



“Accountability”
Glendale’s Watchdog

If you have suggestions or comments or would like to participate in drafting the Ballot Proposition statement please contact Barry Allen

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol IV
Week of January 18, 2009
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
818 745 6770

Vanguardians Appointed

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 advocacy



Vanguardians was appointed by a 4-0 vote of the City Council (Quintero being absent) to write the argument opposing the 6.5% Utility Users Tax on telecommunications that will be on the April ballot. This was after ‘tough’ questioning by attorney CCM Ara J. Najarian of Barry Allen who masterfully answered all of Najarian’s questions. CCM Weaver moved the question. Vanguardians was chosen over City Council Candidate Bruce Philpott due to the City Charter created ‘pecking’ order to write the arguments. The City will have up to 5

signatories while Vanguardians must have a minimum of two.

Dozens of City Employees were denied Vanguard last week, Senders were getting mail bounced back accompanied by the following statement: *Message delayed 421 cogefilter.ci.glendale.ca.us has refused your connection because your server did not have a PTR record.* AOL customers’ mail was also being bounced. City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian was notified when a request to prepare the opposing arguments on the upcoming Utility Users Tax ballot proposition was returned to sender. He noted that his email hadn’t been working for several hours. City staff sent out this notice: *‘The City’s email filter and monitoring software is now fully functional. All emails originating from outside of the City will be delivered over the course of the next 2-3 hours as the system goes through its queue of outstanding emails to deliver.’*

San Diego prepares for serious decisions between services and fees. According to an LA Times article, “The city has made fiscal progress through pension reform for new employees, healthcare reform and consolidation of some departments, but “much, much more needs to be done.” On Wednesday, in his annual State of the City address, Mayor Sanders is expected to again warn about the growing budget problem, caused by a pension fund deficit, a reduction in state allocations and the recession. The question at City Hall is whether Sanders, a Republican, will suggest a tax increase. In the past he’s championed the idea of cutting the budget by outsourcing services and bargaining hard with city labor unions.”

City of San Fernando voters recall two Council members as reported in the Daily News: Esqueda, one of the leaders of the recall drive, said the election is a new beginning for the city. She would like to see city government become more open to its residents. “It’s their city and they deserve to know what is happening and see what we can do to clean up the mess these two council members left us. I think they were irresponsible with the finances. These council members went against the residents and did what they felt was right for themselves and their friends and family.”

Ernesto Hernandez said the “new blood” on the City Council will help San Fernando become the “visionary and historic city” it’s meant to be. “People were upset about the mismanagement of city resources and the really negative attitude on the City Council during the last six years,” he said. “There wasn’t any movement in terms of new progressive projects that were being OK’d.”

Both council members were recalled by roughly 65 percent of voters. The vote for recalling Hernandez was 873 in favor, 457 opposed. For Ruelas, it was 874-487.

Flying in the face of the recession Glendale promotes two fire department captains to Battalion Chiefs. That action will spike their payroll before they retire to get a larger pension. See cutbacks. One will continue in his post the other is being moved to a fire suppression post. Insiders say that will free up another BC to take over as Deputy Chief, a post from which Steve Howard recently retired.

City Council race has a baker’s dozen of those circulating nomination petitions.

President Elect Obama plans a website that will show contracts and grants in a show of openness and transparency. The City of Glendale needs to do the same and include change orders as well. For instance some developers have said they could provide an aquatic center for a lot less than is being proposed by city staff.

MONDAY MORNING MOTIVATION MEETINGS

Are you an entrepreneur? Self-employed? Have a home-based business?

This Monday, January 19th from 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. start the week off strong.

Bring your coffee and join others like you to turn the bad news into gold for your business.

Give yourself an edge, come to

100 North Brand Blvd, 6th Floor Conference Room.

Just \$5.

90 Minutes of FREE Parking at the Exchange City Garage on Maryland

For more information: www.fieldworks.net/MondayMorningMotivation.htm

or call 818.243.4864

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

**A once in a lifetime offer from Vanguardians – Vanguard will be sent to over 50,000 Glendalians... Your web site link or message included.
Call Barry Allen 818 745 6770.**

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

City Council

Council	1 -14	Annualized	Contact info
Drayman	A	B-	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian	B+	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero	AB	B-	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver	B+	D	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian	A	B+	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;

Drayman - for keeping the meeting on target and moving swiftly

Najarian - for igniting the topic and discussion of the 710 Frwy

Quintero - for not attending. It took hours before anyone noticed he wasn't there. Aloha!

Weaver - for being actively vocal and contributing to the meeting

Yousefian - for constructively breaking down the utility tax issue and asking the question: Why?

Here are some easy cost saving tips that the Council could direct the City Manager to implement without public hearings: No overtime for managers. That would mean newly pinned Battalion Chiefs. They are exempt. Enforce the exemption. Say goodbye to the Blackberries and save ¼ million dollars a year. The GFD, GPD, DPW, DPR, GWP, the Beeline buses etc all have expensive and extensive wireless communications. The Managers are restricted from driving and talking hands on or texting or sending or receiving email. Assigning some to review the 3000 pages of the T-Mobile bill has to be costly as well. Wait, isn't T-Mobile involved in the Cell Tower moratorium? Another side benefit is that without the Blackberries those sitting at the Council dais every Tuesday would be better able to listen to and respond to the denizens of Glendale...especially during election season.

