureaucracy accountable.

The QoL of the city's residents may not be better off, but I can identify those whose QoL are significantly better now. They all get a city government check every month or a nice fat pension from CALPERS.

HERBERT MOLANO



LAUREL MILLER WILL BE BACK SOON

Christian Arbid says: 893 Glendale foreclosures as of 1/1/10

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED – SHARE VANGUARD – VOLUNTEER

2 Shout Box

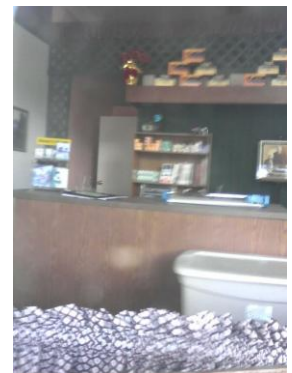
ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry



Allen. Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.

There were questions about the 43rd Assembly District seat as to why did Vanguard only show Democrats who had filed their intention to run? The only ones that declared their intentions were Democrats. [Click here to go to the CA Secretary of State filings.](#)

WHO CARES IF COUNCILMAN DRAYMAN has or has not closed his business? Who, besides his landlord, cares if he uses it for storage? Who cares if he doesn't pay his BID share? Who cares if his business violates the zoning code? We all respect him for what he has done for the Montrose area. Here is a picture of his store on Ocean view. It shows he is still open for business. I don't believe that he hasn't paid his BID tax. TR [ED – Check with the City Clerk about the BID; Talk to MSPA about his membership; talk to Sam Engel about his being in or out of business and the Zoning restrictions of CR district. He also voted on issues that he had a financial interest in if he is in business. That is being caught on the horns of a dilemma – if he is in business he didn't file it on his conflict of interest statement and hasn't paid his dues. If he is no longer in business and just using the space for storage that violates the zoning restrictions.]



IT WOULD HELP LUNA Playhouse a lot if you were to click on the link below and answer the questions in our end of year survey. <http://lunaplayhouse.questionpro.com> AS

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Public



Information

[Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)
Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor at 613 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.
Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

Tuesday, January 5

2:30 CH Housing Authority – 548-2060; Redevelopment Agency – 548-2005

Joint Meeting –RE: Utility Allowance Update & Green Building -- 548-4844;

Joint Meeting –RE: Health and Safety Codes – 548-4844

Joint Meeting –RE: Central Glendale Redevelopment Project Area Bond Financing - 548-4844

6:00 CH Regular City Council meeting.

4 *Vanguardians*

- Each week we add a few new faces and have returning warriors. Become one. This is an excellent opportunity to share opinions about quality of life issues.
- Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at www.vanguardians.org
- We need 2 working laptop computers with Windows XP. Letter for tax purposes before 12/31.

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

Please make checks payable to “*VANGUARDIANS*” Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226

Your contributions are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

You may donate online at www.vanguardians.org

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the Insider

is a report from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



The latest changes to Planning by the City Council have effectively made all land use, entitlements and building permits a political process. In spite of the fact that the community rallied to remove politics from the process in the '90's it's now back stronger than ever. Just look at last week's comments about Sam Engle and Edith Fuentes. And now they only need to go to Hassan to get what they want.

With Building and Safety under Planning, it will be interesting to see if they finally appoint Jan Edward to the job she has been "acting" in for the last 4 years. Public Works wouldn't promote her because she was a woman. Unfortunately, because it's Glendale, you can expect that the new director will look to hire a person from the outside that he can control politically. **[ED – Where is the Women's' Commission on this egregious behavior?]**

Don't feel bad for Sam Engle getting political pressure from Drayman; he has been screwing his staff over politics for years. It's about time he gets a little back.

The Planning Department has acquired the two sections with the lowest morale in the City, Building and Safety and Code Enforcement. It will be interesting to see how that works for Hassan. Expect him to look for a raise soon.

Starbird is staying on with the City. He decided that with Yousefian gone he has a Council he can manipulate and control. No one dare question him publicly.

