



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

HEADLINES

All in a Day

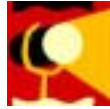
The four stages of Vanguardians "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
Mahatma Gandhi describing the stages of establishment resistance to a winning strategy of nonviolent activism

When WE are complacent THEY win!

"I don't make jokes. I just watch government and report the facts." Will Rogers

BREAKING NEWS

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner or Cocktails –Vanguardians is sponsoring a weekly meeting as an educational program to help our community learn more about the issues and how they affect our quality of life. Let us know which would be best for you.



Next Week City Management Foibles

HEADLINES

Each day the phone rings with a different issue or more frequently multiple issues. "Vanguardians, will you help me...there is no one that will return my calls." Here are some examples...

- I need to place a headstone on mothers grave at Grandview... **the Judge will consider an ex parte order.**
- My neighbors and I are getting sudden, debilitating, life threatening illnesses and our cats and dogs are dying we believe from construction on a former gas station site in 91208. **Now in the hands of Supervisor Antonovich and County Environmental Health as an urgent matter. Chief Howard of the GFD said, "make a public record request."**
- I felt threatened by a police officer who refused to give me his name... **call Lt Todd Stokes at GPD.**
- I am a city employee and am concerned about overtime padding but I don't want to be retaliated against. **Call the anonymous employee hotline. Or call me and I'll give you an additional resource**
- I want to start a homeowners association... **and the information was provided**
- Help...my husband is seeing this exotic dancer...what shall I do?

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

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

City Council

A busy night that ended predictably

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	1-15-08	Overall	Contact info
Drayman	A	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian	C	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero	A	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver	A	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian	B	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;

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

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenagers' P.J.O'Rourke

Fire Department

"We Help People", is the mission of the Glendale Fire Department. Here in the course of less than 24 hours is how they help. A life threatening event was reported to Vanguard one that involved toxic contamination from leaking gasoline tanks. DPW Director Zurn said this was under the control of the GFD. DChief Howard was informed of the urgency. The Chief directed that a public record request be made that would take from 10-24 days.

"We Help People". Dr. Espiritu finished his Oral Communication presentation about questions about the disaster preparedness plan. Chief Howard asked for a copy of the remarks and told Dr. Espiritu that he would have answers the end of next week, about 10 days for the 3 questions.

"We Help People". Dr. Espiritu found many deficiencies in the disaster preparedness plan and reported them to the Council. Chief Biggs called the good doctor saying the plan was taken off the website because of 'typos' and it would be a week before they could be corrected as the person in charge was busy doing charity work or on vacation. Taking the disaster preparedness plan off line before the corrections were made shows arrogance to the community. There are 232 people assigned to the GFD. This is another example of the lack of management and leadership. "We Help People".

"We Help People". Dr. Espiritu started calling the Public Information Officer (a fire captain) around Thanksgiving. To this date those calls have not been returned. As a 9-5er the Captain gets an 11% shift differential and still works 24-hour shifts for position coverage overtime. "

Retired Police Chief Bruce Philpott, a 40+ year Glendale homeowner, takes on the Glendale Fire Department to show the public how to save \$100,000,000 and improve public safety. To schedule a presentation for your group, call him at 818 240 8949 or email him at logicpoint@aol.com.

Brevity



The recent article in the GNP spoke to documents requested from the GFD that had to be assembled by a \$150,000 per year fire captain and had to be reviewed to keep what we believe to be HIPAA protected medical information from prying eyes. The public needs to know that a fire captain differs considerably from a police captain who is a top level officer in the PD. A fire captain is in charge of 3 firefighters on an apparatus like a union crew chief. Second the request for the documents included a statement that the requestor was willing to go to the fire headquarters and review the original documents and indicate which would be copied. Third, those documents do not show the name of the recipient of medical services, only the address. The address is public information as it is broadcast over the public radio waves. Finally it seems as if redacting the addresses would prevent the viewer from determining if the firefighters were outside their district.

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

GFD on a busy day- sent by a reader in Chevy Chase Canyon.

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. - George Bernard Shaw

Barry spoke at the Arts & Culture Commission thanking the City Council for their wisdom in encouraging over \$1B in downtown development and placing the ball in the very able A&CC court to run with it to replace the cultural wasteland of the past with a new, vibrant, healthy downtown. Truly a renaissance.

Leadership Circles are forming. Hone your leadership skills. If you are female and between the ages of 15 and 105, click below to email us to be notified of the next Circle:

[Leadership Circles](#) or call us at 818.243.2322 Fifty-Fifty Leadership www.5050leadership.org is a non-profit



organization 501(c)3

Our Mission: To transform the culture within which we live to one that **naturally** includes women on an equal basis in the selection of leaders

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1 Commentary

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

Questions we must ask as our City Manager has usurped the legislative authority of the elected Council.

