



"Accountability"  
Glendale's Watchdog

January 16, 2008 Barry  
Allen will be joining Mayor  
Ara Najarian @ 9AM  
Charter Channel 31

**Vanguard**  
Weekly News Vol III  
Week of January 13, 2008  
City of Glendale, CA Edition  
[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

## HEADLINES

### Solution for Street Repairs

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

#### Molano throws scare into GRA

1. The disaster preparedness plan is a disaster
2. Adventures of The Insider Gangi – Gregg ... Free land?... the back story
3. Employees vs. Outside Contractors

## HEADLINES

From the Vanguardians Oxnard Chapter – Marty Jones Chair

OXNARD, Calif.—Lawyers for Ventura County's largest city have come up with a way to repair deteriorating streets—sell them. Oxnard streets were sold to an investment group for \$27.7 million, then the city bought them back through certificates of participation, which were sold on the bond market. The proceeds are being used to overhaul Oxnard streets and investors are being paid back over 30 years, with annual payments made from the city's state gas-tax allotment.

The certificate-bond hybrid, similar to traditional city bonds but not guaranteed by general fund money, was dreamed up by the city's bond attorneys at the Goodwin Procter firm in Los Angeles. It's a loophole for cities to take out loans without requiring voter approval. General obligation bonds or street improvement assessments are typically used to finance large projects. "The gas tax has been bonded before but not in this way, where they can leverage their general funds for other services and not have to place a reserve in back of this special fund," Goodwin Procter chairman Lewis G. Feldman said. California cities receive a share of the state's 18-cents-per-gallon tax, which can only be used on transportation projects. Oxnard, with nearly 200,000 residents, got \$3.4 million last year.

#### NEXT WEEK How it works.

**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

**Mayor Najarian wants traffic officer at PM traffic density period. Use firefighters. There are 13 available at 5 PM.**

Council members Drayman and Yousefian said 'no' to spending \$75,000 of taxpayer money to provide non emergency medical testing for the Fire Department. The City instead of properly scheduling resources decided to contract for extra nurses to give stress tests to the fire men and one woman.

#### Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	1-8-08	Overall	Contact info
Drayman	A	B	<a href="mailto:jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us">jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
Najarian	A	B	<a href="mailto:anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us">anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
Quintero	A	B	<a href="mailto:fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us">fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
Weaver	A	C	<a href="mailto:dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us">dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
Yousefian	A	B	<a href="mailto:byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us">byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
			<a href="mailto:SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us">SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;
			<a href="mailto:Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us">Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us</a> ;

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

Lights out and everyone is home. A very dangerous condition on Tuesday evening - the lights over the hard, sharp edged concrete steps from the city hall garage were out. The condition was reported to Steve Zurn DPW Director. they were still out at 10:30PM

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](mailto:logicpoint@aol.com).

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

Easy fix to cut GFD overtime: After a review of the staffing of the GFD you should check out the roster, (see below) and reassign sworn personnel to Operations. No more position coverage overtime. Roll Engines and Trucks with the personnel available. If there is a fire, send several apparatus. Take away the BC's aide. Several months before Chief Gray left for greener pastures, the City added not one but two deputy chiefs. Was there a demonstrable need for two or even one new DC? No! Look at the roster. . <http://www.vanguardians.org/newsflash.htm>

**Around midnight one recent night, a firefighter injured himself in the fire station. His comrades took him to the hospital. Then they closed the fire station and drove him home. They were gone for 2½ hours...Does that tell you something about the flagrant disregard for the public?**

[New England Journal of Medicine: Shock Treatment Delayed for Cardiac Arrest](#) about one-third of patients don't get a potentially life-saving shock within the recommended two minutes, a new study found. Those who don't get prompt defibrillation are more likely to die or end up brain damaged or disabled, the study showed. For every minute of delay, the chance of survival worsens, researchers reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

**The Glendale Police cars are carrying defibrillators and they are able to get to an emergency medical scene in 1-2 minutes whereas the fire department takes up to 10 minutes according to their own records. If the City Council cared about the public rather than the comfort of the firefighters, they would heed the information provided by retired Police Chief Philpott and go one step further and set up shifts that are more in line with public need. We don't need to supply sleeping quarters, Barcaloungers and big screen TVs and the finest cooking appliances money can buy.**



Typical Fire Department Recreation Room

We have women fighting in the middle east after going through a bruising boot camp. But, somehow they can't carry a hose or climb a ladder in the City of Glendale. CW

