



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

January 10, 2008 Barry Allen will be joining Larry Zarian @ 7PM Charter Channel 26

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol III
Week of January 6, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org

HEADLINES

Workplace Harassment is Condoned by Failure to Act

Merry Christmas January 6

The four stages of Vanguardians "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

Mahatma Gandhi describing the stages of establishment resistance to a winning strategy of nonviolent activism

When WE are complacent THEY win!

"I don't make jokes. I just watch government and report the facts." Will Rogers

The Future

1. On January 15th Dr Espiritu will again demonstrate the lack of accountability of City Management
2. Barry Allen will once again ask for a reason why the City directed employees to enforce non-existing laws.
 3. The disaster preparedness plan is a disaster
 4. Adventures of The Insider
 5. Employees vs. Outside Contractors
 6. Gangi – Gregg ... Free land... the back story
 7. The Popular Restaurant Reviews are Coming Back to Vanguard
Unfortunately two of our Favorites are gone...Milano's & The China Inn
8. You can find the Vanguard editorial staff every Friday evening at Acapulco on Pacific

THIS JUST IN:

Back by popular demand ...

International Fieldworks Presents a Proactive, Take-Charge Strategy Session
Repeated by Popular Demand

"An extraordinary experience – well worth the effort required to pry my fingers off an already extensive to-do list. This provided the space, structure and inspiration to create a specific action plan for making my goals a viable reality" – Ria S., Participant

Are you crossing your fingers that 2008 will be a good year? Or are you ready to design the year so that your business will soar?
Identify the direction to take your business and the specific actions to get you there.
You will leave with a detailed roadmap for your business for the year.

Monday, January 14th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Space is limited so respond today.

The value of the 4-hour session: \$1,000 ---Your cost is only \$250.00 ---Location: 748 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena 91101

Call **Now** to reserve your seat. Call **818.243.4864** Feel free to pass this on.

HEADLINES

The City Hall grapevine is humming about a 'sweep it under the rug' attitude by Management in keeping the wraps on allegations of sexual harassment of a city employee by a city official "in the best interest of the City". According to one city employee, "this person should come forward to prevent an escalation of harassment. Obviously, the City didn't get the message of the Frieders suit [Female police officers that sued City for sexual harassment." [Vanguard will help any city employee that finds themselves in such a situation.]

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing

If you have issues with the City and you fear retaliation or intimidation, bring them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council

FPPC January 16, 2008, Notice of Interested Persons' Meeting regarding Local Legal Defense Fund Regulation and Gifts for local officials regulation: [Memorandum](#)

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	1-8-08	Overall	Contact info
Drayman		B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian		B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero		B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver		C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian		B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;

Criteria: Responsiveness to the community, knowledge and understanding of the issues, placing the needs of the public first and attitude, attentiveness and accountability.

Letter: You need to re-evaluate your grading system for the council members. If it's relative to each other, it might work. If it's truly a "grade", it needs to be re-thought. PS [\[Readers – please share your thoughts\]](#)

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenagers' *P.J.O'Rourke*

Fire Department

Retired Police Chief Bruce Philpott, a 40+ year Glendale homeowner, takes on the Glendale Fire Department to show the public how to save millions of dollars and improve public safety. To schedule a presentation for your group, call him at 818 240 8949 or email him at logicpoint@aol.com.

[Click here to read a dialogue between Bruce Philpott and the fire fighters union.](#)

Where is the fire union's (GFFA) leadership on the issues brought to the forefront by Retired Chief Philpott? We heard from their President and Vice President at several Council meetings but now they are silent. The silence is deafening. Why? [See letters] The public deserves a formal debate on this issue.

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. - *George Bernard Shaw*

Leadership Circles are forming. Want to find out how to tap into and hone your leadership skills? If you are female and between the ages of 15 and 105, click below to email us to be notified of the next Circle:

[Leadership Circles](#) or call us at 818.243.2322 *Fifty-Fifty Leadership* www.fiftyfifty.us is a non-profit organization 501(c)3



Our Mission: To transform the culture within which we live to one that **naturally** includes women on an equal basis in the selection of leaders

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians*, Advocating for Accountability– Our vision is to live in a community 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, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

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1 Commentary

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

A Rabbi and an Atheist carry on a public debate as reported in the [LA Times](#). This is a very sensitive topic yet it was open debate unlike debate in the backroom where decisions are made so the City Council can come out in solidarity with each other. I applaud John Drayman for his steadfast articulation of public debate on issues important to the public even though I disagree with his stand on closed sessions. This precipitates the reason for the next few weeks Vanguard will share excerpts from the below cited work. The entire article has been sent to our elected officials and senior staff, one of whom said, "I just read 'The Meaning of Civility'. It is an excellent article and provides many fine concepts."