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THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL IS conducting a closed session evaluation of City Attorney Scott

Howard. The only two non-civil service employees, Howard and City Manager Jim Starbird should have a public evaluation. There are numerous people that would like to weigh in. Howard has spent a lot of taxpayer dollars defending and prosecuting unwinnable suits while stuffing the pockets of contract attorneys: Ovasapyan; Police Sexual Harassment; Gladys St; to name just a few.

Council will also green light a new \$30M bond issue without knowing or telling the public how much the interest will be.

Council is going to be asked to approve the City to campaign against a voter initiative to require that any expansion of municipal utilities beyond existing boundaries be approved by a 2/3 vote. There needs to be some

control as municipal utilities are exempt from oversight by the public utilities commission. Their meters don't have to meet the rigorous standards set by the PUC. Rates can be set by fiat rather than the voters.

There is an urgency ordinance on the agenda to fix mistakes that the City Attorney, City Manager and numerous departments heads, representing talent that cost the taxpayers \$3M a year, failed to catch; as did the City Council that meets privately with city staff. Many of the mistakes were made because, "staff's official copy of the Glendale municipal Code was ... outdated." That explains a lot. This is what happens when the decision makers can't understand plain English. Of course if they actually read the documents placed before them, there could have been a different result.

7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Judge calls Schwarzenegger's furlough order illegal By Andrew McIntosh amcintosh@sacbee.com

An Alameda Superior Court judge has ordered the Schwarzenegger administration to cease and desist its practice of furloughing thousands of state workers who are members of the Service Employees International Union, Local 1000, offering the powerful union a huge victory as it enters 2010.

In a ruling handed down late Thursday, Justice Frank Roesch said the governor's reliance on provisions of the state's Emergency Services Act to order mandatory furloughs was flawed and illegal, saying "the emergency necessitating them was the failure of the Legislature to pass the budgets" yet the administration continued the furloughs even after the budgets were passed.

[From the Wall Street Journal:](#) The specter of lean budgets for years ahead has some of the nation's 89,000 local governments rethinking what services to provide and how to pay for them. From Mesa to Philadelphia, this means some combination of higher taxes and fewer services. In some places, it means more and higher fees for permits and recreation programs. Museums, pools and the like are relying more on income from fees charged to users and from nonprofit organizations, and less on taxpayers.

These cuts matter greatly to the economy at large. Local government spending accounts for 8.8% of the nation's total output, including everything from employee salaries to snowplows. The sector employs one in nine workers -- 14.5 million in all, or about 8 million in education and 6.5 million elsewhere. More Americans work for cities, counties and school boards than in all of manufacturing.

More likely to be union members, government workers tend to be better paid and have greater job security than many of the taxpayers who pay their salaries. Benefits are often better, too. Virtually all full-time state and local workers have access to retirement benefits; in the private sector, about 76% of full-time employees had retirement benefits. Employment in local government peaked in August 2008 and has fallen by 117,000 since then, or less than 1%, compared with a 6.3% fall in private employment from its December 2007 peak.

About one third of the federal \$787 billion fiscal stimulus was aimed at state and local government. The money has helped some local governments keep police and school teachers on the job, and has gone toward building new firehouses and police stations. Another stimulus program subsidizes municipal borrowing by paying 35% of local government's interest cost on borrowing for infrastructure.

[From the Orange County Register:](#) California laws enacted more than 30 years ago to protect honest peace officers from over-zealous internal investigations have become a safety net for bad cops.

The mandates -- the most stringent in the nation -- have given troubled officers special privileges that make it harder to get rid of them and nearly impossible for the public to learn whether they've been adequately disciplined.

Laws that began as an effort to protect police and the integrity of their work expanded over time, giving more and more cover to officer misconduct. Attempts to scale back those laws have met with opposition from California's highly organized police unions, who argue it could affect officer safety.

"California is the most restrictive state in the nation, when it comes to police secrecy," said Jim Chanin, a former [ACLU](#) attorney in San Francisco. "It's California's dirty little secret."

The [WARN program in California has 22 pages of layoffs](#) from every industry except government from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. For information about the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, [click here](#).

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