**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](http://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

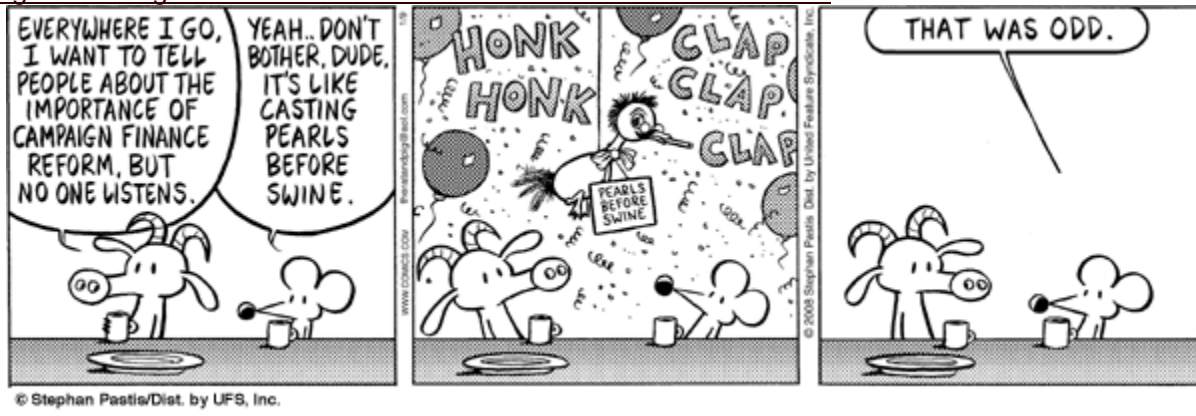
**Vanguard** is published independently by *Vanguardians*, Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and 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.*



**Political Campaign Reform** means more than duct tape and glue... just recently we have seen how one word deleted from an agenda affected an entire hearing designed to politically reform the election process. The missing word was 'application'.

Real political reform requires investigation, enforcement and punishment for breaking the laws. There are many fixes and they need to be implemented as a package, not piecemeal. Here is a list of issues:

- 1) Financial limits for receiving campaign, office holder or legal defense contributions.
- 2) City Employee Unions should be held to the Glendale Charter that prohibits contributions by City employees.
- 3) No acceptance of contributions by those with business before the Council within 6 months of contribution and action
- 4) Specific prohibition from having multiple bank accounts for campaign contributions
- 5) Limit of the use of legal defense funds to actual expenses and should not include actual financial judgments
- 6) The candidate and/or office holder should not control a charity from which he or members of his family receive funds.
- 7) The candidate should not control funds of a non-controlled candidate committee
- 8) The Charter needs to be changed to allow Councilmanic Districts
- 9) Quarterly reporting of campaign, office holder and legal defense contributions accounts instead of twice a year
- 10) Local reporting requirements for PACs (Political Action Committees) in addition to state or county reporting.
- 11) Term limits or a maximum of 10 years in elected office.
- 12) Equal access to cable programs that promote one or more candidates. If time is purchased then the identification of, "Paid Political Advertising, paid for by (indicate name of committee)", must be displayed during the entire program.
- 13) Written authorization of, or acknowledgement by candidates of their inclusion on joint mailings or relationship with non-controlled committee.
- 14) Keeping national political parties out of non-partisan local elections by way of endorsements, financial or other aid.
- 15) Campaign funding provided by the local government of serious candidates.
- 16) 460 campaign contribution reporting forms should show any relationship between contributor and candidate/officeholder or city.
- 17) An Ethics Commission with investigation capabilities should be charged with the enforcement of this reform.
- 18) An Elected official compensation committee should be formed to set the compensation of City officials
- 19) Excess funds not used by the candidate should be returned to the City to help in reducing the cost of elections.
- 20) Disclosure of State income tax forms.
- 21) Penalties must be a part of this reform. Penalties such as fine, forfeiture of office and even prison.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Let's hear your comments and priorities

**NEXT Week Legal Extortion...**

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](#)

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

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## 2 Potpourri 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.**

Good response from Council member Drayman [ED Reply to Herbert Molano.]. We need more people like him and Vanguard. I will always keep you aware and report the things going on. Keep up the good work. CG

**Anoush update from the City Attorney:** "Staff has now met regarding Anoush and the outstanding violations: Initially it should be noted that the enforcement strategy was based on the idea that this outdated facility would eventually be demolished to make way for an updated facility. Staff felt that these were relatively minor violations which would go away when the new facility was constructed, because of the review requirements for new construction. These have always been included in Neighborhood Services notices to the owners, but staff did not aggressively pursue them because the new facility would trigger requirements for new CUP's and parking permits, which should result in a much more compliant facility. However, as a result of the meeting it was determined that any proposed new construction is well into the future and it would be inappropriate to allow code violations to continue for such a long period of time unresolved.