PART 1. [The Meaning of Civility](#) by Guy Burgess, Ph.D. and Heidi Burgess, Ph.D.

The increasingly vocal campaign for civility in public discourse reflects an understandable and widespread frustration with the current tenor of political debate. There is a growing realization that our inability to deal with a broad range of problems is largely attributable to the destructive ways in

which the issues are being addressed. This raises a crucial and increasingly controversial question--what exactly do we mean by "civility"?

Clearly, civility has to mean something more than mere politeness. The movement will have accomplished little if all it does is get people to say,

"Excuse me please", while they (figuratively) stab you in the back. Civility also cannot mean "roll over and play dead." People need to be able to raise tough questions and present their cases when they feel their vital interests are being threatened. A civil society cannot avoid tough but

important issues, simply because they are unpleasant to address. There must also be more to civility than a scrupulous adherence to the laws governing public-policy decision making. Clearly, there are numerous instances in which the parties to public-policy conflicts act in ways which are destructive and inappropriate, even though they are (and should continue to be) legal.

In short, any reasonable definition of civility must recognize that the many differing interests who divide our increasingly diverse society will produce an endless series of

confrontations over difficult moral and distributional issues. Often these issues will have an irreducible win-lose character and, hence, not be amenable to consensus resolution. While continuing confrontation is inevitable, the enormous destructiveness which commonly accompanies these confrontations is not.

In our work at the University of Colorado's Conflict Research Consortium, we have been developing an approach which we call "constructive confrontation." This approach combines an understanding

of conflict processes, dispute resolution, and advocacy strategies to help disputants better advance their interests. In addition to explaining why the politeness embodied in conventional definitions of "civility" is important, we also identify a number of other areas in which adversaries, decision makers, and those caught in the middle can work individually and collectively to increase the constructiveness of public debate. Examples of these areas will follow in the weeks to come.

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

[Margaret Chase Smith](#)

A request made to City Council members on December 13, 2007 (only John Drayman responded):

Vanguardians is applying for a private foundation grant and **would like to have a comment from you about our effectiveness in fulfilling our Vision and Mission.** The grant criteria are: encourage the organized participation of citizens in government, and seek to make government more accountable and responsive. Grants in this program area support the efforts of nonpartisan organizations to help citizens exercise the right to vote, advocate for structural improvement to systems of government, and otherwise increase opportunities to participate in public policy formation.

Our vision is to live in a community 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, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

Mission:

- 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 community group to monitor the integrity, performance and responsiveness of elected officials and government's operations.
- Encourage, by example, a community free to exchange facts and opinions on public issues by facilitating open debate and discussion on the issues.
- Seek accountability, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government to insure integrity, efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Make government acutely aware there is a community watching, monitoring and measuring their activities.

Four of our elected officials chose not to respond to our request because _____. Supply your own answer.

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED -- READ VANGUARD

Mortgage Company breathing down your neck for late or no payments?
We can help. It doesn't take an Act of Congress
No equity – No problem. Call today to discuss your options.
The sooner you call, the greater the options. Call Today 818 694 0588



2 Announcements – Letters – Calls -- Calendar -- Articles – OP-ED

Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.

The City Attorney and other things...

There is one possible answer to falling home prices in Glendale and

elsewhere in Southern CA that you discuss in the latest Vanguard. That

answer, of course, is to put a moratorium on new development, including McMansions, until the water crisis is sorted out. Stopping new development will almost certainly increase demand for the existing houses and condos now on the market, which will help sellers and their agents. It's not the main reason for a moratorium but it is a consequence some people will like.

I still do not understand why the City Council does not recognize

the water shortage when its members took about new projects. It's a weird sort of denial.

On another topic, ever since I became aware of the infamous tree ordinance I have wondered about the competence of Scott Howard. When I was a city attorney I would never have let that ordinance go to a city council and my colleagues wouldn't have signed off on it, either. I do not know who actually drafted it, but it was Howard's job to vet it before it went on

an agenda. Its flaws are so obvious that a second year law student would have spotted them. I don't know what is wrong with the City Attorney's office but something is seriously wrong.

