



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

**If you're
not outraged
you're not
paying
attention**

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of January 23, 2011
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818 243 1502

INVESTIGATE ANALYZE EXPOSE PUBLICIZE -- BRIBERY CORRUPTION FRAUD GRAFT

Vanguardians Purpose: To Inform, Educate, & Motivate the people for their Non-Violent Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy in local government.

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson.

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Candidates

If you have given, donated or contributed any money, service or thing to a candidate for public office or a City Official on behalf of or for any other person or entity with the expectation of being reimbursed or paid back, now is the time to step forward. You could be charged with money laundering. Ask Council member Weaver why he had to pay a \$9,000 fine.
Contact Barry Allen at 818 243 1502 for information on what to do and who to talk with.



[Vallejo prepares to emerge from bankruptcy:](#) "Vallejo is an example of how compensation and benefits had been part of the politics of the city and it ultimately got the city in trouble," said Charlie Long, former city manager of nearby Fairfield, Calif. How Vallejo addresses those issues is "a vital lesson that a lot of people are paying attention to."

LOS ANGELES - [Four current and former Irwindale city officials](#), including a councilman, pleaded not guilty Thursday to felony charges alleging they misappropriated public funds during trips to New York. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Upinder S. Kalra ordered City Councilman Mark Breceda, 50, retired City Manager Steve Blancarte, 56, former Councilwoman Rosemary Ramirez, 49, and former Finance Director Abe De Diosto, 65, to return to court May 9 for a preliminary hearing. The four -- who were charged last October -- were allowed to remain free on their own recognizance pending that hearing, which will determine if there is enough evidence to order them to stand trial.

SAMUEL ADAMS: It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds.

Specials at Adrian's Auto Works – Keyless entry \$99 most cars; Heated seats – cloth or leather – Front 2 only \$399. Discount on installation. Call BRAD ...818 745 8524 for information – Dealer inquiries welcome. www.adriansautoworks.com



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.

1 COMMENTARY

You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them. The commentaries do not necessarily reflect the position of Vanguardians

From the Publisher... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic it reminded me of the similarities to the Starbird Ship Glendale.



Captain Starbird took command of the SS Glendale when the seas were flat and the reserves were plentiful. He had a group of policy makers who were convinced he could take the well built, indestructible ship across the uncharted waters with nary a worry. He hired the finest of executives who waited and anticipated his every beck and call.



His five policy makers were ready to agree with whatever he wanted. Starbird's job was to make them look good. And he did. He came to them with a proposal from ADI and said that this was the answer to their prayers. This affordable housing developer was well connected. They could get the financing and maintain the requirements for the number of low cost housing units.

He said they charged more but there would be great spin offs to enrich us as a city. Starbird pointed out that ADI found a huge loophole in regulations and thus the ship wouldn't need as many lifeboats.

He also presented to his policy makers the increased pension benefits and their retroactive starting point. CalPERS promised they would be making scads of money and the new benefits wouldn't cost a 'Sou'. All the Captain's executives agreed including the Finance Director, the Treasurer and even the City Attorney.

And all was well in ~~Mudville~~ Glendale.

Then he said that there was just too much work and he needed more staff. Staff that would form PACs to support those that gave them more benefits.

Then the SS Glendale set about on its voyage.

Meanwhile there were other ships at sea and land stations that were following the flow of icebergs right in the path of this great, unsinkable ship. The Good Ships Molano, Philpott, Zavos, Fortune, Kazazian, Espiritu, Mohill, Hammond and the land station Vanguard were calling out to the SS Glendale.

- "Change your course."
- "Disaster Ahead."
- "Scandals."
- "ADI."
- "Unsustainable Pensions and Post Employment Healthcare."
- "Run-a-way salaries."
- "Decaying Infrastructure."
- "ADA Compliance."
- "Bond Debt and Interest."
- "New Horizons."
- "Lawsuits."
- "Onerous Utility Rates."
- "The Reserves are Gone."



Staff called to Starbird with those important messages. He ignored them. The messages went to the policy makers who later denied ever hearing those messages.