The following are the building permit issues for which staff is requiring that permits be obtained:

- (1) Enclosure of the porch areas along Colorado Street.
- (2) An enclosure at the rear of the structure.
- (3) The alteration of a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor storage closet into an office

Planning has made a determination that covering the patio did not constitute an expansion of the use, and therefore does not trigger a violation of the current CUP. Planning staff is reviewing whether alteration of the 2nd floor storage closet area into office space violated the provisions of the CUP.

Talk about "sweeping under the rug." In my opinion, the City Attorney is ignoring the elephant in the room and is focusing on a closet! Condition # 7 states if there is any change in size or character the permit shall expire. Staff is now requiring the owner to obtain a permit. What about condition 7? Also, there is no comment on the fact the "character" has been changed from a full service restaurant to a banquet hall. TJ

I really want to congratulate you for calling the town on its behavior.... You are amazing! DG

I saw in the News Press that the Council is now reconsidering having the public provide eyes and ears to problems in the City because of the potential liability like that couple in Montrose being sued [the Thompsons]. I also remember that Barry spoke to that issue in the past reminding Council of the liability. Good for you. Looks like they are listening. JM [ED – Members of committees of non-profit groups like Vanguardians have protection from SLAPP suits under the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 and the California Corporation Code section 5230 – join a Vanguardians committee.]

A couple of comments:  
About the tree ordinance, after looking at what the public works arborist determined the trees to be worth on the properties recently fined for cutting their trees and using the City's valuation charts used by building and safety to determine what buildings are worth, it turns out that the trees are worth more than the houses. For the million plus valuation on one of the properties, that means that just the trees, would be more valuable than the land. Hard to believe that nobody in

the city attorney's office, public works or neighborhood services noticed that.

Another homeowner bites the dust. I can't believe the recent rash of proposed new single family homes and additions that have received approvals from one commission or another only to be denied on appeals. In every case the owners complied with the allowable areas and height of the zoning codes only to have jealous neighbors say they didn't like it. After expending thousands of dollars, they are left with nothing. In addition, not

one dollar of the paper games goes to improving the look or value of our City. Glendale has a deserved reputation for being bureaucratic and hostile to residential projects, and then our council goes and flaunts it by their actions. It is really clear that unless you're willing to pay off a few council persons, don't plan to build your dream home in Glendale because it's only your neighbors views that matter. Keep up the good work. CE

**Letter to LA Times columnist David Lazarus:** Your column was interesting as always. However, I believe you have missed the essence of prop 13 which was to give the state and its subdivisions a reason to rein in spending. As you have seen, spending hasn't been slowed for payroll and benefits only the programs that serve the public. You have seen the raises to Judges, Legislators and members of the Executive branch and then the curtailment of services. In Glendale fire fighters are paid over \$100,000 per year. One fire captain was paid more than \$200,000. In fact 25% of the City employees are paid more than \$100,000, money that does not include benefits and

burden. Money that is not available to be used to maintain a decaying infrastructure. The time has passed for accountability. We must start saying NO to demands for more money and require that pay scales do not exceed those of the private sector. Bruce Philpott, retired Pasadena Police Chief has spent 12 years analyzing the fire department rip-off from excessive overtime to staffing with 3 instead of 4; using statistics reluctantly provided by the fire department through the Public Records Act. Reconsider your stance on 'just give more money'. BA

**CALLS:** Several calls on the Gangi & Gregg generosity...The consensus is that G & G would never give something away without a good reason. They have done well in Glendale. Selling land to the City for over \$30,000,000 in just a few years. And, why did the Glendale City Attorney get involved? Glendale wasn't the recipient of the land?

**Articles:** **Creating Accountability** by *Dianne Gubin* [www.TechExecPartners.com](http://www.TechExecPartners.com)

Micro managers get a bad rap, but they do get things done. Here's how to set up accountability for a project: Creating structure helps everyone feel involved and boosts morale.

