



“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 17, 2010

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WEAVER REFUSED TO HELP DA – HE WAS NOT ‘COMFORTABLE’

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



RETAIL SALES ARE DOWN ACCORDING TO US CENSUS BUREAU

THIS JUST IN: MONTEREY PARK, a nearby City, just discovered their reserves have been raided by management and spent on the General Fund. The Treasurer took an early retirement and the assistant won't take the rap leaving the City Manager to explain what happened. An emergency meeting is being called by the Council to determine if they will be able to survive without a Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The lack of revenue will not support a bond issue.

Marcus (Charter) Communications wants an audit on the P.E.G. fees (Public Access, Educational and Government Television). City Insiders say that the money was spent on Capital Improvement Projects not on the operations. The City may be obfuscating the issue by going to Superior Court for a temporary restraining order. The City wants to rely on precedent in the long-term relationship while at the same time they are denying that 'grandfathering' to zoning and window issues. Another double standard.

As Vanguardians gets many questions about what we do etc, we are going to answer these 6 questions:

1. **Who are we?**
2. **What does this have to do with you?**
3. **How do we do what we do?**
4. **What have we been able to accomplish?**
5. **How are we funded?**
6. **How can you answer the call to Action?**

Thomas Jefferson **said**, “**Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.**” Vanguardians was founded in the hopes that someday we would all be found trust-worthy in Thomas Jefferson's eyes.

Vanguardians is a diverse, non-partisan group of volunteers that respectfully insists on the transparency of city government and the obligations of the voting public to keep elected officials accountable for their actions and policies. An open and transparent government requires the timely watchfulness of knowledgeable, well-informed people. Therefore, we educate and empower people just like you to make critical choices about those aspiring to public office; and the performance of those serving there now.

Misusing taxpayer funds is just as critical a lapse in judgment as misuses of power and corruption. Neither is acceptable, and it is up to all of us to say so, with the authority and conviction that brings about real change. While our summary judgments are ultimately read aloud by the way of the ballot box; our interim feedback must be more immediate and clear. Learn how to have your voice heard.

We use and protect a group of legislation, collectively known as the “*Sunshine Laws*” that were established to specifically mandate greater transparency and accountability. Vanguardians offer training in those tools to assure compliance. We zealously protect these laws from people and groups that would like them to vanish to prevent the need for public disclosure.

The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) that mandates legislative bodies to provide each of us an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings open.

The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool we use to get information about the operations of government.

The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.

In the past few years Vanguardians through non-violent public advocacy in one city alone:

- saved \$80,000,000 by preventing a bond issue
- brought an elected official to justice for money laundering in a campaign account
- required an elected official to disclose financial interests
- exposed a ploy by government to deprive the people of taxes due on a \$15,000,000 property acquisition
- published the list of government workers being paid in excess of \$100,000 a year
- identified a budget error that would have paid one public safety employee \$1/2 Million Dollars
- decreased fire department emergency response times thereby saving lives
- targeted unsustainable pensions and payrolls that will dismantle our Quality of Life
- demonstrated that a new tax was not revenue neutral
- reduced utility rates for the disabled

Vanguardians does all this through your generous tax-deductible donations. We receive no government funding.

**I have made a commitment, under the umbrella of Vanguardians,
to monitor and audit government;
to work tirelessly to expose corrupt officials;
to educate voters on the best selection criteria;
to encourage voters to join with me on this voyage,
so that our friends and family can live in a corruption free community – Barry Allen**

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, you can go online to www.vanguardians.org or call 818 243 1502

COMING SOON...WEAVER NAMES the former City Employee who said he would connect Weaver to people to get the Armenian vote and who had organized crime connections. Learn about the two connections, the four whose names were given as contributors to his campaign and the guys that looked like Mafia enforcers. Weaver provided the bank statements from Dreaming of Roses. All this and more contained in public documents.

FRIDAY Advocates BREAKFAST
Join us on January 22nd 7AM 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.

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.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Commentary | 5) The Insider |
| 2) Shout Box | 6) City Council |
| 3) Public Records | 7) Neighborhood News Briefs |
| 4) Vanguardians | |

1 COMMENTARY

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

From the Publisher... OUT OF TOUCH



City Management along with City Council seem to be out of touch with reality. They were so surprised that the State was going to take more money from the cities. The city pays its own legislative analysts; retains lobbyists; has direct representation with the league of California Cities and encourages its own 'leaders' to meet with state legislators which they just don't do. It reminds me of Bush 41 when he saw a supermarket scanner and expressed his amazement at the wonderful world of

technology. The City Manager is not an early adopter of technology to reduce staff but technology doesn't make political contributions to keep a majority of the council in his court.