A separately elected city attorney might be less afraid of saying no to the Council, although as LA's city attorney indicates, even a separately elected attorney can be seriously flawed. Still it's something to think about. **Stan Price**

Regarding the photo last week in Vanguard showing a Glendale fire engine company that had driven out of the city of Glendale and into a Tujunga shopping market parking lot so the firefighters could purchase food where they wanted to is clear evidence that the Glendale Fire Department is more concerned with their creature comforts than with providing the best services to the public. Former Pasadena Police Chief, Bruce Philpott, has driven this message home to the city council for the past several months citing numerous cases of these kinds of abuses. He has cited many occasions when our emergency first responders were doing things like food shopping out of their districts, jogging in remote parks, leaving their fire district to attend PR functions that only benefits their image, that cause unnecessary delays in medical responses that have time-critical outcomes such as full-arrest heart attacks and strokes. It amazes me that the public has not taken more interest in this because it is their welfare that is a risk. It is my hope that the city council will see through this and make the best policy decision for us citizens who actually live here. **JD**

CALLS: Who is in charge of the City Council agenda? [ED- Actually Mayor Najarian and City Manager Starbird meet in private. That way they can pass the buck to each other. The 3612 Linda Vista (candlesticks) homeowners have been waiting for ages. It took 'shock jocks' Ken & John to get movement on the tree fines. The noise issue around GHS still has not been resolved. However, if there is an issue about a pay raise it becomes an urgency ordinance.]

A quick share for your readers: With this cold weather you can avoid some health problems by adding moisture to the air. Get a vaporizer, place it close to your sleeping area and you will sleep better. The moisture will reduce your heating bill as moist air is easier to heat than dry. Something about the molecules.

LINKS: [UClick here for Vanguard Archives by Hal WeberU](#) [UOpen Government GuideU](#) [Uwww.vanguardians.orgU](#) [UCheck Zip Code DemographicsU](#) [UGlobal Incident Map updated every 5 minutesU](#) for a free copy of waste of taxpayer money and much painful reading, go to [Piglet Book 2007](#) . [Glendale Fines Resident \\$347,600 for Pruning Trees without a Permit!](#) -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#)

CALENDAR – Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) - [Housing Authority](#) - [Redevelopment Agency](#)

January 7 at 7 PM The Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council meeting, at the First Congregational Church of Glendale, 2001 Canada Boulevard, at Wabasso. Speaker will be Gilbert Yablon, President of SMART DIALING SYSTEMS. He will be discussing the proposed breakup of the 818 area code into 2 separate area codes, 818 & 747. There will be a Q & A period. Open to the public. Free. Refreshments will be served. Ample free parking. For more information, 818-242-7334, or 626-300-4990

Monday, January 7 Glendale Water & Power Commission – 4:00 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2107

Tuesday, January 8 2:30 Glendale Housing Authority & Glendale Redevelopment Agency & City Center II
6:00 pm Glendale City Council --, City Council Chambers, City Hall,

Wednesday, January 9 Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105,
Civil Service Commission -- 5:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-2110

Thursday, January 10 New Time - Design Review Board #1 -- 5:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105,
633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

REBUTTAL: A response to Herbert Molano from Council member John Drayman...

Barry: Thank you for your contribution to making our city more focused and our citizens more informed. Obviously, you and I don't always agree, but it is important for readers and interested parties to have alternative views expressed.

Just to let you know that I read your postings [Vanguard], my answer to Herb Molano is that my largest initiative to date is not the "picture book," although I would

imagine that even while sifting through his daily list of conspiracy theories and his claims that he supports cultural elements, that he would welcome such a book.

No, I would say that my largest initiative to date is reforming the DRB process, as I promised I would during the campaign.

I would say that my second largest initiative would be reforming

the appointment process. I thought Herb was all for accountability?

I would say that my third largest initiative to date would be bringing debate to the dais, another campaign promise. Herb seems to think we have less debate during council meetings than before. I think he can't handle opposing views.

The fourth would be campaign reform, another campaign promise. So far we have one leg

nailed down, maybe. We will see where we can go from there.

The fifth initiative to date is the formation of an ad-hoc organization to assist the city with the creation and retention of small business in Glendale.

My sixth initiative was to actually meet with the Adams Hill HOA to show them how to best mount a campaign to get their park fixed. BTW, I was the only council member to take the time to meet with them on the subject. Of course the bigger issue was not the park so much as breaking up forever the grip that one greedy, obtuse, businessman held over the entire Adams Hill/Square district through his political connections.

My seventh initiative to date was forcing the City of Glendale and GWP to meet with the residents and stakeholders in Chevy Chase and not allowing the city to use the scare tactic of public safety to "take" a portion of the county club through eminent domain.