Meanwhile the Captain told the communications staff to go to sleep. He had everything under control. The SS Glendale was unstoppable. It was unsinkable. And he was the Captain.

What could go wrong?

The first obstacle was spotted just seconds before collision. Conflicting cries came from the bridge.

“All ahead to Port.”

“All ahead to Starboard.”

[ED – When divers recovered the ship they found the controls at ‘FULL STOP’.]

It’s no problem said the Captain after the ship struck an ‘iceberg’, one of the many they received warnings about. The SS Glendale was unsinkable and unstoppable.

He held back on the call for the lifeboats. The passengers, who were oblivious to the warnings as they believed the unsupported assurances by the policy makers, donned their gay apparel and sauntered out to enjoy the voyage until the deck tilted. Then, finally, the order to lower the lifeboats. Of course there weren’t enough. The wealthy and the executive staff were able to depart and lived happily thereafter with their astronomical pensions. Those in steerage and the worker bees that did the hard work never got off. They perished. It was a sad day.



The SS Glendale took on the weight of economic disaster and the bow went down, the stern up in the air with the prop moving no more. The ship slipped into its grave.

One policy maker said to the few remaining constituents that the sun would rise in the morning, another said as an engineer he knew that the design was flawless, yet another said the musicians played until the arts center went under water. The other two denied that anything was wrong. What happened was supposed to happen and it is good.

The policy makers said they were never told the truth by the Captain. They dismissed those that shared their knowledge and expertise. Said one of the remaining policy makers just before the Federal Marshalls took him off to prison... “We certainly couldn’t believe advocates for accountability as their vested interest was the safety of the passengers.”

The penalty good men and women pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. PLATO

Most people want the benefits of an accountable government but are afraid to work for accountability or to support those that do often because they fear retaliation or are the beneficiaries of the largesse or corruption of government

THEATER OF THE ABSURD NOW PLAYING IN GLENDALE TUESDAY NIGHTS



We know that John Drayman’s real profession is that of an actor, but few people have had an opportunity to appreciate mayor Ara Najarian’s artistic abilities as a director of drama. The first city council meeting of 2011 gave us a glimpse of a skill that city council regulars have learned to identify, to their chagrin, for nearly six years.

Somehow word got to the city council that activists were about to stage a concerted effort to expose the Advanced Development and Investment Inc. (ADI) scandal and the investigation by federal authorities on the possible financial link between the alleged fraud perpetrated by this developer/contractor and city councilman John Drayman.

The city council members were about to circle the wagons to protect Drayman. The allegation is that Drayman had received extensive renovation work at his condo by subcontractors of ADI, and he did not pay for their work. In the past few years, other council members have had work performed at their residences under highly suspicious circumstances. David Weaver, for example, had planned on an extensive renovation of his home – the addition of a second story where the architecture work was performed by the same architect who received the contract for a low-income/disabled resident development on San Fernando Road. In both cases, federal HUD money appeared to be used as the leverage to obtain favorable terms for the councilmen’s personal benefit.

The stage was set with a list of experienced characters who played similar roles before. Nearly all those who lined up to speak against the alleged fraud and collusion between Drayman and ADI have come many times before the city council to alert the public on the city's misuse of funds, waste of taxpayer dollars, lack of investment in the city's infrastructure, wrongful interpretation of the city's subsidies by the Redevelopment agency, or simply the abuse by the council in moving Oral Communications to the very late hour of Tuesday night – a policy cemented by John Drayman himself.

The opposing side was a who's who of John Drayman's campaign staff of 2007. The very same people who knocked on hundreds of doors, who gave their money and energy to get Drayman elected were there to support the man for whom they invested so much of their identity and effort. Prior to the election of John Drayman, most of them rarely came to city council sessions. None of them had ever come to a budget study session, or talked about the disparity of conditions in South Glendale, or had come to promote issues on the quality of life of the city as a whole. But, during the year that Drayman held the mayor's gavel, two of them became council regulars, ready to come to bat for the mayor. They batted "clean up." They stayed throughout the long council session until the very end ready to turn in a speaker's card in case anyone spoke a disparaging word against Drayman.