The city, rather than socking money away when times were good gave all that money to pensions, benefits and payroll. Instead of maintaining the streets and sidewalks; and working hard to encourage business to come to the downtown. So many times I have heard the city manager say that this city has the best staff and we pay them well to keep them. I hear this in every city where I attend legislative meetings. Look at how many consultants have been retained and outsourced city services are being paid for. Now there is an outside service doing pavement markings because the city employee that did them is now retired – without training a replacement. In one very important department the manager trained two people to take over when he was transferred to another position. Instead of a transfer the city is recruiting a new head.

This city has given department heads Civil Service protection instead of making them accountable to the city manager. Not all cities are like that.

Herbert Molano tells it like it is and the city officials don't like him or any of us that question their authority or lack of wisdom. Why does the City Manager refuse to share the names and amounts of money given to city employees as a performance bonus when his actions fly in the face of a Supreme Court decision? Were these payments hush money or rewards for having a union pac make contributions to the candidates he needs to keep his egregious policies going, the policies that place employees over the voters?

Had the council seen beyond their own aggrandizement and not given into the demands of the manager, the State takings would not be an issue. This city is among the highest rate chargers for public utilities. Today the city manager is transferring the highest paid employees to the municipal utility to reduce the dependence on general fund transfer which are being proven to be illegal.

This is another wakeup call to the voters that they need to pay attention and question authority; question policies; question whether city employees are being encouraged to do their best; whether the council should be more intouch themselves by doing their own research. **BARRY ALLEN**

COMMENTARY: SUFFERING FROM A BAD CASE OF TRUTHINESS? JUST GOOGLE IT



Google threatens to pull out of China rather than suffer the control on the dissemination of information China imposes on companies that operate locally. The Chinese government expects Google to filter information not officially sanctioned.

It may not be obvious to those who only sporadically follow the proceedings of the Glendale city government or who rarely read the city's official documents, but does the city resort to restriction, misinformation, or filtering of information here as well?

Glendale's municipal government may not be taking the extreme measures for which China is notorious, but my observation is that Glendale is well along the same continuum. Why the city council won't challenge the misinformation is the nagging question.

The handiest tool the city management uses is distortion. Take the official Comprehensive Annual Report. The statistical section shows the number of "Authorized Positions". The untrained reader assumes that positions represent the actual number of employees. It is a misleading statistic when management uses it as in the declaration "We cut x positions from that department" Anyone reading the financial statements (Schedule 18 of the statistical section) could interpret that the city cut both Firefighters and Police officers. But did they?

A less publicized document that gives a better count of the actual number of employees is the Workforce Demographics Report. (<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/admin-svcs/WorkforceDemographics1998-2008/Report19-1.pdf>) It shows that there were 213 members of the GPOA and 174 members of the GFFA in 1999. By 2008 the numbers were 243 and 184 respectively. It is very likely that the actual number of employees has changed very little from the previous year, but there is no doubt that their numbers have increased substantially in the last ten years. Follow the link and you'll also see how upper management grew from 108 to 132 employees and middle management grew from 167 to 233 employees in the same period. Could we conclude that their claims of frugality or fiscal prudence are justified? Or does the data expose exponential truthiness?

The financial report (CAFR) also appears to disclose the number of salaried positions. Yet, it leaves out hourly positions which may number around five hundred. Many of these positions are full-time hourly employees. The most transparent way to report the size of the city staff is through "full-time equivalent" numbers. Burbank does (Even categorized by department). So does Pasadena. But for years the Glendale city manager has refused to release that critical, yet easily calculated information.

Take ten-year comparisons of employment. The reports from Burbank and Pasadena have numerous reports showing those trends in charts or in graphs. Glendale (prior to Starbird) used to show the key financial reports with up-to six year comparisons. Now we have to wait for permission and dig through the archives to get at the long-term trends in expenditures and other financial information.

Sometimes the official line of misinformation is blatantly displayed right before your eyes. At the last GWP meeting, an attorney from the city attorney's office left the impression that for a commission member to request an item to be on the official agenda, he needed to present it at a public meeting and have another commissioner second the request. The distortion was in making it appear as if it were required by state law – The Ralph M. Brown

Act. Only after challenging her before the commission were they apprised with clarity of their rights as commissioners. The distortion got corrected.