####



Whether or not the telecommunication utility users tax is even necessary, Glendale's citizens are speaking out against it (even when it has yet to go on the April ballot). The item hidden beneath the tax dispute, was over who would pen the argument against the proposed ballot measure, which was eventually decided in favor of Barry Allen of this publication, Vanguard.

Why all the hoopla? Because this specific tax cut (from 7% to 6.5%) doesn't actually mean extra dollars in the publics' wallets, and because of the common knowledge regarding the misuse of tax payer money by the city, many of the night's speakers were fed up and distrustful of their city council's support of the tax measure. Glendale resident Mike Mohill took to the podium to publicly disown his Mayor, citing offenses like \$8.5 million in city raises, the purchase of Rockhaven sanitarium (for \$8.25 million) and a general devil-may-care attitude regarding money appropriation, to which Mayor Drayman showed no surprise.

Drayman did his best to keep everyone – both dais and public alike, on topic but it's clear people wanted to discuss the measure specifics, not who would be writing the defining argument against it.

When the topic was finally redirected to who would draft the oppositional argument, many of the council verbally supported Allen, although not first without some playful banter that was aimed at giving him a taste of his own medicine while he was "tied to the podium" for questioning. Whether or not council members have been at the blunt end of Allen's weekly charges, his organization, Vanguardians, is a non-profit whose aim is to facilitate governmental responsibility and all of them seemed to recognize that. Often Allen is more an expert at the numbers and facts than much of the council, and as Mayor Drayman put it, "He certainly does his research." Still, there were those who reacted to the appointment negatively.

In an article published in the Glendale News Press a day after the council meeting, an implication regarding Allen's motives was made. The article suggested he'd been pushing for contributions to his weekly news publication more than usual, and his move to write the measure could possibly be for exposure and money. The article backed it up with one quote. "[Vanguardians] has been more and more about solicitation of funds lately" said Sharon Weisman who was titled as a "long time community activist" critical of Allen in the past. Just like the opportunity to draft the oppositional argument to the tax measure, old issues of Vanguard have been made public record and easily accessible. Going back to the earliest Vanguard newsletters in 2006, it's apparent Allen isn't doing much differently. Other than changing the look of the paper, or playing with clip art, the same ONE request for tax-deductible contributions exists.

If there are community activists who truly oppose Allen, then they might want to make sure, like Allen, they do their research first. After all, Allen's unanimous appointment came not merely because the council thought he was qualified, but because no other community activist bothered to step up to the plate. **Laurel Miller**

\$



In the time of cutbacks resulting from the recession, City of Glendale promotes two firefighters from rank of Captain (a firefighter non-management union member equivalent to the crew leader of a truck or engine company of 2-3 other personnel) to Battalion Chief or head of a platoon of 59 people or a department. As a manager they should be exempt from overtime but the City allowed overtime in their union bargaining. The highest paid city employee in 2007 was a Battalion Chief at \$250,000 an amount that does not include benefits. The increase in payment would mean up to \$30,000 more each year depending on 'step' or about \$155,000 per year base pay.

There is a shift differential provided of 11-13% more if the BC works a forty hour week.

[From Vanguard of Davis:](#) Independent ~~~~~ In June of 2008, the Yolo County Grand Jury issued forth a report, concluding a nearly two-year investigation in the conduct and management of the Davis Fire Department (DFD). Among these included questions about promotional practice, a hostile work environment, and the misuse of DFD facilities by inebriated off-duty firefighters, strains the relationship between the DFD and the Davis Police Department, and finally improper influence of the Davis firefighters' union. After considerable prodding, the Davis City Manager Bill Emlen asked Bob Aaronson, the City's Ombudsman to conduct an independent investigation into the complaints. Mr. Aaronson turned in this report shortly after Election Day; however it has taken nearly two months for the City to process it. The City is not providing the public with the full report; instead we have the Staff Report written by City Manager Bill Emlen which excerpts from Mr. Aaronson's report and interjects Mr. Emlen's own analysis and interpretation. [FULL REPORT](#)

[City Manager's Handling of Fire Report Undermines Investigatory Process](#)

More on the subject: ~~~~~

City Manager Strongly Differs with Aaronson on Substance and Tone of Findings

The Davis City Council very late on Tuesday night and early on Wednesday morning finally got to ask key questions of investigator Bob Aaronson who was charged with the duty of conducting an independent investigation into a series of findings by the Yolo County Grand Jury that was released in June.

The city led by City Manager Bill Emlen and City Attorney Harriet Steiner came to the basic conclusion that they would potentially face liability if they allowed the elected Davis City Council to read the full report. This was borne out by implications from the Union President Bobby Wiest that the employees had an expectation of confidentiality (apparently even from the city council) and that efforts to release the full report even in closed session to the City Council would be met with a lawsuit.

That decision, which Bob Aaronson disagreed with in a nuanced way upon questioning, meant that the city council was left reading a redacted report and the public was left to read only the City Manager's summary of the issue. As we learned, the City Manager and the investigator had somewhat different interpretations of the facts.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

[Examination of the Use of the Union Hours Bank by the Davis Fire Department](#)

[LA Times reports:](#) A Los Angeles Fire Department inspector was arrested Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe during a sting operation, Los Angeles Police Department officials said. Dennis Archie, 58, of Thousand Oaks was booked on suspicion of commercial bribery by detectives, said LAPD Officer Karen Smith. Police allege that Archie demanded and took a \$500 bribe from a board and care facility operator to sign off on a compliance check to allow changes to be made to the facility.