Pursuant to Chapter 2-5 of the City of Glendale's Administrative Policy Manual, no person may deposit any printed materials, drawings, or writings of any kind in the lobby of the City Hall or in the Council Chambers. This policy does not apply to agendas, reports, displays, or exhibits prepared by a department of the City of Glendale. This policy does not apply to materials deposited during a public meeting of the City Council, Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, or a board or commission of the City of Glendale that is intended to be introduced into the record regarding a specific agenda item of the public meeting.

The implementation of this policy is intended to maintain the lobby of the City Hall and the Council Chambers free from clutter and to prevent the proliferation of advertisements, leaflets, and pamphlets.

Issues:

- Has the Council approved this Administrative Policy?
- Was this the intent of the Council?
- What individual approves or disapproves the material?
- What is the penalty?
- Is there an appeal process?
- Who enforces this policy?
- If property is confiscated, is there due process?
- Is this a deprivation of Civil Rights under the color of law? 42 USC 1983
- Is the Administrative Policy Manual available online or must it be reviewed under the Public Records Act?
- Have all the policies and procedures been followed in promulgating administrative policies and procedures?


The City Manager, Glendale's chief administrative officer, directs and coordinates the business affairs of the City. The Management Services Staff works closely with the City Council, recommending policy alternatives and assuring the proper and efficient implementation of Council-approved policies, programs and directives. The legislative power of the City of Glendale shall be vested in the people through the initiative and referendum, and in a body to be designated "The Council."

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

Margaret Chase Smith

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

Copyrighted White Paper on
 'How to Take Advantage of Today's Real Estate Market'
 Call Today 818 694 0588



Potpourri

2 Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.

The following letter was also provided to the GNP for publication

Although flattered by Mr. Molano's suggestion that I be considered for local public office that is not my intention ([GNP] Community Commentary 1-21-08). My purpose of addressing current policies inside the Glendale Fire Department is to shorten emergency response times to critical medical, fire, rescue and other distress calls where time is critical to the outcome of a citizens well being. Secondary to life-saving potential is the opportunity to save between \$11 and \$15 million per year by following tested and proven models of fire service delivery. The challenge of changing the entrenched fire

department culture in Glendale is enough to keep me busy. If cutting emergency response times and saving many millions of dollars per year in the process stimulates interest from your readers, they can reach me at logicpoint@aol.com to receive the full content of my presentations before the city council. I am also available for discussions and presentations to groups that have an interest in finding out more about how their tax dollars are being spent. **Bruce Philpott (818) 240-8949**

Is there any way that the residents of Glendale can short circuit the whining of the city staff and city council? I think not. The recent prime example is the tree ordinance. Here both, city staff and city council, had less than common sense and developed, and approved, a tree ordinance that was the laughing stock of all of California. So, what does the city council do to the city attorney's office that generated this travesty of an ordinance? They give the city attorney a raise. This is a city attorney's office that does nothing without checking with at least twenty other cities before even thinking about an idea. There is nothing original at any level at this office.

Now they whine about the fact that the residents are dissatisfied about their performance. The "watchdogs", which are doing the city an extremely good service, are now being accused of generating work for city staff. Well, it is about time. The bottom line is this: If the city council and staff were being responsive and diligent regarding their assigned duties, the need for documents would not arise. They do not get it. The residents are sick and tired of the incompetency that rises on a daily basis. We are sick and tired of employees that think of nothing other than their pensions as they drive to their homes out of town, happy that they do not live in our ethnic diverse community.

Most city employees met the "peter principle" long, long ago. They are not interested in working for their paycheck. They constantly ask: Is there some way that the paycheck can be sent directly to their homes so they do not need to bother with responding to the community that they allegedly "serve?" Yes, we need watchdogs. City staff must get off their backsides and response to those of us who actually live here and want a better community. We do not want the wasting of our tax dollars by employees that cannot do an honest day's work or respond to legitimate concerns and requests.