Later in the meeting, while presenting the issue of the high electrical utility rates (Among the three highest if not the highest commercial and residential rates in California) I mentioned the results of two lawsuits against the Los Angeles Water and Power over the practice of charging rates higher than the cost to generate electricity and rates that violated the constitution and other state of California laws. The LADWP lost on both counts.

Promptly, the GWP director "corrected" me (after I sat down) inadvertently misinforming the commissioners that the lawsuits were only for the water rates only, not electrical. The city attorney on the dais chimed in making the legal interpretation that a) not all cities have the same charter and b) that Glendale has had its version of its charter much longer. Though her last comments may have had elements of truth, they were very likely irrelevant – a practice of misdirection or "truthiness" I find regularly at official meetings. That potential financial liability had already been included in prior cities of Glendale's auditor's reports while the case was still pending. Might the Glendale Water and Power be liable to the public for excess water rates and to the GUSD for excess electrical rate charges? The auditors should express an opinion on the GWP financial reports. You can find a summary of the ruling found at the State Attorney General's web site (<http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1624>) where you will find the following:

"The agreement stems from a case filed in San Bernardino County in 2000, State of California et al. v. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Et. Al., in which the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power knowingly overcharged State and local governmental agencies for electricity."

We may not have to go to China to discover the hand of governmental in control of information. All we need to do is go to Irvine, Burbank or Pasadena get their budgets and other financial reports then compare them to Glendale's to see the level of transparency possible.

If you are not likely to be traveling soon, then watch future council meetings as they often obfuscate, mislead or distort the facts. When that is not possible, they'll try to create obstacles for the public to speak or ridicule your observations when you sit down. And what if you can't attend city meetings? Access them via video stream and Google their claims for their level of truthiness. **HERBERT MOLANO**



LAUREL MILLER IS ON ASSIGNMENT



STANTON J. PRICE IS ON ASSIGNMENT

Christian Arbid says: 874 Glendale foreclosures as of 1/15/10

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.



I BELIEVE I AM ONE OF THOSE 'ATTACK DOGS' you write about who show up at meetings and speak up for the things that the councilman I support wants. He has been doing a good job for the people in my area and I really don't give a hoot about the other parts of the city. I don't go there. Right or wrong I will do what he asks me to do. He has information you people don't and he shares that information with me. I will help the person that makes me feel important. GG

IN RESPONSE TO STANTON PRICE in last week's Vanguard: There are other museums, etc. in Glendale, in addition to the listed information in the Vanguard. The Brand Library Art Gallery always has an interesting exhibit which changes frequently. There are free dance and chamber music concerts at the museum on Sunday afternoon at various times throughout the year. Forest Lawn has an excellent museum. A new exhibit opens January 28, artist Chris Hopkins (Northwest Native Culture). There is a small stage theater on San Fernando Rd. near Brand which features stage plays, the Luna Playhouse.

The city should have more theatres, etc. I doubt that Laemmle will open a theatre in Glendale as they have theatres in Pasadena and Encino. Unfortunately, there is a limited audience for their programs. Do not complain, if you do not attend the various museums, theatres, etc. Two new classical music orchestras are planning concerts in town. Donald McPoland

I WAS AT VON'S ON GLENDALE Sunday morning at 10:30 when ladder 21 rolled in and all four firemen got off to go shopping. It was amusing to watch the four of them arguing over the \$1.00 a pound difference in the cost of some meat they were buying. For what we are paying them there should be no question as to how much their groceries cost. Two bags of groceries took 45 minutes to shop for and purchase. Our tax dollars at work. MD

THE HISTORY OF FIREFIGHTING: The practice of firefighting has come a long way since the Roman Empire, when fire patrols relied on bucket brigades and pumps to extinguish blazes. The first fire engines arrived in Europe in the 17th century. Around this time, insurance companies—motivated by the Great Fire of London—formed private fire brigades, but they protected only the buildings they insured. In the early 18th century, France established the first modern brigades as a fee-based service. FP [ED – Thanks for the input. It still does not explain why they are assigned 24 hour shifts nine days a month and have to be provided sleeping quarters, barcaloungers and big screen TVs.] FP

HOW CAN I HELP CHARTER get the new cable system working in Glendale? I have friends with Charter in Pasadena and it works great. There are so many more features. But Glendale is just a place with old fuddy duddies who spend every night watching reruns of the City Council. Get a life, get new Charter. Join me in telling the City Council to stop wasting our money on dumb headed lawsuits. The law was changed so that Charter doesn't have to bow and curtsy to the Dais. How can I join the lawsuit as an interested party? HS