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians, Inc.* 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.

CONTENTS:

- 1) [Commentary](#)
- 2) [Potpourri](#)
- 3) [Public Records](#)
- 4) [Vanguardians](#)
- 5) [The Insider](#)
- 6) [Humor](#)
- 7) [Candidates](#)
- 8) [Jump](#)



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



From the Publisher...It's only money, our money, yours and mine. There were, according to the GNP veteran star reporter [Jason Wells](#), home owner association talking heads who were unhappy, upset, peeved, concerned because Vanguardians was appointed to write the opposing argument to the Utility Users Tax (UUT) April Ballot Proposition. According to star reporter Wells, they don't know Vanguardians agenda, one that is sent to them each week and is on our website. Actually if they look up above 'CONTENTS' they will find it.

Let's, for sake of clarity, review the issue: On December 2, 2008, the City Council in open session passed a resolution asking interested parties that want to write a "for" or "against" argument to the previously mentioned UUT to notify the City Clerk in writing of their intention by January 12, 2009. The Council agenda was made public on Thursday evening and electronically all reports were available on line Friday the 9th. I read the staff report (available to the public) and learned that the HOAs had not responded. I responded because I feared that we, the public, would appear apathetic and uninterested in a tax to be placed on communications devices that may be waiting to be invented and I wanted Vanguardians to act on its Vision (above) and Mission [See Jump].

Now that interest has been drummed up please contact me if you have suggestions or comments to be made on the 300 word Argument against this ballot proposal.

I did have a discussion with one person who said he would go for the ½% decrease in UUT. What he didn't understand was that the new language would add additional devices to be taxed. He didn't understand about the three current class action suits that if the plaintiffs win (many cities are saying the cities will lose) that they will lose 75-100% of the revenue raised. In Glendale that would mean \$6,500,000 to \$8,700,000 the public gets to keep in their pockets. The City will cut services regardless of the vote outcome. [Click here](#) to read about what other groups say about the UUT. The City plans on spending \$40,000 to give you a tax break. The Mayor and CCM Weaver will be out there to beat the bushes and rally the hounds to get you a tax break of ½% while increasing the items that will be taxed. In 2006 the City Council passed a resolution that was supposed to fix the problem created when the IRS decided to cancel the Federal Excise Tax (FET) on telephone usage because the public was no longer paying for telecom services based on time and distance leaving so few people that chose not to use bundled services to be taxed that the cost of collection exceeded the revenue derived. The 2006 resolution bundled wireless (cellphone) with POTS (plain old telephone system). The City created a liability for itself by not bringing the issue before the voters under Prop. 218 and placing us in a situation where the tax collected illegally may have to be refunded. The previous budget study sessions show where the City feared losing the Telecom portion of the UUT and was setting aside \$4M to pay the refunds. See for yourself by checking the powerpoint presentations made by staff. Barry Allen

#####

THE QUINTESSENTIAL POLITICIAN



Who is the quintessential politician in Glendale? Is it Larry Zarian who continues to influence through his television show even after four terms and eight years removed from his last city council? Or is it Frank Quintero, who can walk into a room and tell five people five different positions on the same subject?

Quintessentially it is Quintero whose quaint friendship leads you to believe his is genuinely concerned about your issues. That he is. Until he gets elected to office, then it's anybody's guess how

he's going to vote. In a way, Ara Najarian could pass for Quintero. All Ara would need is a little more colorful language, a few more rants highlighted with an expletive here and there. Add a couple of open hand gestures, put a rug on his pate, and voila! You've got Quintero.

Some people would stop me in this analogy. They would say: "Wait a minute, Quintero is a registered Democrat and Najarian is a Republican!" Well, yes, but that is only in their party registration. When it comes to policy and political ethics, they are cut from the same cloth. You just need to watch them for a few hundred times at city council.

Quintero came into council eight years ago angered that so many city employees were taking off on Fridays that residents could only do business with the city four days a week. Quintero pushed for at least one Friday every other week and we've got staff earning one small star toward true "public service" That magical and concerted public advocacy was eventually shown to be quite costly.

Soon after he started approving a continual and persistent increase in the number of employees the city would hire. Hundreds and hundreds of them. During one stint in 2004, Quintero pushed for more and more safety personnel. When I asked him what improvement he would expect out of that increased number of personnel, he had no answer. No one did. Increase the staff without any expectation of additional service or any measures of performance. I can just imagine his staccato answer: " Hey, man! If it looks good on an election brochure the public will eat it up. If that @#\$\$% candidate thinks he can take my seat he F#@\$\$%g well got another thing coming"

Our new Quintessential candidate is running for his third term, but he lost a great deal of steam after using a terrorist scare against his Armenian opponent during robocalls and postcards sent just before the Assembly election. Not only did he reverse the re-assurance he gave at the Northwest homeowners association that if elected to council, he would remain in office, he was giving out promises like multi-flavored lollypops to anyone who would listen. Just lick and vote.