May I recommend that the readers educate themselves of what happened in Orange County and the good ole boy network for Sheriff Corona? Bye bye to Sheriff Corona due to citizen watchdogs. Rather than criticize and condemn, every reader in Glendale should be thankful that there are those in the community that take the time to look out for all of our interests. A special thank you to all activists. Keep up the good work. Carole Weling

In reference to City policy on no unauthorized materials in City Council Chambers, the way Glendale's policy is worded, there isn't a way to get materials authorized to be placed in the lobby or Chambers, as there is no room for exceptions. But if City Management is allowing the Harvest Gallery to place their advertising in those Chambers, then it seems that it is now an

issue of reminding the City of their own policy. If City Hall still gives an exception to Harvest Gallery, or any other group for that matter, without allowing your materials to be distributed, then it appears that they are violating the first amendment. If they destroy property without due process then they are guilty of deprivation of Civil Rights under [42USC1983](#) CW

I am a longtime retired firefighter and I think that the present ones have it easy. We used to fight structure fires and cut the grass and tend the flower beds. Our intention was to give the citizens their monies worth. We were called smoke eaters. I recognized the Smokey Stover cartoon. He was quite a character. These new guys have it too easy and the pay they get...unheard of in my days. Go get 'em Bruce [Philpott]. FF

Your articles and Chief Philpott's presentations have made me reconsider my understanding of 1st responders. Police Officers are more visible, have a more dangerous job, don't sleep on duty, don't have big screen TVs and aren't paid \$150,000 per

year to do clerical work as do the firefighters. I understand that firefighters walk the precincts for candidates that continue to support their lack of accountability in this community. MH

I am an advocate for the homeless and I watched you on TV speaking against the need to spend \$75,000 to contract with nurses to do stress tests for firemen. Two Councilmembers supported you and the others didn't. That money could have instead gone to the Burbank homeless shelter. Where is our compassion? I will remember who voted on this issue. JC

Don't you love these tree huggers? Anything to save a tree but who cares about our brave soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan? Aren't our lives worth as much as a tree? Oh, that's right, we have banners recognizing us. Duh. [Expletive deleted] One of the troops.

RE GNP Article...

I have heard you speak, Barry, on behalf of the community. You are right on. Through your tireless efforts you have galvanized a community that is no longer fearful of speaking out. In order to help you keep up this work, you have my pledge to send Vanguard a monthly check of \$200. You have my continued support. JH

John Muir letter to GNP is a sad commentary on public apathy as the few people attending reflects not on the speakers but on the Council we have elected. MG

I watched you and Mayor Najarian on his TV show. He was more solicitous of you there than he was in the News Press article. I don't think the GNP has ever given so much space to a group of advocates. CG

CALLS: You must feel like Hugh the Jester in James Patterson's JESTER. [Quite often... successfully leading brigands against the noblemen.]

This is ___ from the Glendale News Press. We are not happy you used copyrighted pictures we took of you without your permission. So there! [Articles Regarding Glendale Activists](#)

All this mishegas about parks – big parks – little parks. I like little neighborhood parks where moms and kids and grandpa's can walk to, like Adams & Wilson, rather than a big Central Park where we have to drive and find parking. A Central Park that causes more congestion. I understand that the Americana will have a beautiful park and will encourage civic participation plus they have sufficient parking. Hurrah!

The more I watch them and the more I see and hear their arrogance, I think the time has come for the City Council to release City Manager Starbird and City Attorney Howard from their contracts with the City. Starbird brought on the international embarrassment on the tree issue and Howard with his settle or sue mentality hurts us all.

The LA Times reported that 50,000.000 fetuses have been aborted. Had they lived and moved to Southern California there would be no place to put them and traffic congestion would be even worse.

Articles: PART 3. [The Meaning of Civility](#) by Guy Burgess, Ph.D. and Heidi Burgess, Ph.D.

Honor Legitimate Uses of Legal, Political, and Other Types of Power.

Public policy disputes involve issues which people feel very strongly about. Given this, disputing parties can be expected to use all of the powers available to them in an attempt to prevail. In our political system this means that people are entitled to use the legal and political system to advance their interests. We should respect this right and not attempt to require that the parties renounce their power options as a precondition for discussion.

Separate Win/Win from Win/Lose Issues

Wherever possible, the parties should try to reframe the conflict in ways which transform win-lose confrontations into win-win opportunities. In cases where this is not possible, the parties need to recognize and accept the fact that political and legal institutions will repeatedly be called upon to make the tough choices.

Limit the Backlash Effect

While political, legal or other types of force may produce short term victory, they also tend to generate a powerful backlash. People hate to be forced to do things against their will and can be expected to launch a "counterattack" at the earliest opportunity. The best way to limit this backlash effect is for parties to take positions which can be justified on the basis of broadly acceptable principles of fairness which all members of society have an interest in supporting. While such justifications cannot be expected to convert all opponents, they

can be expected to increase the parties' base of support by attracting some opponents as well as a larger number of "middle of the roaders." This emphasis upon the justification tends to produce more reasonable positions on both sides while making it more difficult for contending parties to pursue purely selfish objectives.