RE CHARTER LAWSUIT: Superman, Scott Howard, and his minion, Christina Sansone must really enjoy getting their asses handed to them time and time and time again. How do these two ever sleep at night? If they received a dollar for every case they lost for the city, they'd be as wealthy as Larry Zarian. These two are an embarrassment to the law school from which they graduated.DJ

3 Public Information

"Just the facts"

According to public documents, CCM Weaver said that a city employee turned him onto people connected with organized crime. He received \$2000 cash from one of them who gave Weaver the names of 4 others who he listed on his 460 form. He was asked to cooperate with the LA DA to hook these 'connected' people who, in one instance, he likened to Mafia. He told the DA he was uncomfortable with cooperating in a bribery sting. It appears that Weaver is a standup guy for running to the cops for self-preservation yet he calls on the public to be the eyes and ears of the police, something he as an elected official, refuses to do.

"Business Decision" is a website that the city uses to determine the per capita income of \$52,443 rather than the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census Bureau or the California Department of Finance. Questions have arisen as to whether those numbers provided by a website are accurate as, with this recession, the numbers don't appear to be accurate. Still the average fireman is paid 3 times the per capita income of a resident.

Our request to the Finance Department for the website of business decision has fallen on deaf ears. Research indicates that [Civic Technologies](#) used by the City for the public library and then by the Fire Department to substantiate the need for new fire stations, has such a website that is non-operational. They had no prior experience with fire issues but did so.

Request: Neighborhood Services conducts investigations on complaints that it receives. Provide the policies, procedures and practices (PPP) used in conducting such complaints.

Response: City has no PPP for investigations conducted by Neighborhood Services.

[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

Monday, January 18 City Offices Closed – Holiday

Tuesday, January 19

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

Joint Meeting RE: Acquisition of Easement on S.

Maryland Ave. 548-4844

6:00 pm CH City Council - 548-4844

Wednesday, January 20

Zoning Hearing Officer -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140

Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Thursday, January 21

Arts & Culture Commission – 2:00 pm, CH 548-2000

Design Review Board #1 – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

4 **Vanguardians**

- Issues regarding the Charter Cable lawsuit, FBI arrests, Weaver documents and more were discussed. 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.

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

5



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.



Why did GWP pay 23 million dollars to buy out the Scholl Canyon Landfill contract that would have expired in Aug of 2014? Their claim that it will save \$9 million over a five year period. Looks like they spent \$23 million to save \$9 million because full ownership was theirs in Aug. of 2014 for zero dollars. Pub Works was getting a royalty from the gas that was produced from the gas co. GWP has to pay that now, how much are they paying? Also GWP has to either hire a contractor or hire more employees to run the project. Originally GWP threatened the gas co with a lawsuit in order to get the

gas price lower but realized they signed a binding contract that they could not get out of. Because of pressure being put on them to get rates lower they are using this to the uninformed public that they are reducing fuel cost 9% hoping that the pressure goes away. In the meantime they are going to waste 20 million dollars of tax money and another 30 million dollars to install smart meters that will do nothing to lower rates. The only way any utility can lower rates is by reducing spending cost; fuel cost or buy cheaper energy from another source. How did GWP pull this off so fast and where did they get \$23 million? Even Weaver said that he heard rumors that this buy out happened. Did the council even know about it? Over the last 15 years GWP paid about \$150 million for Gas to Grayson PP. They could have owned the project for under \$10 million when it was built and gas would have been cheap. GWP hired Pace/Global to do a study for them. Their report is complete but is not being issued to public. A new generator at Grayson will cost 50 to 100 million dollars. This will be the next Bond coming. A few years ago GWP was in the black, certainly not now. It would be interesting to find out what is the present financial status. There isn't going to be any 35% rate reduction like Mr. Steiger is dreaming of.

Glendale Water & Power Response

Topic #1: Scholl Canyon Gas Prepay Transaction

Question: *Why would GWP pay 23 million for the Landfill Gas project when they would get full ownership for nothing in Jan 2014, to save us only 9 million?*

Response: GWP was required to buy gas pursuant to the Scholl Gas Purchase Agreement. Public Works was paid a 16% royalty and O&M charges out of the proceeds of the GWP gas purchases. By exercising the purchase option, GWP will get all of the gas through 2014 and Public Works will still get the same royalties and O&M payments through 2014. However, it will cost GWP about \$9.36 million dollars less even taking into consideration the Public Works royalties and the initial \$23 million purchase price. The completion of this transaction was instrumental in allowing GWP to reduce electric bills by approximately 9% effective January 1, 2010.

