



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Learning from the past is our responsibility

Enhancing the present is our mission

Providing for a better future is our vision

Vanguard

News Service Vol V

Week of January 31, 2010

www.vanguardians.org

info@vanguardians.org

GLENDALE CONFIDENTIAL TUESDAYS AT 6

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



BARRY ALLEN GUESTS ON RAFI MANOUKIAN'S Charter Channel 286 news program on Sunday February 7th at 6PM. Tune in as we discuss politics in Glendale.

CHEVY CHASE COUNTRY CLUB was sold for \$2M...less than what the City will be paying in litigation

ACCORDING TO IRS, COUNCIL MEMBER DAVE WEAVER'S DREAMING OF ROSES did not report the \$30K it received as shown on the form 82015 behest statement. Only \$25K was reported.

THE BNY MELLON INVESTMENT INSIGHTS program on the 26th discussed investment strategies, which included Municipal Bonds, “For tax-sensitive investors, municipal securities are still attractive relative to Treasuries. However, states and municipalities will face budgetary challenges over the next several years. Credit analysis remains extremely important in identifying quality municipal bonds that offer long-term value for tax-sensitive client portfolios.” In response to a question about the impact of municipal bankruptcies posed by Vanguard, Leo Grohowski, BNY Mellon Chief Investment Officer, stressed due diligence and to watch for the revenue stream in revenue bonds. He said the jury is still out on the bankruptcies and with an estimated 400 of them, according to another question, they will cripple the recovery.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR report was scheduled for January 26. It didn't happen. Possibly the Mayor is waiting for the report to change its content to be more flattering. The FNG drug issue was just one issue that wasn't flattering.

HERBERT MOLANO, SPEAKING AT THE TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION, spoke to nepotism in the selection of commissioners, a process that currently is done by the Council. There is another process that was overlooked, a selection by lottery. The City Clerk would ascertain that applicants for Boards and Commissions meet the standards established by Charter or Ordinance and then all those qualified would be 'put in a hat' and drawn by a disinterested party alleviating the perception of wrong doing.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Chair Coleman wanted a justification from Mr. Molano for wanting to speak first. In reality Mr. Molano turned his card in first. Chair Coleman should have been directing staff to make reports available to the public. Commissioner Gantus placed new rules on oral communications requiring Dr. Espiritu to play lawyer by reading a complaint page and line. City Attorney Howard sat through this and decided not to correct those mistakes. At least Howard reminded Chair Coleman that he had to hear from the public prior to having roll called to vote on an issue.

Accountant - Forensic Vanguardians is a local government accountability organization. We sometimes find it necessary to review public documents such as budgets and CAFRs

FRIDAY Advocates BREAKFAST

Join us on February 5th 7AM at Foxy's

We direct people to the appropriate resources, empower them to engage with their local government, and from those who have attended, given them hope and some good humor. It is an excellent way to start the weekend.

Vanguard is published independently by Vanguardians, Inc. Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

CONTENTS:

- 1) [Commentary](#)
- 2) [Shout Box](#)
- 3) [Public Records](#)
- 4) [Vanguardians](#)

- 5) [The Insider](#)
- 6) [City Council](#)
- 7) [Neighborhood News Briefs](#)

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... PRESENTATION TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION



One of the unintended consequences of Civil Service is that it allows those with its protection to be able to whistle-blow without fear of job loss or retaliation. Unfortunately most don't take advantage of this opportunity. The Insider Column in Vanguard is one way they speak out. Of course there is still retaliation but if it is egregious enough, lawsuits will follow. Such as the one filed on January 20th by 5 police officers.

Several years ago a fireman threatened me in this very chamber. I reported it to then Fire Chief Gray who said he would talk to the fireman and place a report in his file. Later, I asked Gray if I could see the report and his answer was in the negative. Not too long ago that person was promoted. I doubt that a report was even written or that the fireman had been spoken to by the Chief.

This taught me that there is another consequence of Civil service and that is, there is no mechanism for the public to report grievances about civil service employees; the system is flawed as it lacks a mechanism to lodge a complaint against a city employee and have it properly investigated. That creates a further and continuing distrust of government.

For instance we requested documents from the GFD under the PRA through the City Attorney's office and we were told that no such documents existed. We discovered those documents, the ones that didn't exist, in the State Fire Marshalls' office. Those documents from the GFD actually showed that the two firemen who were alleged to be injured weren't. According to the report, there were no personnel injured. We gave the Senior Assistant City Attorney every opportunity to correct her error. This was more than a miscommunication; it was a lie to cover up something like a possible disability claim. So who do we make a complaint to about this egregious conduct?