My eighth initiative to date was setting up meetings between residents of Adams Hill and GWP about a program to "underground" overhead wires because of the extremely impacted nature of the lots, wires and vegetation.

My ninth initiative was to obtain private sector financial support for the re-creation of the Alex Theatre's long-lost, historic Grand Drape, something the theatre has long needed but has never been able to

afford and NO PUBLIC MONEY WILL BE INVOLVED.

The tenth initiative is Rockhaven, if it actually comes to fruition. I would think Herb would be in favor of such a move, since he said he was when he ran for office and campaigned in Montrose and because the "measured results" show that the Montrose Branch Library is the most used branch in the system thus most needing and meriting an upgrade.

My eleventh initiative is the destruction of a set voting block on council. I wish I could take credit for that one, but the voters took care of it for us all.

My twelfth initiative is to come next year with the creation, or institution of Student Government Day at City Hall. I believe that students taking Student Government classes at our four major high schools should become involved in directly participating in our local system of government.

Now, having said all of this, I hope that some of your readers will understand three things. One, is that only one item on this list relates to Montrose. Two, is that it is neither easy nor an accident for a first-term elected official to accomplish this much in nine months. It takes some skill and dedication to help move an agenda and keep campaign promises.

Three, is that these issues, which I initiated and on which I was fortunate enough to carry the ball as the prime-

mover, were dealt with because of the support, trust and cooperation of my colleagues who also deserve credit. Some say these accomplishments are the result of a "honeymoon period." Tell me, Barry, what exactly did our current elected officials do on their "honeymoons?" I am proud of the ground I have covered in the last nine months.

We cannot all agree on every issue, the water rate fees are a prime example. However, as former New York Mayor Ed Koch once said, "If you agree with me on nine out of twelve issues, vote for me. If you agree with me on all twelve, see a psychiatrist." There is an art and a balance to both public advocacy and local government which is lost, it would seem, on those who believe that such balance can be achieved by knocking over the scales.

I have been a public advocate for some thirty years with an exceptionally successful track record. In that time, I never invoked malicious intentions, ill will, conspiracy theories, or the concept espoused by one certain activist each week (shall we call him Henny Penny or Chicken-Licken?) which is in essence, "if you disagree with me, then you are either corrupt or stupid."

It takes three votes to pass anything and it takes articulated debate and discussion to gather the votes.

I look forward to another wonderful and challenging year and to reading you and your readers' views.

3 Open Government

Request: 1. Documents containing the names of the community members that serve on the community interview panels for the selection of new department heads (Fire, Administrative Services-Finance, GWP and Library).
2. Documents indicating the process for selecting those community members.

Response: With regard to item 1 below, please be advised that the records are kept confidential until after the appointment of the position, in order to avoid an unfair advantage to any one candidate, and to preserve equality and fairness in the appointment process. We invite you to make the request again after the positions have been filled. With regard to item 2 below, please be advised that there are no records responsive to your request.

Comment: How is the public to know the community pool is not biased?

Response: Every rater is asked to complete a conflict of interest questionnaire on the day of the exam. The form is completed in order to avoid any perceptions of bias a rater may have toward a particular candidate. In addition, the candidates are also made aware of all the participating raters prior to being interviewed. If a rater cannot evaluate a candidate impartially based upon a relationship s/he has or had with the candidate, then the City excuses the rater from that particular interview.

If a candidate feels that the process was unfair in any way, per the Civil Service rules, s/he has three days to appeal the examination process. Following the resolution of any appeals, exam results are then released. If there is any indication of bias after the fact, the matter can be brought to the attention of the Director of Human Resources who can later agendaize the matter and present it to the CSC.

Comment How and when does someone apply to be a rater?

Quality of Life project contains many requests for service that appear to from the public yet carry the City IP address. Requests regarding Beeline service were met with a comment about going on the Internet for the answer. Could it be that many people that ride the Beeline are not 'online'?

[Vanguardians' 2007-08-06 Complaint Regarding Dave Weaver](#) that was not investigated by the City as they deferred to the County District Attorney

4 Vanguard

Wants & Needs Vanguardians needs vehicles in running condition, Vista compatible software, a digital camcorder, and color laser printer with duplexer and office space.

VANGUARDIANS

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 If contributing by Credit Card call 818 243 1502 or Fax to 818 243 2601
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Email UVanguard1@charter.net to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support your advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.**

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5 Humor



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Secular Progressives have compelling arguments