His promise to me was the preservation of the green open spaces at Central Park. We sat in his office on Glenoaks and he gave me a two-hour rendition on how Glendale needed a great urban park just like the ones in his dear old Spain. Three acres, maybe more. Subterranean parking, a unique urban oasis where all communities would come together for festivals and civic events. Trees and gardens would attract the seniors and children. The city could build the Adult Recreation Center adjacent to it on land it already owned. It was Nirvana to me.

Here was a candidate of the people. A man who really understood that the most congested areas of Glendale would finally get their fair share of green open spaces. That the make-believe public park at the Americana was just a Caruso gimmick. That we needed a true community park of the people.

I imagined the Glendale Marching band invitational competition coming back. I imagined the fourth of July concerts in the grass along with five thousand other residents watching Glendale's own fireworks. I imagined grandparents and grandkids through promenades and gardens.

But that was not to be. He had approved a huge raise for Glendale's management. Pensions went up. The city also took on some of the employees share the pensions. Hundreds of new employees would make well in excess of \$100,000 dollars. But no money would then be available for the residents or meet the dire need for large open public spaces. Out went his promises, as he looked for money for his next election.

And so it goes. When Paul Krekorian won the Assembly election we missed a bullet. Quintero could have been up in Sacramento handing out more Union raises and putting the state of California further into debt. Now we have our Quintessential Quintero putting the city of Glendale into hundreds of millions of dollars into more debt. Just create more millionaires out of the city's managers. Sell your soul to the devil, and put the taxpayers into hock just to get another leg up the political career ladder. Sell out the residents who were counting on a great urban park, and raise the electrical rates of poor souls on fixed income. I could well imagine his cynical remarks, "Hey man, if Enron could do it..."

There once was a time when Glendale voted for the citizen politician. There were those who ran for office - people of merit - who wanted to give some of their time and share of their experience to improve our quality of life. Now we have the unctuous duo. Quintero and Najarian handing out false promises and greasing their way to their next career move.

The promises of a career politician are like the promises of a life-long drunk. They are easily forgotten once he get elected or after he gets sober, respectively. Kinda Quaint, ain't it? Just hold on to your wallet firmly or chain yourself to a tree if either of these two lie sufficiently to get re-elected.

Herbert Molano



Reader's Question: I find it hard to believe that the value of my home is what the Los Angeles County Assessor claims it to be. Recently, I received a mailer from a company that claims they can reduce my property taxes. Are these companies legit?

Christian's Response:

Reader - Many of these companies are legit but please know that the paperwork and application they will be submitting on your behalf is available to you for free. You can request a reduction of your property taxes by going directly to the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor website: (<http://lacountypropertytax.com>)

and printing the forms off their website.

Lastly, please know that deadline has passed for the 08 tax roll. The deadline to file was Nov. 30, 2008. If you in fact decide to file a request to reduce your property tax amount today, your application would be considered for the tax period of 09-10.

Reader's Question: Christian, I haven't heard you speak lately at the council meetings. I've been waiting to hear about Glendale's foreclosures and a forecast about foreclosures. Are you alive?

Christian's Response:

Reader - you are too funny! Yes....I am alive! I am at the council meetings religiously every Tuesday night just to make sure there are no misconceptions relating to foreclosures as heard in the past. You may not see me as I'm not there to pose in front of a camera for self gratification. Unlike many, I do not speak just to be heard in public and so I can listen to myself. I speak if and when I feel it is necessary to speak on the subject of foreclosures or address the council when I feel there is something that needs to be said relating to that matter.

Since you asked about a foreclosure update, I shall oblige! It flat out sucks. One of the last times I spoke publicly at the council meeting, I stated that the number of foreclosures had decreased to approx 360 households. Unfortunately, the wave has turned and as of today (1/16/09) there are currently 401 pending and active foreclosures in Glendale. An increase of over 10%. This was bound to happen as many families hung their hat on the myth of a successful loan modification that might have essentially turned bad. Unfortunately, I feel that the numbers will get worse as over 58% of the loan modifications issued nationwide have now repositioned themselves back in default. Homeowners are struggling to make mortgage payments and the unemployment rate continues to rise, while many banks are playing catch up and a few can still care less. It's just a matter of time until all the lenders feel the pain and wake up. The party isn't over. With just under 1 million homes repossessed in 2008 alone, the fat lady did not sing. In fact, she is still warming up her vocal cords.

Christian Arbid

The writer is a Glendale Resident, Real Estate Broker and Loss Mitigator. www.ThisMarketSucks.com 818.232.7899 Questions Relating to Foreclosures, Short Sales, Saving Your Home, Loan Modifications.....Email Christian at christianarbid@gmail.com and your question will be answered in the next edition of Vanguard.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with. [ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

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

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](#)

2 Potpourri

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.



We get mail: As far as the issues with city construction workers, GWP employees, fire fighters, and police doing side jobs or shopping for them on city payroll, there is nothing current at this time since there are not enough available jobs to have side jobs with this economy. I just love it when on city time they spend hours doing their own business.

On tagging, I have often wondered if it is gang related or not. A friend, who knows much more than I said in the South-West part of Glendale it is not gang related but kids. Our area has been getting tagged weekly lately and it is costing us all quite a bit of money to clean up our windows and walls. I just love the idea of having us pay for it or we will be fined, why not the kids that are doing the tagging? It is like telling the victim they are responsible.