Then there was a report to Neighborhood Services (NS) about the actions of a Council member. The head of NS wrote a report that contained glaring errors indicating this Council member was operating a business under a non-existent entity and then he closed his business and used the location in a CR zone for storage, a violation of the Zoning codes which NS chose not to investigate.

The City Manager has given performance bonuses to certain unnamed employees and, even though the Supreme Court has said that performance bonuses are compensation and that is public information, he, through the City Attorneys' office has refused to provide the information leaving a perception that some bonuses were for political purposes or to buy out claims for sexual harassment.

I have chosen to stand before this body and ask that you put on the agenda a discussion on a complaint process for the public.

Unless this Commission has a solution, the public is left with filing a Superior Court action for a Declaratory Judgment or a Writ of Mandate to address their grievances. **BARRY ALLEN**

Next week – Priorities paying salaries and pensions or providing a quality of life for the taxpayers?

COMMENTARY: NEPOTISM - IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY – INADVERTENT TRANSPARENCY AT THE LAST TPC HEARING



Why would a councilman invest the last remnants of his reputation by an assured charge of nepotism? That's the question I posed to myself back in November when councilman Najarian decided to nominate his sister for a seat on the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC.)

You'd imagine that any good decision-maker would evaluate the pool of applicants, examine their experience and scope of knowledge, evaluate their long history of prior involvement with the issues of traffic, parking and community problems, then reason through the process and demonstrate that his next-of-kin was the most qualified.

But records I obtained through the California Public Records Act show that in the last ten years barely six applications for the commission have been submitted. Do the city's outreach efforts fail by design? As they so often do, city staff places a small ad in the GNP in the middle of the week and, voilà, they can then claim adherence to city policy. But it's no surprise to me. A limited outreach to fill commission seats has been the hallmark of Glendale city government for years.

At last Tuesday's meeting of the TPC, I found all the elements pointing to the reason for Ms Yacoubian's selection by her brother, Councilman Najarian. The TPC had to consider the renewal of the taxi cab owner's operating permit to G&S transportation AKA "City Cab" It was a show made for television drama. G&S apparently

hired two legal guns long-connected to city politics. Attorney John M. Gantus has served on the Civil Service commission for years, and in that role, is helping to decide the fate of many city staff members. The second was the ultimate icon in reputable service to the city, ex-mayor, ex-GUSD president, Sheldon Baker.

In reply to my questions to the commission on the historical problems with taxi cab influence in city politics, Mr. Gantus helped round out the history of Scott Schaffer by reminding us that though the cab company was sold by Mr. Schaffer to G&S, there was no reason to imply a connection. But in his eagerness to defend G&S, Mr. Gantus forgot to notice that I did not imply a connection. My argument was in reference to the common practice of some cab company owners to set up multiple corporations and, in-effect, create a de-facto city-wide monopoly.

For those who don't remember Mr. Schaffer, he was convicted of selling guns for drugs, and one of those weapons was traced by Burbank police to the killing of one of their fellow police officers. Mr. Schaffer's name can be found prominently in the pages of political contributions on form 460 submitted by Glendale city councilmen in the past.

Mr. Baker gave a terrific, level-headed, and sober argument for the renewal of the operating permit to G&S. In the process, he painted the commission's decision into a box. I call it the O.J. Simpson defense. "If the glove doesn't fit you must acquit." If there were no reported complaints, and if the data show compliance, then the commission has no choice, by law, than to renew the license. It was impressive. It was awesome. Mr. Baker is a premier attorney with an excellent delivery. He almost convinced me.

When it was time for the commission to deliberate, Ms. Yacoubian, eagerly came out of the gate to stamp the direction the commission should take. She leaned on the arguments of Mr. Baker and pronounced his reasoning as "fait accompli" – An irreversible decision has been made. Just wrap it up and approve the five-year permit. Stamp it. Staple it. Close the show.

But the other commissioners had minds of their own. They asked truly pertinent questions. Where did the data on the percentage of satisfied customers come from? Is it a self-serving survey conducted by the cab company and submitted to the city? Or does the city independently survey and tabulate the data? Given the silence by the city staff to this question, it appears as if the supporting data on the cab company's response time, and customer satisfaction was never independently corroborated by the city staff. One wondered out loud, why other cab companies weren't offered to bid or compete.