Keep Trying to Persuade and Allow Yourself to be Persuaded

One crucial element of civility is recognition by conflicting parties that it is possible that they are wrong and that the policies advocated by their opponents are actually better. This entails an obligation to seriously consider the persuasive arguments made by opponents and to carefully try to explain and justify one's own position to one's opponents and others.

More Persuasion, More Exchange, Less force

The best ways to produce stable, long-term policy change is through persuasion in which parties are converted to their opponent's point of view, or through exchange through which the parties negotiate mutually beneficial win-win trade-offs. This implies that the use of force should be minimized wherever possible.

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) www.vanguardians.org [Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) for a free copy of waste of taxpayer money and painful reading, go to [Piglet Book 2007](#) . [Glendale Fines Resident \\$347,600 for Pruning Trees without a Permit!](#) -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP Vanguard in the Daily News](#)

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

Monday, January 28

Historical Preservation Commission – 2:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-3960

Tuesday, January 29

2:30 PM Glendale Housing Authority, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, City Council, Joint Meetings
6:00 PM, Glendale City Council -- City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

Wednesday, January 30

Special Meeting – Community Development Block Grant Committee – 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2060

Thursday, January 31

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

3 Open Government

City Management has an Administrative Policy Manual that governs such issues as dissemination of materials in City Council Chambers and City Hall Lobby. This APM is not available online. If you have questions, you must make a public records request and then pay 10¢ a page. Our open government.

Provide documents that indicate the names and titles of employees, elected officials and others that are:

1. Assigned vehicles to take home and/or
2. Receive a car, auto or vehicle allowance including the amount received

For a period from January 1, 2006 through and including December 31, 2007

The City exercises its right to extend the time within which to respond by an additional 14 days pursuant to Government Code section 6253(c) in an effort to gather responsive documents.

Pursuant to the California Supreme Court upholding the Alameda Superior Court on the issue of privacy, we request documents indicating the names, job titles, departments and gross payroll over \$100,000 for employees in the 2007 calendar year.

The City exercises its right to extend the time within which to respond by an additional 14 days pursuant to Government Code section 6253(c) in an effort to gather responsive documents.

Provide invoice and proof of payment for Rose float inspection pursuant to Resolution 02-113

Please be advised that there are no records responsive to your request below. **[ED Floats are required to be inspected by the GFD Res 02-113]**

Documents showing the names and departments of employees retiring with disability pensions since 2000.

The records you seek below are exempt from production pursuant to Government Code sections 6254(c) and 6255. Release of such information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the employee's Constitutional right to privacy. Accordingly, the records will not be produced. **[ED Disability retirement is not taxed]**

If the court considers the disclosure of public employee salaries to be mandatory, it seems to me that the disability pension information is equally the public's business. [CPRAR 01-14-08, Provide Documents Showing the Names and Departments of Employees Retiring with Disability Pensions Since 2000.](#)

4 Vanguard

Please welcome Volunteer -- Sokkhak Thongsavanh who is a dedicated full-time Mom of two beautiful young children and a Claims Representative with Nationwide Insurance. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Systems in 2003 from DeVry University. Her main area of interest is public service in a small setting. Sokkhak's personal venture is to seek additional education in Health Information Management Systems and Paralegal Studies. She is converting 460 forms to searchable spreadsheets for inclusion on the newly redesigned web page



LAST Call for those wanting to be considered for the Vanguardians Board. Please contact 818 243 1502 or send an email to vanguard1@charter.net

Wanted: Translator for Armenian and Korean. Spanish Vanguard will soon be available on the web site

Wants & Needs -- Vanguardians needs a light meter and a sound meter, MSVista compatible Adobe8, a digital camcorder, a color laser printer with duplexer, a portable document scanner and office space.

VANGUARDIANS

Please make checks payable to "VANGUARDIANS" Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
 If contributing by Credit Card call 818 243 1502 or Fax to 818 243 2601
Checks are best -- the bank doesn't discount them

Name on Card: _____ Address on Bill: _____ ZIP _____

Card Number: _____ VCode: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Signature: _____

Email Vanguard1@charter.net 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 your advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.**

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5 the Insider

Cab licenses will get more valuable with the new hotels and downtown...watch as they come under control of a cab czar. // Who is going to take over the Alexander? Looks like Intracorp wants out. // What Councilmember didn't want to give the City Clerk a raise and why...just because he is young and doesn't have a family to support. Shades of age discrimination. // Garbage is a growing business. // The Gladys Street will 'flood' cost \$10,000,000+? Good planning and great defense by the Scott Howard group. I'm the Insider

6 Humor

Beetle Bailey



Guess who Gen. Halftrack represents. From a reader who misses the political humor