The stage was set. Council critics ready to expose the apparent conflict of interest on one side had turned cards to speak, and Drayman's campaign troops turned in their cards ready to defend him. It was up to mayor Najarian to direct the show.

Follow the video archive of the city council session, and you'll find how Najarian staged the sequence of the speakers. One speaker presenting the case against Drayman and the city Housing Authority, followed by one of Drayman's troops lauding him for his contributions to Montrose. One speaker exposing the lack of city oversight on the millions of dollars of alleged overcharges was followed by the presentations of Drayman's greatest hits.

The staging had a couple of missteps along the way. One speaker, a lady whom we'd never seen before at the city council, came prepared with a written script that was vintage Drayman. She couldn't have written it herself. She stumbled on some words and the sentence structure appeared to be alien to her. But the tell-tale signature of Drayman's pen was in the use of the word "conspiracy." That was classic Drayman. It is the tag Drayman has used frequently to disparage his dissenters at oral communications. Tag a speaker's complaint with a conspiracy theorist label and you brand the complainer with a "Cuckoo in the head" identity.

But Najarian, as good film directors do, took an opportunity as the scene developed and squeezed out an unexpected delivery out of his actor. The bonus was a cameo appearance for Najarian, himself. A hapless critic was choking on his overheated rhetoric and coughing away his delivery. Najarian watched as his frequent critic was overcome with the vitriol he was dishing out. While the cameras were rolling, Najarian offered his critic water to help overcome his distress. For those who haven't seen Najarian hamming it up before, it was a benevolent display worthy of the Passion of the Christ. "Forgive them father for they know not what they do." Many viewers on hand ate it all up. The Luna playhouse writers can come to city council for their next tear-jerker script that will ping your funny bone.

Tuesday nights at the Glendale City Council; sometimes it's Vaudeville, sometimes it's just *Théâtre de l'Absurde* mes amis.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

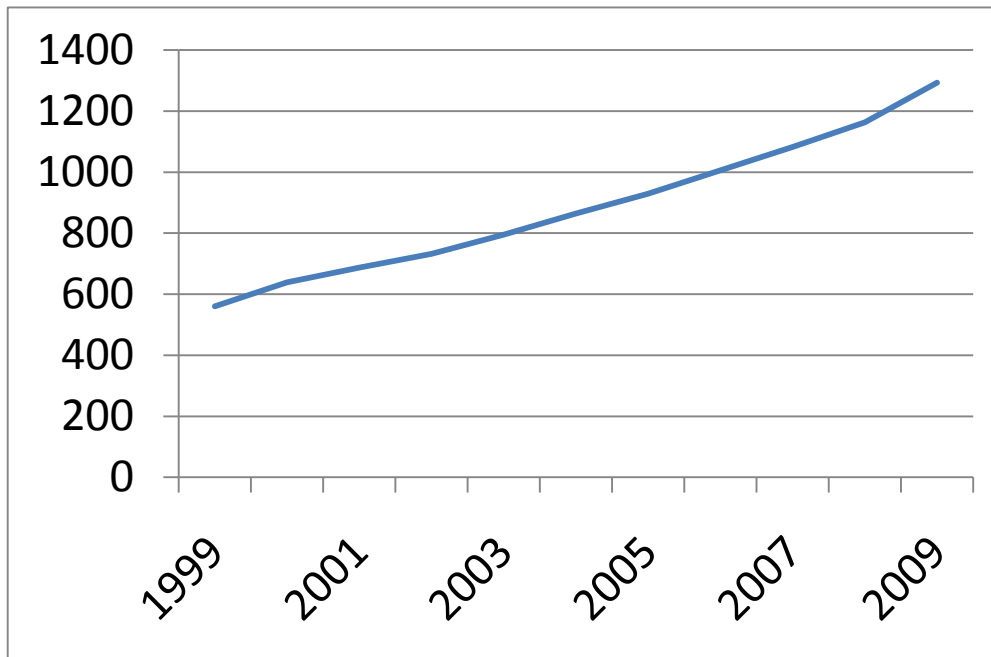
GLENDALE'S ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (AAL) 10 YEAR TREND

The Acronym may seem new to you, AAL, but it takes a whole page out of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the financial impact may be one of the key drivers of the financial strain of the city and the major driver of future deficits. This unfunded liability is now over 1.2 Billion as reported on the CAFR (page 74)

Here is a simplified explanation of that liability.