It is unfortunate that the cameras don't display all the faces when one commissioner is asking the tough questions. Ms. Yacoubian's facial consternation, grimacing, lip biting, and other mannerisms were a text-book case for reading people. The more the other commissioners asked hard questions, the more she kept glancing nervously at the G&S people gathered at the back of the room. The closer the commissioner came to giving a permit of less than five years, the more she kept glancing at the G&S attorneys.

Ms. Yacoubian did not follow through with pertinent questions of her own that would lead to the best decision. She wasn't searching for other relevant information. She wasn't looking for, or exploring alternative courses of action. She was re-affirming the bureaucratic alternative – "satisficing" – that's the term coined by Herbert Simon in describing the practice of looking for the "good enough" outcome rather than to look for one that would maximize a beneficial one.

Crude decision-making is the salient feature at most city council meetings, and it is reflected at the commission meetings as well. Aha! The glove doesn't fit! No need think further. But the councilmen and their benefactors may now have to clamp down on commissioners who may stray far enough to take responsibility for the city's quality of life. Imagine that!

As for the display of Ms. Yacoubian's acumen at the commission hearing, all I can say is, "Right on sister! we know you now." **HERBERT MOLANO**



COMMENTARY II: WRATH OF GANTUS

Time to clean up conflicts of interest and undue influence at the Civil Service Commission.

The hearings at the last Transportation and Parking commission (TPC) shows the corrosive practice of selecting commissioners who have conflicting or undue influence on the city staff.

When commissioners are presented with studies or analyses of city policy prepared by the city staff, they need the confidence that those presentations are free of bias. But, staff members can't be free of bias when the applicant for a city permit is represented by an attorney who is also sitting at the civil service commission. That is the conundrum they face with Mr. John M. Gantus.

Mr. Gantus, now on his third term, and has served for years in the civil service commission. In that capacity he sits in judgment of city employees when personnel issues come before that board. Some of the issues may deal with a claim against a manager by a subordinate, an appeal of a performance evaluation, a denial of advancement or promotion or other on-the-job issues that may impact on the future income and livelihood of a city staff member.

So when Mr. Gantus, as a paid attorney, represents a client who is applying for a city permit or contract before another commission or board, the staff would be under undue pressure to present a position or prepare a report favorable to Mr. Gantus' client. At the very least, they would be less inclined to divulge information that might sound unfavorable to him or his client.

At the last TPC commission meeting, that appeared to be the case. Information that was pertinent to the decision by the TPC commission was left out of the report. Was the evaluation on the performance of the taxi cab

company self-generated by the applicant or developed independently by the city staff? Could the commissioners have chosen a shorter permit time-frame other than the expected five-years? The answer was hard to extricate from the Public Works' staff. Where it not for the guidance given by the representative of the city attorney, we would not have had full transparency with those questions.

Any city staff member who prepares a report subject to the evaluation of Mr. Gantus, as was the case in the city parking contract last year, would have to think twice before writing anything negative on that report or providing less costly alternatives. Why take a chance that someday they will have to answer to a charge in front of civil service commission while Mr. Gantus sits in judgment in close session?

When I presented the case against Mr. Gantus before the Civil Service Commission meeting last Wednesday, he gave as justification for remaining at his position the fact that he's served for sixteen years and that at least on six previous occasions the same concerns were voiced by others. City attorney Scott Howard defended Mr. Gantus with the fact that the Charter permits commissioners to stay in office beyond two terms, (The charter only specifies four years Article XXIV Section 1.) and that conflict of interests are handled on a case by case basis.

Neither of these two replies have any merit in normative ethics nor do they answer the implication that Mr. Gantus' dual role has severe ramifications for a fair and impartial hearing on the future of many city employees. If the current lawsuits against the city can demonstrate that the Civil Service Commission failed to address their complaints fairly, the city stands to lose millions of dollars as it has several times in the past decade. This long-standing and institutionalized conflict of interest could serve the plaintiff's in the most recent case against the city. The continual lawsuits against the city in the past ten years serves to demonstrate to me that we have a dysfunctional Civil Service Commission where fairness and impartiality may have given way to special interests at the expense of the most ethical employees of the city.

On Mr. Gantus' website we find the following self-validation as justification for clients to hire him:

"At [John M. Gantus & Associates](#) our local government advocacy practice helps individuals and businesses who need to present concerns to various public committees, panels, and commissions. We advocate for the interests of our clients in well-articulated presentations in front of government forums." as well as, "Mr. Gantus is a member of the City of Glendale Civil Service Commission".