On another note many parents in the Glendale Annex, are concerned with the harassment of our young adult children by the GPD. We do not understand what the point of profiling these young adults is. One young man actually got a ticket for someone bouncing in his back seat. The minute these young people are stopped the first thing the police ask is, "are you Armenian". They answer, "No." Then they ask if he is Hispanic. He then again says no and then goes to tell them, in this case, that he is 5th generation Glendalian. They do not believe him. He and his friends have been stopped almost weekly for the past year. What can we do? I spoke to a Lawyer and she said to make a complaint, but it is wide spread, not just one cop. I will report anything fishy immediately when it comes up as I now know where to go with the information. Thanks BG

Barry, I'm still rubbing my eyes and scratching my head after Tuesday night's city council vote approving Vanguardians to provide ballot arguments opposing an upcoming tax measure. And by a unanimous vote, including Dave

Weaver. Of course the selection makes sense and the task will be successfully completed, but the surprise is that the deal was done at all. I'd like to believe the council's decision stems from a paradigm shift away from the idea that government watchers are "vultures" to a more inclusive approach that values public access and involvement. But I'm not ready to go that far just yet.

I think the real success is your outstanding public advocacy and perseverance in the face of relentless opposition, helped by your skill as a talented manager and developer of human capital. Today it feels as if an obstacle has been overcome. Congratulations are in order. **NAJ**

PS: Thinking about the reaction of some special interest groups and Monday morning quarterbacks crying in their beer about the appointment reminds me of conspiracy theorists who still don't get it even when the facts are undeniable. Vanguardians got the unanimous appointment because they were on top of the tax issue, met the qualifications, submitted their application in a timely manner and were deemed the best applicant. I'm sure there are still some avenues open to groups wanting to submit suggested ballot language on either side of the measure. But let's not waste time in a rehash of the reasons for the appointment just because a few crybabies are having a bad day.

[ED Vanguardians will be calling on its Board and constituency for input in the writing and composition of the statement opposing an almost \$9,000,000 tax on everything communications related that is being placed before the voters because of prop 218. The City in 2006 passed a resolution bundling the landline with the wireless which placed the City in a position similar to that of LA City and County who are being sued over that taxation issue. LA voters passed a ballot proposal in November that was similar to the one that will be on the ballot in Glendale this April. If that case is lost there would have to be some sort of a roll-back. Because of Glendale's mismanagement salaries, benefits and pension costs are escalating. City hiring has increased as well. It is time for the Council to realize Glendale is a bedroom community. Glendale is in reality not a transportation hub. The City just promoted two fire captains to a new rank so that when they retire in a year they will be able to draw a significant guaranteed pension as did the recently retired Deputy Chief who retired with [90% of his pay](#) Like all of us, the City has to learn to live within its means.]

Congratulations on being selected to write the opposition point-of-view on the utility tax. The Council seems to be being a bit more civil. The comments of support you've lately collected from many fronts is commendable and something of which you justly may be proud. Well done! JS

The two women that were [quoted in the GNP](#) should be more concerned with a City Council that spends more than it takes in than with Vanguardians that speaks for so many of us in Glendale on the financial issues in the City. They complained about Vanguardians soliciting for money. You don't have the clout that Weaver has with his charity or Drayman who can make a few calls and get money for his favorite causes. Didn't one of them work for a City and the other's husband a City Commissioner? [ED I believe you are correct.]



We get calls: CCM Ara Najarian did a great job working together with you. Did you use a script? [ED I can only speak for me...I didn't have a script. I was just responding to his incisive and relentless questioning. The Vanguardians Bylaws are on our website www.vanguardians.org

Congratulations on taking on the task to write against 6.5% utility user tax. I hope it does not pass.

Who are those two women that attempted to savage you? They complained about your organization asking for money. They should read the article above the one Wells wrote about you and then they would have an appreciation about the need nonprofits have for funds. [ED We just received another request from a nonprofit (Calaware) for financial help). The [Y's Christmas tree lot brought in \\$60,000](#) less this year according to the article in the GNP.]



We have had several calls relating to the Americana and the failure to be ADA compliant. For instance the Jewel City Café has no place where a wheel chair can park to eat. There are no drinking fountains in the park. Only one public restroom. The stores keep their doors open to accommodate the disabled meanwhile the energy costs escalate as the cold air just flows out. Apparently the planning department and the building inspectors were asleep at the switch.



Man on the Street: I heard Mayor Drayman last night [Tuesday] and once before recently say that Yousefian voted to approve the employee salary increases and Yousefian said he voted against them. Can you find out the truth? [ED – We checked the minutes of the [June 17, 2008 Council meeting](#) and here is what we found on item 7a-j (Salary and benefit urgency ordinances): Yousefian voted NO on 9 of them, Quintero voted Yes on 9 and Drayman, Najarian and Weaver voted YES to approve pay and benefit increases on all 10]

I really love Vanguard. It has information unavailable elsewhere and it makes me think. Keep up the good work.



We get and answer questions: Do you have an estimate on how much of the city's time is spent researching your requests, and extending city council meeting. Just wondering if there is a more efficient way to get your info. **RESPONSE:** Actually the information requested already exists. The City could put it online. Unfortunately the city is overstaffed with managers so a request let's say for the ground lease of the Americana parking structure is in the City Attorney's computer and in the GRA computer and would take but a second to email it in the electronic form. Instead the CA asks the CM if it is OK then asks the GRA Director and then reviews a public document to see if there is information that should be redacted (strange but true as the lease is on file with the County Recorder) makes copies for the council and one for Vanguard. That is one example. These documents should be online and available to anyone. The PRA is a law that has been codified in the state constitution.