Question: *Also Pub Works received royalties from the gas co. Who is paying those nows (Sic)and how much.*

Response: GWP is paying the royalties. They total about \$9 million over what would have been the remaining contract life.

Question: *The city now has to hire a contractor or new employees to run the project. This is an attempt to show some kind of effort to reduce rates; it is a cover up and shift of moneys. They could have done this year ago, why didn't they?*

Response: The \$9.36 million in savings to GWP are after taking into consideration all expenses to operate and maintain the plant. The purchase option was the culmination of over eighteen months of negotiation related to the pricing formula in the Gas Purchase Agreement. The timing of the transaction was advantageous due to the currently low cost of natural gas.

Topic #2: Smart Meter Project

Statement: *The smart meter project should be canceled at this time; it will do nothing to lower rates. The only way to lower rates is either spending on fuel cost or improve their generators to a better heat rate.*

Response: Smart meters provide a foundation for the Smart Grid, which is the direction the national electric system is heading. One immediate benefit electricity and water customers will have is the ability to see their energy and water use in near real time, which will help them reduce unnecessary electric and water consumption.

GWP is working on reducing operating costs and improving overall efficiency of electric generation. The Scholl Canyon gas purchase option, saving \$9.36 million, is one such action. It is part of the reason GWP was able to reduce electric bills approximately 9 percent starting January 1, 2010.

Topic #3 Bond Financing

Statement: *Coming up will be a new 1000 million dollar bond to do this on top of decrypting else and their goal is to lower rates by 35%. No Way in hell.*

Response: The supposition of the level of financing required is not correct. The suggestion of \$1,000 million, which equals \$1 billion dollars, is considerably overstated and must be an error on behalf of the writer. It will be significantly less than has been indicated. It should be recognized that the use of bond financing is a cost effective method to raise needed capital so that infrastructure requirements to serve the community are addressed. As part of the strategic planning process, the ongoing capital requirements for both the water and electric utility operations will be assessed. Once this has been completed, the level of bond financing will be determined. Before entering into a bond financing transaction, the capital requirements requesting funds will be reviewed with City Council. City Council approval must be received before proceeding with a bond financing.

The GWP strategic plan goal regarding electricity rates requires clarification. The stated goal is to reduce electricity rates to be lower than Southern California Edison by 35% by December 2014. In order to accomplish this several intermediate actions have to take place between now and the end of 2014. The most recent action was the purchase of the landfill gas contract related to the Scholl Canyon landfill. This transaction was instrumental in helping to achieve the current 9% rate reduction effective January 1, 2010.

Topic #4 GWP General Manager

Statement: *By the time everyone realizes this, the Manager will be retired living back in Arizona. Glendale better wake up.*

Response: GWP has a strategic plan that has identified various conditions that the utility operations must contend with over the next several years. In the past, the strategic plan was shared with City Council and they are aware of the direction being taken. The inference that GWP has not been transparent is not true. The public process of obtaining City Council approval on actions taken reflects that transparency and accountability are occurring. As to the location of where the Director of GWP may choose to retire, at some time in the future, is not relevant to fulfilling the duties of running the utility operation.

INSIDER Response: Well, you now know how it went down. Also they have said another Bond issue will be coming. As you know they have all the numbers and they can use them to show how they want it to look. It is good that Vanguard is looking over their shoulder. Is interesting that PW loses their royalties after 2014. Does this mean our garbage rates go up? The negotiation was the law suit preparing and letters going back and forth. The buyout happened in less than a month.

SINCE THE 6% PAY INCREASE the cops got this year put them above their counterparts in fire; they are expected to defer the additional 5% that is contractually owed them next year. They don't want to be seen as overly greedy; the reason they took the 6% is that they just can't stomach making less money than fire.

THERE IS AN ITEM ON NEXT WEEK'S COUNCIL meeting where Steiger and Zurn are making a proposal for a Thermal Ice Power Storage project. This needs to be watched as it could turn out to be another 10 million dollar boondoggle from GWP. It may be another attempt to show where they are working to reduce rates.