Imagine a person who has put away \$1,000,000 for his retirement at age 65 and he expects to live another 15 years while drawing \$50,000 per year.

Glendale Pension Liability in hundreds of millions of dollars



His retirement fund (assuming for simplification no interest income and no inflation adjustment) will draw down to \$250,000 (1M - (15 x 50,000)) by age 80. He will leave a surplus.

If this person decides to retire at 60 instead of 65, he will draw down 100% of his 1M pension.

If he retires instead at age 55 and still expects to draw \$50,000 per year his retirement will be unfunded by \$250,000

It is a similar case with the city's pension obligation to CALPERS, except that we have a contractual obligation to pay the defined pension (The annual \$50,000 in the example) yearly amounts. As such, that \$250,000 in the last scenario is a contractual obligation. It is, in effect, a real liability that is unfunded.

Now imagine that in the same last scenario the \$1,000,000 investment drops in value by 25% (Say the investment was made into real estate) Now we would have the additional burden of \$250,000 from taking the earlier retirement plus the \$250,000 from the lower asset value of the fund and the city would have a \$500,000 unfunded accrued liability for that one retiree.

Every year that the retirement fund is not augmented with additional investments (or if the payments contributions are too small) the obligation grows.

If there are medical advances and the expected life of the retiree grows, the unfunded obligation grows bigger.

In April of 2001 the city lowered the age of the retirement for safety personnel to age 50 from age 55. That alone would have had a huge impact on the pension obligation (Five years of pay without work). But the city also increased the defined pension from 75% of the employee's last annual income to 90% of the last yearly income, giving another huge burden on the obligation. The net effect is an increase in their pension by nearly 50%

Then in 2005 the city increased the pension's defined benefit to all other city employees from 60% of the last annual income to 75% - another major hit to the pension obligation.

But in the last decade the city has pushed major salary increases to Fire, Police and Managers in the last ten years upon which their pension is calculated. Additionally, according to the Workforce Demographic Report, they have also increased the payroll and employee numbers by over 20% (In management + 39%) another huge hit on the pension system.

Let's summarize it. The city council under recommendations by the city manager and with pressure from the police officers' association, the fire fighters' association and the city managers' association has:

1. Increased their annual pay considerably above inflation every year (nearly double in 10 years)

2. Increased the number of employees significantly in the last 10 years.
3. Increased the pension benefits by nearly 50%.
4. Lowered the age of retirement.
5. Not maintained a full annual funding of the pension obligation.
6. Increased the pension obligation to well over \$1.2 billion dollars.

Yet for the last two years the pension payments to CALPERS has remained at about \$24 million each year (up from \$8 million ten years ago) while the liability has grown. This can only mean that CALPERS is artificially keeping the contributions low so as to "help" the cities and other entities from having to come up with the real contributions these past years that they needed to keep the pension fund solvent.

They can't do that again or much longer. So the yearly contributions must increase by very large amounts and that means maybe millions more in annual payments to CALPERS, and a huge reduction in capital improvements to the city and consequently its future quality of life. (I would not be surprised if this year the payment demanded by CALPERS grows by 10 million)

We, in effect, have been running a real deficit. Bonded debt has increased by \$300 million in the last 10 years. \$171,000,000 of that long term debt is for the GWP. (See P. 64 of the 2010 CAFR). The city borrows money from the utility with annual transfer increases as a matter of standard policy since Starbird became city manager, instead of taking part of the GWP revenues and reinvesting it in capital improvements as we did before. It moves over 20 million to the General Fund for regular expenditures of payroll and operations. In effect, we are borrowing to pay for on-going expenses. It's like using a credit card to pay for groceries and letting the debt pile up.

We have been functioning in real deficit spending for many years. The chickens are coming home to roost and one major architect of this debacle, David Weaver, is up for re-election. But not to worry. His name rhymes with beaver and he's lived in Glendale for 70 years, and to him, that more than justifies his bid for a new term in office. There, in a nutshell, is the real source of our deficits and the winter of our discontent.