Oral communication is required by the Brown Act. If no one questions their actions and the Council just breezes through an agenda then when taxes and fees increase one CCM will say...'No one was interested.'

Bottom line is that no employees have been hired because of the Brown Act or the Public Records Act. Now there is a police officer or two assigned to sit at the Council meetings but no defibrillator. The GNP has done an annual request for the number of PRA requests Vanguard makes and then they write an article about it.

Thanks for this opportunity.

No bus schedules are posted on mid-Brand Blvd bus shelters. Why not? [ED -- Steve Zurn the head of Public Works said: The new bus shelters on Brand are indeed equipped with map/schedule pocket holders and are also designed to accommodate electronic bus information and messaging which we are in the process of working on at this time. Currently many of our bus route schedules are out of date or obsolete due to several route refinements and modifications that have been made in the recent past. As a result we are in the process of revising and re-printing the schedules and as soon as this process has been completed we will be restocking all of the locations, including the shelters, where schedules are normally made available. If anyone needs information on the Beeline System they just need to call 818-548-3960 or on the City/Public Works website.]



I saw the Wells article in the GNP. Will Drayman and Weaver or other city employees be promoting a 'Yes' vote while on City time? Will the City give you the same resources in fairness? [ED It is my understanding that the City can't spend money to support the issue but I will defer to City Attorney Scott Howard by sending him this question. Here is the City Attorney's answer: "As I noted in a similar question related to use of city resources, government resources cannot be used to support or oppose a ballot measure. The contours of what actually is an improper "use of resources" has been established by a number of federal and state court decisions. The specific question as phrased relates to the use of "time" by an elected official to promote a ballot measure. The use of "time" by an elected official to support or oppose a measure is generally not considered to be a "use of city resources". Examples of an improper "use of government resources" would be diverting staff during normal work hours to draft a speech supporting a measure, or use of city letterhead and a mailer at taxpayer expense to specifically advocate for a 'yes' or 'no' vote. On the other hand, government is permitted (and some would argue expected) to provide information about a measure, including financial and other implications, if done in a manner which is informational and not advocacy.]



We Suggest Articles: It isn't just Glendale:

