



# VANGUARD

Weekly Update  
Week of January 8, 2006  
City of Glendale, CA

## HEADLINE NEWS:

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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**Join Vanguard for bi-weekly breakfast meeting. Learn about the City, network and more (wink, wink). Email your interest with 'Breakfast' in the subject line.**

### 1. Council - January 10, 2006

#### **Council- [Click for Agenda](#)**

**1:00 PM (2:15) Closed Session** 1) Public Employment & 2) Public Employee Discipline

**6:00 PM** Report on public outreach on Long Range Planning. It is good that the Council is doing this, but what is the outcome they seek? The program is pared down \$50K from \$194K.

Trash and trinkets to get us to show up cut \$23k. The City hopes to reach 4500 people. There will be a telephone survey of .2% (400). There will be 8 meetings and two cable shows. See previous report.



#### **Redevelopment Agency - Agenda**

**2:30 PM** Nothing other than a fast pay check

#### **Housing Authority - [Agenda](#)**

**2:30 PM** - Nothing other than a fast pay check

### 2. Commentary

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

Driving in the flooded new construction area on San Fernando Road during the rain on December 31<sup>st</sup> while watching the water fountains coming from the sewer openings I had to wonder, did the project management on this multi-million dollar project take the time and effort to flush the sewer system or, even better, to make certain that construction debris was kept from the sewers?

CM Quintero shows up all over: Frank Quintero lit the Hanukiah (special candelabra for the Hanukkah festival) at the Glendale Galleria event sponsored by Rabbi Backman of the Glendale & Foothill Chabad on New Year's Day. As you may remember Quintero was accused of lighting the fire in Atwater Village regarding the issue of isolating that community from Glendale by closing the grade level rail crossing.

Almost 20 Boards and Commissions serve the City by way of the City Council, the body that appoints them and at whose will they serve. One CM expressed his idea that the Council appoints their friends to these positions of honor, not

necessarily those qualified to serve. Seems silly to me. Write a check to a campaign fund and get an appointment to a Commission, actually committing to working for free to have a title that under the conflict of interest ordinance can't be used to enhance your business. It would be more understandable if you would pay to play and then triple or more your investment. There are many openings on Boards and Commissions. Here are some interesting numbers regarding the gender of:

Commissioners in general in the city of Glendale:  
In 2002 there were 35% women commissioners. Today it stands at 20%. 40% of Commissioners made contributions to Council members

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:** What do you call three council members meeting with City Staff?

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...Micro management & Training on filing California Records Act Requests  
Report on Caruso Affiliated Holdings vs. General Growth et. al.**

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?  
Maybe the Council will find assets that are recoverable.

**Robert's Rules:** An agenda item is moved and seconded, then there is a discussion and finally the question is called for a vote. Reports can be given and testimony taken before the item is moved and seconded. No motion, no second, no discussion. Mayor Manoukian handed the gavel to CM Najarian so the Mayor could second CM Quintero's motion to reappoint Ms Field to the Women's Commission. CM Yousefian's comment would have been appropriate at that point instead of in the newspaper.

Vanguard establishes first committee dealing with a workable vision & plan for the City. The committee will answer the question of what the City will look like in the coming years. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Vanguard.

Treated like a



Watch this space for results from surveys and the question of the week.

Council member Quintero called for an audit of the Glendale Rose Float Association, the private entity that is allowed to include its solicitations for money in the Glendale Water & Power billings. There is no accountability.

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.

**3. This Just In:**

**Breaking story:** City loses two Beeline Buses...Phantoms...more on this developing story....

**Train Crash:** Burbank: Woman killed when her car was hit by a Metro Train at the grade level crossing at Buena Vista.

Glendale Management Association (GMA) major contributor report 461 is ready at the City Clerk's. The GMA report shows political contributions of \$31K The Vanguard report for the 2005 Council election shows GMA contributed \$43K.