SEE ATTACHED GRAPH Taken from the CAFR (For 2010 find it under notes to the financial statements page 74) http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/admin-svcs/CAFR/YearEnd6-10/financial_section.pdf

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

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

2Shout Box

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, Vanguard News Service, 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 may be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



The last issue of Vanguard Weekly contains a quote about the upcoming city elections that is sad, but true: "It appears at this juncture that there are enough people who intend to run that will guarantee that the two incumbents will return to the Council."

The problem is that, when one is filling two council seats, the voter is limited to voting for two candidates. The more candidates, the more splintering of these limited votes, which gives the incumbents a big advantage due to their higher recognition among voters.

The fix is simple. The top two vote-getters still win, but allow people to vote for as many candidates as they wish. Then it's the case that the more candidates there are, the HARDER it is for the incumbents to win, since there are more options which voters might approve at higher rates than the incumbents. No splintering!
MIKE ALLEN

The 2011/2012 budget is fast approaching. Budget hearings should start way before the April election so the public can better understand the issues and have the appropriate questions to ask the challengers and the incumbents. It would give us a good opportunity to see how many challengers show up and the questions they will ask. After all, there are 12 that have picked up papers that may run. PB [ED – Vanguard will report the names of those that have qualified for the April 5 election.]

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

City pays off in Ovasapyan case -- \$1.7M

“All truths are easy to understand once they have been discovered; the point is to discover them.”- Galileo Galilei.

Agendas for the City of Glendale CA



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 24

Audit Committee – 8:00 am, MSB 548-2085

Joint Meeting – Planning Commission/Transportation & Parking Commission –6:00 pm, CH 548-2140

Glendale Police Advisory Council – 6:00 pm, Police Community Room 131 N. Isabel St., Glendale. (818) 548-4818

Tuesday, January 25

Glendale Housing Authority – 2:30 pm CH 548-2060

Glendale Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005

Glendale City Council -- 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, January 26

Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

Thursday, January 27

Design Review Board #1 – 5:00 p.m., MSB 548-2140

Friday, January 28

Groundbreaking for Broadway Lofts – 11:00 am, 200 E. Broadway 548-2060

4 *Vanguardians*

Vanguard archives are available by clicking – [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)

People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.

Vanguard is following these lawsuits and others: the 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza. The cases cited are from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa.

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

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.
- www.maplight.org to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, call 818 243 1502

5



the Insider is written by 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.

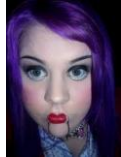


“With the State looking to eliminate Redevelopment Agencies, it looks like the Planning Department merger was also a preemption for budget purposes. This makes sense with the actions at the special meeting on 1/21.

The elimination of Redevelopment Agencies will be a hit to Starbird's retirement plans since he was looking to be an Agency consultant to other cities once he left."

Your employee Association doesn't support you, DON'T support them. Instead, send your union dues to Vanguardians as allowed by the [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#) for LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS



If there are no more Redevelopment meetings will the Council take a pay cut?

In response to the Weaver gibberish...Vanguard presents quotes from the reports from the Glendale Police Department, the Los Angeles County District Attorney and the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Today the 3 Counts by the FPPC that Weaver, his treasurer wife Erlinda and Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinelo, Mueller & Naylor, LLP, Weaver's Mill Valley Attorneys, stipulated to:

Count 1: On or about January 3, 2005, Respondent David Weaver, David Weaver for Glendale City Council and Erlinda Weaver received four cash contributions of \$100 or more in cash, in violation of section 84300, subdivision (a), of the Government Code.

Count 2: Respondent David Weaver, David Weaver for Glendale City Council and Erlinda Weaver, failed to maintain the detailed accounts, records, bills and receipts necessary to prepare the pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2005 through February 19, 2005, to establish that the campaign statement was properly filed, and to comply with the campaign reporting provisions of the ACT, in violation of section 84104 of the Government Code.