Vanguard of Davis [City Now Facing Crisis of "Unmet Needs"](#)

~~~~~  
The Davis Enterprise on Monday ran an article entitled "When to tax?" The general thrust of the story is two-fold. First, the city has a growing deficit of \$1.2 million followed by as much as \$3 million the next year while, the city has a long list of "unmet needs."

The city staff report for the budget workshop said:"While the growing list of unmet needs - both one-time and recurring - remains a significant concern, current economic and budgetary realities suggest that emphasis should be placed on securing existing revenues over seeking new revenue sources that could, potentially, jeopardize revenues relied upon to provide existing City services." The general idea at this point, and it was shared by Finance Director and Assistant City Manager Paul Navazio, is that the city recognizes they cannot ask for additional revenues. Last year they were proposing and exploring a number of new taxes to deal with some of the growing list of unmet needs. However, that is largely off the table.

**LINKS** [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)  
[Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#)  
[The Glendale California 100K Club](#) [Vanguard Weekly News Archive](#)  
["Glendale Mayor Drayman and his acolytes" by Vanguardians](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)  
**Monday, January 19** City Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday

**Tuesday, January 20**

2:30 pm Glendale Housing Authority -- Glendale Redevelopment Agency – Special **Meeting** – Glendale City Council RE:  
 Proposed South Brand Specific Plan – City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844  
 6:00 pm -- Glendale City Council --, City Council Chambers

**Wednesday, January 21**

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

**Thursday, January 22**

Design Review Board #1 – 5:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140



**Public Information**

We have been waiting for this information since November 18, 2008: Documents indicating the present number of Consultants and Contract workers employed or retained by the city and any of its departments, divisions, agencies or authorities for the period July 1, 2008 through and including September 30, 2008. In lieu of such report please provide documents showing contracts, scope of work and agreed payment,

The City responded to the request below on November 26, 2008 requesting a more focused request. However, since then, the City will be preparing a list of consultants, and we anticipate that list to be complete in early March. We invite you to submit your request at that time. [ED – It appears that in addition to the burgeoning number of employees, there are so many Consultants and Contract workers that it will take almost three months to come up with the information.]

City refuses to supply accident data on City vehicles, something that is paid for by the taxpayers, This request was made as we noticed a pattern of an average of three claims a week for vehicular accidents that were caused by city vehicles, CCM Najarian always has concerns about liability (Linda Vista) that he should be the first to challenge the openness of the City government.

Provide invoices for Police and other traffic control Services at the Americana for November and December 2008 pursuant to section 5.10 of the parking structure ground lease.

**FPPC: REGULATORY ACTION:**

Amend 2 Cal. Code Regs. Section 18704:

The Commission may consider whether to adopt an amendment to Regulation 18704. Following is the proposed amendment language to be added after subdivision (a) of Regulation 18704:

“(b) If a public official’s economic interest is not directly involved in a governmental decision it is indirectly involved.”

**REGULATORY ACTION:**

Adopt 2 Cal. Code Regs. Section 18215.3:

Proposed Regulation 18215.3 would create a uniform report for behested payments. The regulation would explain the requirements listed in the statute and state that the Commission and local agencies will post the forms or the information found thereon on their websites.

If a local agency has no website, the Commission will post the information.

**4 Vanguardians**

Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

Vanguardians Executive Director is available to speak to your group to explain how we should vote on the Utility Users Tax in April. Vanguardians isn’t being provided with \$40,000 to promote its side of the issue.

**VANGUARDIANS**

Please make checks payable to “**VANGUARDIANS**”  
 Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226  
 Contributions are tax deductible – You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes  
 You may also donate online at [www.vanguardians.net](http://www.vanguardians.net)

[info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org) 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 advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.** © 2008 Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 charitable non-profit corporation Contributions are tax deductible. Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. To ensure you receive Vanguard, please add our email addresses [info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org), and [ba@fieldworks.net](mailto:ba@fieldworks.net) - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue Copyrighted materials used with permission.



**5 the Insider** is a digest of information 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.

Borucki collapsing and being hospitalized may throw a monkey-wrench into the CMs plans to have Borucki run and then retire two years and a day into his term so Council could appoint a new treasurer. That would be a manipulation of the elective process. [ED I spoke to Borucki Thursday evening and he assures us that the collapse was caused by dehydration and all is well.]

Management seems to be taking Vanguardians issues a little more seriously by calendaring such topics as "taking City vehicle home" and "management overtime", but don't expect anything to come of the meeting since it would imply that people other than the executives themselves could have good ideas.

The City is getting ready for interviews to fill the Information Services Director position. Expect another announcement stating "that after a national recruitment that the best person was found from our current staff." (Just like PW, Fire (twice), planning, GRA, etc).

Look for the Employee Associations to keep a low profile this election now that Vanguardians has raised the issue in several issues.

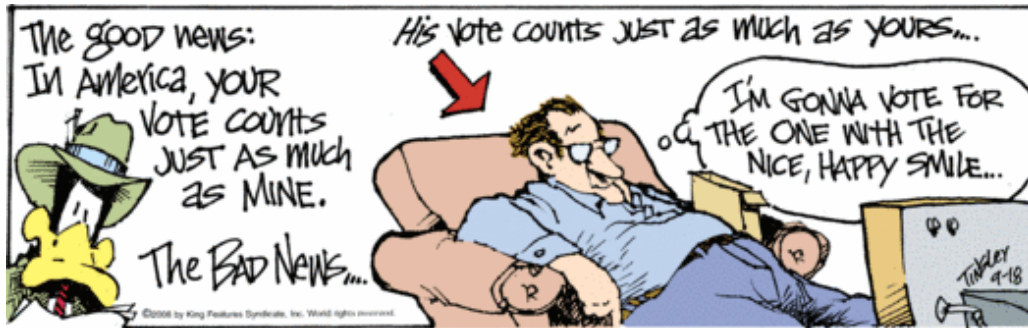
Mr. Molano's comments about middle management just being scapegoats hit the nail on the head for this City. What the current management forgets is that the City's greatest assets are its staff that interacts with the public. Demoralizing them serves no purpose if good customer service is a goal. The infamous tree fiasco was the perfect example. When the issue came to Council, neither director, PW, City Attorney or Neighborhood Services, took responsibility but pushed it down the line to middle management and front line.