1. Clear and precise directions are critical.
2. Own the project personally or through delegation.
3. Create visuals.
4. Outline workflow, deadlines and execution.
5. Foster regular meetings in person, by teleconference or video.
6. Watch workflow process. Set daily or weekly deadlines
7. Consider incentives to reinforce positive behavior within your team.

**Restaurants:** **Knight at 138 San Fernando in Burbank – Great kebobs, friendly host and some palatable Greek wine. Not pretentious, not fancy.**

**LINKS:** [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber](#) [UOpen Government Guide](#) [Uwww.vanguardians.org](#) [UCheck Zip Code Demographics](#) [UGlobal Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) [U](#) for a free copy of waste of taxpayer money and 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](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#)

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

**Monday, January 14**

6:30 pm Commission on the Status of Women –, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

**Tuesday, January 15**

2:30 pm Glendale Housing Authority – Glendale Redevelopment Agency City Council Chambers, City Hall,

6:00 pm Glendale City Council --, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

**Wednesday, January 16**

9:30 am, Zoning Administrator –Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

5:00 pm Planning Commission –, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

**FPPC** Notice of Interested Persons' Meeting regarding Local Legal Defense Fund Regulation and Gifts for local official's regulation: [Memorandum](#)

**Thursday, January 17**

5:00 pm, Design Review Board #2 --Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

**Please note new starting times for Design Review Boards**

6:00 to 7:00pm Join the Alex Theatre and City of Glendale Arts and Culture Commission for a Community Arts Mixer at the Alex Theatre Terrace Bar located at 216 North Brand Blvd. Immediately following the mixer please join them in the Alex Theatre auditorium for a brief presentation on the City of Glendale's update to the Strategic Plan for the Arts and the new Glendale Arts Alliance. **RSVP no later than January 15 at (818) 243-2611 ext. \*811**

7:00 pm Larry Zarian Forum Charter Chan 26. Guest Moyse Field nemesis, Linda Lalaian

**Monday, January 21** City Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and **Barry Allen Birthday celebration**

## **3** Open Government

Memo from Jim Starbird regarding changes in agenda: "I spoke at length with the Mayor this afternoon regarding future agenda matters. Here are some changes from the forecast of this morning:

1. CIP (previously scheduled for 1/08 at 2:30) -- The wrap-up of the CIP will be on [SIC] 12/29 at 6:00 with an overview of the full CIP -- not just the supplemental list. The intent will be to give a full picture of the projects proposed for funding under the initial CIP and the supplement. We will need to condense this down so we can touch on the important areas in a 30 to 45 minute timeframe.
2. Verdugo Golf Course (previously scheduled for 1/08 at 6:00)-- The Mayor would like this matter to come back 1/29 or later but prior to the close of the comment period on the EIR and wants in the report the specific comments staff would propose to give on the EIR. The report will ask for approval of the comments, as well as get Council direction on the extent of the City's involvement in preserving the course.
3. Linda Vista traffic controls (previously scheduled for 1/15 at 6:00) -- The Mayor would like this matter held off and it referred to the TPC for review and recommendation. A time for the matter to come to the CC would be determined after it goes to the TPC.

## 4 Vanguard

**Wants & Needs** -- Vanguardians needs Vista compatible Adobe 8, a digital camcorder, a color laser printer with duplexer and office space.

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## 5 Humor

A big Vanguard welcome to local artist, cartoonist and video guy, Stuart Rosen aka GuruStu. Watch for his materials in Vanguard.



You can be 'Accountable' without permission

## 6



Insider

Vanguard welcomes the Insider to these pages. His periodic columns are written in such a manner as to protect his identity. No one is aware of the 'insider's' identity... 'he' is several city employees that care,

Hi – I work inside City Hall and report as sort of the 'fly on the wall'. Here is what is 'hypothetically' happening at City Hall.

He said, "I am an elected official and want to show you, you lovely specimen of womanhood, this picture showing female anatomy."

She said, "You are a disgusting degenerate. How could people ever vote for you? I am going to report you to my boss you dirty old man!"

And the Boss said, "My dear, we can't let this issue affect our City after the costly and demoralizing sexual harassment lawsuit at the police department and especially since we have taken our lumps from those KFI disc jockeys. You must put your own sensitivities and values aside and protect my henchman. He votes the way I want him too. Besides, my trusty attorney and I took him aside and slapped his wrists. He won't do it again...until the next time. Oh, I forgot. Play your cards right and there is a raise and a promotion in the future."

Insider says, "I'll keep you posted on this continuing saga. And on others things...."