Count 3: In January of 2005, as a member of the Glendale City Council, Respondent David Weaver accepted a gift in excess of the annual gift limit, in the form of \$1,023 in the ceiling tile murals and the free installation of the ceiling tile murals in Respondent Davis Weaver's home, in violation of section 89503 subdivision (a), of the Government Code.

"You can't win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot" Kraft
When it began?

Weaver*	Quintero	Najarian	Drayman*	Friedman
1997	2001	2005	2007	2009

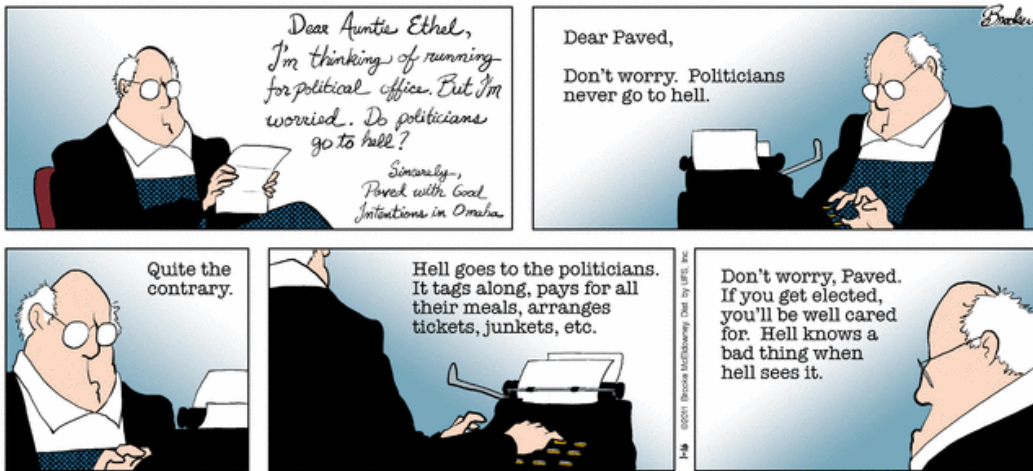
* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

7 For Current and Future Politicians

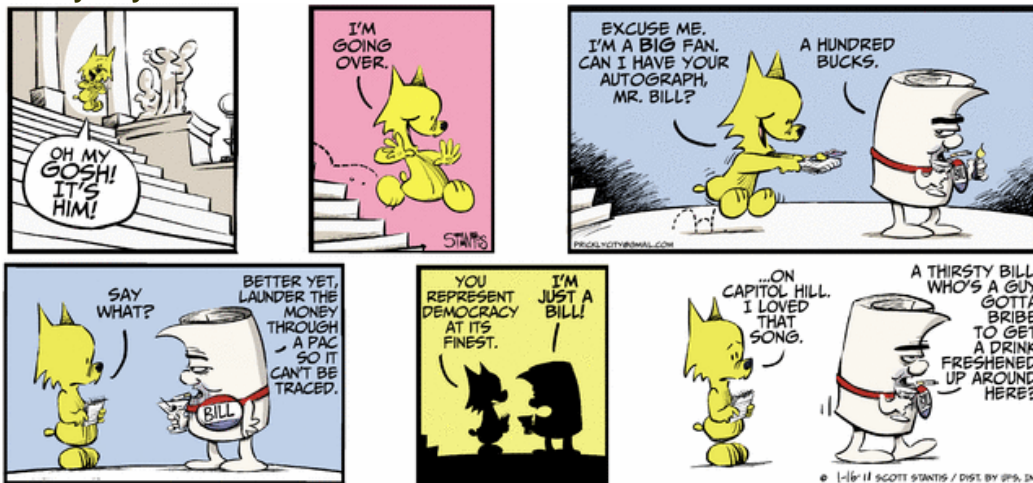
9 Chickweed Lane

Election season is upon us. Vanguardians will respond to any candidate for Glendale City Council regarding the public records it possesses and will continue to answer questions of the candidates. Our policy doesn't allow us to share information about candidates other than their responses to the questions we will pose to them and publishes those responses.

Under our charter we can neither oppose nor support a candidate; we cannot endorse a candidate. We can, however, rate candidates and share public information about



Prickly City



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