Contributor	From Candidate 460	Forms CM	From GMA 461
GMA		13000Yousefian	8000
GMA		HOOOQuintero	8000
GMA		HOOONajarian	1000
GMA		8000 Weaver	4000
Vanguard Total -----			Total-\$31,000
			-\$43,000

Remember the GMA represents the City Managers and prepares the reports for the Council.

The newest council member, Ara Najarian, was quoted in the GNP. He wants to spend more quality time with his family.

Newest TPC member owns a car dealership, has no acknowledged experience in traffic management and sells vehicles that create the need for mitigation. Is that a conflict of interest? He did contribute \$5000 to a candidate and had been appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) requiring his resignation (after Vanguard reminded the Clerk that a person can only serve on one commission with the exception of City Council members). **Mr. Mehrabian did NOT file the required statement of economic interest required within 30 days of his appointment to the PRC.** City Clerk's office indicated that he had been sent the form and never returned it completed.

City Christmas tree torched by disgruntled arsonist, disgruntled because of a parking ticket. Alert police see flames from 4<sup>th</sup> floor of police building. Five fire apparatus and 24 personnel roll. Fire pretty well extinguished before fire department arrival. Questions? Where was watchman and was the video surveillance installed and working?

**The information in City Views about the City Centennial is not accurate. Contact Zizette Ay ad, at (818) 548-4844 for up-to-date information. She will appreciate hearing from you.**

### California Records Act Requests: The things

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

City provided documentation on the number of City vehicles owned, operated and leased. The City had earlier provided a number that differs from the documentation. The Audit report indicated that millions of dollars worth of assets were given away without proper authorization. Upon reviewing the City document it is understandable how the City could lose assets.

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'<sup>1</sup>. 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. The City claims they didn't hire a private eye even though their own documents indicate they did. And as this is a family publication, *Vanguard* will not pursue the lapdancing during a city party.

### 4. Public Service Announcements

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

◆ **Donate your working Windows computers to non-profit for tax deduction.**

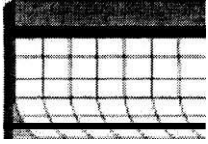
#### Changes in Tax Laws:

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 the Full Market Value of the vehicle. 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 nonprofit 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](mailto: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.

Long Range Planning schedule according to City web site [Click here for details and map](#)

**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 - For donations see 9 below...**

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.

## 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.*

**Reponses to 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.**

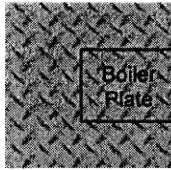
The question "Who is the leader" should have been "Who is a leader" including an entry "None of the above." I will vote for "None of the above." JB

I would say that Dave Weaver is the leader. When he wanted to rid the Commissions of Solis and Masihi he asked the matter to be agendaed and the next week, Najarian, Yousefian and Manoukian followed their leader and voted them out. Then he paid Pauline Field back for creating the Women's Commission by leading Najarian and Yousefian to deny her reappointment. Also the numbers of people that are afraid to challenge him over the mysterious Dreaming of Roses bank account show he is the leader. LW

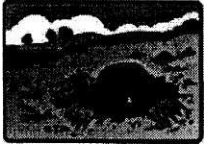
I felt badly about Pauline Field not being reappointed to the Women's Commission. I guess the 3 council members (Najarian, Weaver and Yousefian) are afraid of her. She was the only one I heard during candidate forums that told the truth about the financial situation in Glendale.

[News Press Commentary clearing up misconceptions about Pauline Field's contribution to City](#)

Congressman Schiff says: Email me, [hor«](#) Receive updates on important issues and events riirk  
**2003 Animus toward accountability watchdogs**



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Report from the moles hole...Since the Vanguard Weekly Update started, a number of city employees, contractors and others have been venting their frustration with City Management to Vanguard. They want to be able to use existing resources to accomplish more but their hands are shackled. The majority of these moles have requested anonymity and Vanguard respects that requirement. Watch this space for those reports.