THE DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL regarding window replacements kind of sums up how out of touch they have gotten. All of the talk about how to force City regulation on the community and never did they talk about the cost of the regulations on the homeowners. In a time when the City should be encouraging homeowners to install energy efficient windows, kind of like the artificial turf in the front yard, they come up with an expensive and time consuming process. Think about it, if a homeowner goes to Home Depot and gets a special deal on energy efficient windows, they better not get them because the City may determine that they don't look right on that property owners house and the money will be wasted. Does anybody think that that same owner will then go out and custom order more windows? Seems like Planning's goals and the goals of GWP are 180 degrees off, and the Council can't make up which way to go.

THE CODE ENFORCEMENT issue of the windows topic looks like a make work program to keep City staff busy.

MANAGEMENT SEEMS TO BE IN DENIAL about next year's budget. Looks like several departments are going to try and expand their staffing levels in spite of the economy.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT BUREAUCRACY breeds dysfunction. We expect that from large bureaucracies like the federal government or the state, but it is a real gift to create that dysfunction in a smaller organization like Glendale. Maybe someone should tell the Council that this is not a good thing for our community. It seems like they don't know that yet.

6

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Drayman conjectured a number of issues about Barry Allen at the last Council meeting that were wrong-headed. Drayman can make up any number of stories that his legions of followers believe. First off I speak for Vanguardians and one of the things we do is train people on presentations. Mike Mohill is certainly not a shill or a spokesperson for Vanguardians. He, along with thousands of people, receives Vanguard each week and has chosen, by his own volition, to quote from the publication. As to my absence from the Chambers that is not as nefarious as Drayman portrays. There are 88 cities in LA County alone and about 40 in Orange County. I spend time in many of them teaching about accountability. I am at Glendale City Hall about 3 times each week. I do believe that Mr. Drayman wants to kill the messenger before the public, his voters, catches on to his duplicity regarding zoning, conflict of interests and BID payments. Barry Allen

Consent item 5b on council agenda for \$2.5 million is money being spent due to the Fairmont road extension agreement that city did with Disney. This will be paid out of GWP revenues which come from electric and water revenue. Another reason our rates are high. This is Phase one. About \$4 million was spent even before phase one. There will be several more millions for phase 2&3

7

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[Howard Jarvis recommends a 6-step program for California:](#)

1. Lawmakers must be limited to spending no more than the state takes in, no ifs, ands or buts.
2. A growing percentage of the general fund is the repayment of debt.
3. The amount of time and money spent on lawmaking should be reduced.
4. To remove from legislators the temptation provided by public employee union enablers – who are responsible for the election of the majority of lawmakers – the state work force should be slashed by 15%. This will reduce not only their political influence, but since California state employees are the highest paid in all 50 states, relieve some of the pressure for extravagant spending.
5. To reduce the pressure to spend, spend, and spend (especially on public employee salaries and benefits), new rules should be adopted to reduce the corrupting influence of the tax receivers on our political institutions.
6. Taxes should be cut so that the per capita tax burden is reduced to no more than the national average.

[WHITE PLAINS](#) — A former Yonkers city councilwoman was indicted Wednesday on federal charges of accepting nearly \$167,000 in cash and gifts in exchange for dropping her opposition to two contentious developments, including a \$630 million project that is the city's largest private undertaking. The former councilwoman, Sandy Annabi, 39, a Democrat whose term ended in December, was one of three people charged in the indictment. The other two, Zehy Jereis, 38, the former chairman of the Yonkers Republican Committee, and a lawyer, Anthony Mangone, 36, are accused of bilking two developers of tens of thousands of dollars and funneling the money and other favors to Ms. Annabi in return for her support.

FROM PublicCEO:

[L.A. City Council Violated Open Meeting Law](#)

The council may have violated the law by approving a 76,000-square-foot shopping center in South Los Angeles without giving the public sufficient notice. A revote may be needed. Read this and more of Tuesday's top local government headlines. [Read more here.](#)

[Soaring Pension Costs: Should Workers Pay More?](#)

There aren't many ways to make quick cuts in public employee pension costs, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed one last week. His new budget would divert an additional 5 percent of state worker pay to help the state cover pension costs, doubling the annual pension contribution already being made by most state workers. [Read more here.](#)

[Don't Let the Pension Time Bomb Explode](#)

Last spring, I wrote about the municipal atomic bomb that threatens to decimate L.A.'s treasury and potentially lead to bankruptcy. The City of L.A.'s public pension crisis continues to grow, but fortunately our leaders are now prepared to act. Difficult decisions must be made to pull us back from the brink. [Read more here.](#)

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