No institution will go through changes unless it is in deep trouble and needs to do something different to survive. The big question in this upcoming election will be if the candidates focus on making changes in the way the City does business. It's hard to imagine that with all of the financial issues affecting the City that Candidates running only on land use issues, which amount to the City facilitating and financing neighbor against neighbor fights, will get through the election. As Vanguardians has brought up, the incumbents have not yet demonstrated that they are willing to address the basic issues of which City programs are critical and which will have to be cut back without being spoon fed by Starbird et al. The other issue will be how satisfied the candidates are with the management practices of the City and what those have cost the City in terms of providing support for the community. Even Vanguardians focus on the 100K club and employee associations will not be enough. The focus will need to be more along the lines of Mr. Molano's arguments about whether the community is getting the most for its money. Since most managers in the City are not forced to look at making changes to improve, but rather looking to build little dynasties, it is going to be left to the most thorough candidates that have done their homework in uncovering these areas, to rise to the top of the group.

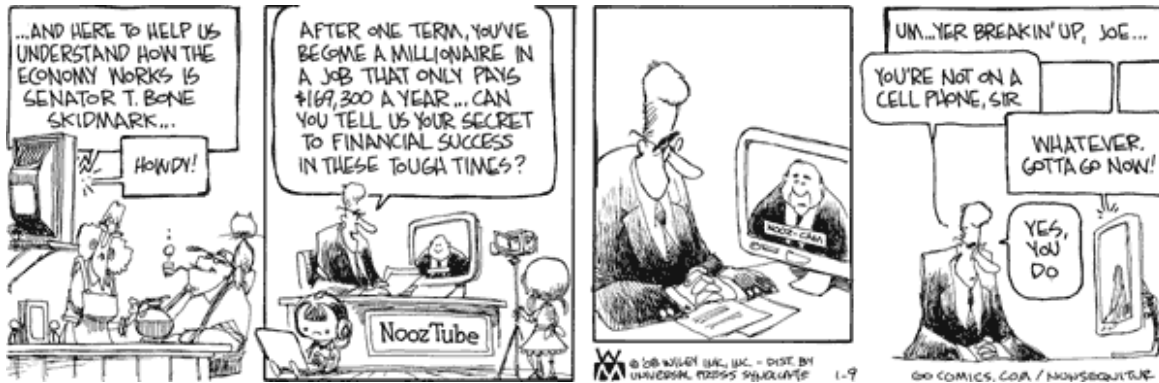


Lots of hush, hush meetings in Management services. Management is setting their plan to release spending cuts piece by piece. The first bit will be only a few million dollars to see how it flies. The long-term plan is to decimate the CIP [Capital Improvement Funds] to cover the growing expenses for the Managers. The public is unaware of how little infrastructure gets fixed. You saw how the two Fire Captains got huge pay raises and they will get overtime as well. The employee associations do their jobs to get everything they can to keep us happy. We love it.

# 6 Humor



Another 'informed' voter



Have you ever asked why and how?

# 7 For Candidates Only: Potential City Council candidates

Candidates – If you are hosting an open house or other event and you want to share that or any press releases with our readers please send that information to Vanguard,

**Candidates...**Please provide the missing data so potential voters may contact you. Pictures would be nice to post as well. If your name is missing please contact Vanguard. Please provide this request to your favorite candidate. Thank you

| Name                | Phone        | Email                                                                        | Web                                                                        | Major Issue                           | Pulled papers | Q Ret'd |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Abedin, Zainul      |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Friedman, Laura     | 818-281-6942 | <a href="mailto:Laura@votelaurafriedman.com">Laura@votelaurafriedman.com</a> | <a href="http://www.VoteLauraFriedman.com">www.VoteLauraFriedman.com</a>   | San Fernando Road Arts Center         | x             |         |
| Gharpetian, Vartan  |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Kazazian, Aram      | 818-484-7342 | <a href="mailto:vote@aramforglendale.com">vote@aramforglendale.com</a>       | <a href="http://www.aramforglendale.com">www.aramforglendale.com</a>       |                                       | x             |         |
| Keuroghelian, Chahe |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Lafian, Edward      |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Manoukian, Leonard  |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Najarian, Ara James |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Philpott, Bruce     | 818-956-3321 |                                                                              | <a href="http://www.philpottforcouncil.com">www.philpottforcouncil.com</a> | Finance, Budget Fiscal accountability | x             |         |
| Quintero, Frank     |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             |         |
| Solis, Lenore       | 323-669-0892 | <a href="mailto:LenoreSolis@gmail.com">LenoreSolis@gmail.com</a>             | ElectLenoreSolis.com<br>VoteLenoreSolis.com                                |                                       | x             |         |
| Teahan, Michael     |              |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                       | x             | X       |
| Yousefian, Bob      | 818-262-9309 | <a href="mailto:bhousefian@yahoo.com">bhousefian@yahoo.com</a>               | <a href="http://bobyousefian.com">http://bobyousefian.com</a>              |                                       | x             |         |

# 8 Jump

Please take a few minutes and visit our new webpage [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org) we have a poll there that can help provide better service. We are also planning a community calendar that you can use to keep people abreast of happenings with your group. Thanks, Barry

The Vanguardians **mission** is to:

- ❖ 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 city-wide group to monitor the integrity, performance and responsiveness of elected officials and each of the city's departments
- ❖ Encourage, by example, a community free to exchange facts and opinions on public issues by facilitating open debate and discussion on the issues
- ❖ Demand accountability, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government without which there is a system out of control and ripe for corruption
- ❖ Make government acutely aware there is a community watching, monitoring and measuring their activities

Provided by Hanley Wood Market Intelligence National Data

|                                                |             |    |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|----|
| <a href="#">Employment Growth</a>              | (2,815,000) | F  |
| <a href="#">Unemployment Rate</a>              | 7.2%        | C- |
| <a href="#">Real GDP Growth</a>                | (0.5%)      | F  |
| <a href="#">Consumer Confidence</a>            | 38.0        | F  |
| <a href="#">Purchase Mortgage Applications</a> | 295.8       | F  |
| <a href="#">Mortgage Rates</a>                 | 4.96%       | A+ |
| <a href="#">Median Price Existing Home</a>     | \$181,300   | F  |
| <a href="#">Existing Home Sales</a>            | 4,490,000   | D- |
| <a href="#">Existing Home Inventory</a>        | 4,203,000   | F  |
| <a href="#">Existing Home Affordability</a>    | 59.0%       | A  |
| <a href="#">Median Price New Home</a>          | \$220,400   | F  |
| <a href="#">New Home Sales</a>                 | 407,000     | F  |
| <a href="#">New Home Inventory</a>             | 372,000     | F  |
| <a href="#">New Home Affordability Ratio</a>   | 50.7%       | A- |

[A typical City Staff](#) hierarchy– Who does the actual work? A very 70's model

## **Personnel and Employee Relations Series**

9. Director of Personnel and Employee Relations
8. Assistant Director of Personnel and Employee Relations
7. Personnel Services Administrator
6. Organizational Development Coordinator
6. Senior Personnel Analyst
5. Associate Personnel Analyst
4. Personnel Analyst
3. Personnel Associate
2. Personnel Assistant
1. Personnel Technician