Any potential client seeking an advocate that would be in a position to exert undue influence or pressure on the city's staff, would seek to engage Mr. Gantus' firm instead of another that does not have that kind of leverage.

What is most daunting, is that any city employee concerned about his chances for promotion or advancement years from now, should be very concerned that Mr. Gantus would still be there, sitting in judgment, remembering a dissenting opinion by the staff on his client's application. Sixteen years on this board goes beyond volunteering for a civic duty, it smacks of profiteering.

Without real impartiality or the appearance of impartiality from the Civil Service Commission, city employees will be on notice to follow the whims and wishes of city council members, acquiesce to the abuse by their superiors, or are forced to ignore misconduct within their departments. If employees see that Mr. Gantus and a councilman are closely aligned with a business entity wishing to get a city contract, they would jeopardize their careers if they fail to produce a favorable outcome to Mr. Gantus' client.

I now understand Mr. Gantus arrogant disposition behind the dais, his continual interruptions when I've speak before the commission and his attempt at intimidating the speakers. It is as if he wants to give loud public notice to all employees that he alone is in charge and that no-one will be successful in challenging the status quo. It is a reprehensible state of our judicial system when someone who has shown such callous disregard for personal conflicts of interest can be appointed a Judge pro Tem at the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Mr. Gantus should be set free to advocate for his clients and pursue his financial interests without wielding an implied sword over city employees. Let's see if without his Civil Service position Mr. Gantus' clients may see him as valuable an Esquire.

The public perception of an unbiased and fair government requires that Mr. Gantus resign immediately or be dismissed by the Glendale city council. There is plenty of talent in Glendale. Anything less than dismissal would be further confirmation that this city is mired in pervasive political patronage. **HERBERT MOLANO**

Weekly Soap: Glendale Confidential



Several news sites, including the *Glendale News Press*, and *Daytime Confidential* used a dead-on Soap Opera analogy to describe what happened Tuesday night between council members John Drayman and Ara Najarian, who battled for moral victory regarding the case involving former "All My Children" star Eva LaRue and her infamous, illegally erected gate.

Last week, Drayman recused himself from the hearing due to what he thought were potential conflicts of interest because of the closeness of his rented property to Ms. LaRue's. Drayman left the dais with an even number of council members who consequently split the vote on LaRue's case 2-2, rendering the issue dead locked without anywhere to go.

This week, Drayman returned to clear up why he left the chambers in the first place and how, after talking to the city attorney, he does not actually have a legally binding conflict of interest, which means he can cast a tiebreaking vote on the matter to be heard, again, on February 9th. To this, Najarian blasted Drayman for not sticking to his original convictions, arguing further, that now Drayman has an added pressure upon him as a tiebreaker and

thusly, even more of a conflict of interest. Drayman fired back with a quote that gave the meeting its Soap Opera slant. "Quite frankly, the day I need you to lecture me about morals, justice and due process is a long way off . . . It may be snowing in this room at that time," Drayman passionately declared.

Najarian rebutted, citing his original premise from last week, that he just wanted the law to be followed and that bringing Drayman in this late in the game was a "Short circuiting of justice". Drayman fired back, calling Najarian's fastidious focus on the procedural problem in the case to be a mere distraction from the actual issues at hand. The argument escalated further, honors were insulted and both men seemed on the brink of a duel, or at least a glove slapping.

Under all that mud, what is gleaned from the argument is how incredibly suggestive Drayman was without ever really revealing anything. If indeed Drayman knows why Najarian is mischievously trying to distract everyone from the real issues at hand, he's just as morally suspect and culpable for calling Najarian out without telling the accused (and the audience) why he's guilty.

Here's hoping, as the citizens of Glendale (and anyone else interested in politics as blood sport) stay tuned in, the story will reveal itself. In the meantime, the Council leaves us no choice but to turn on the vacuum, put the pot roast in the oven and assume Najarian is sleeping with LaRue who just so happens to be pregnant with John Drayman's baby.

LAUREL MILLER

COMMENTARY: DEATH, TAXES AND A DYSFUNCTIONAL STATE PART 1.1



A. INTRODUCTION. As Yogi Berra once famously said: "It's déjà vu all over again." Once again, California faces a serious budget crisis. Once again, Governor Schwarzenegger is proposing massive budget cuts, including huge cuts in the programs assisting the poor, the disabled and the elderly and the millions who are in all three groups. Once again he is proposing to sell state assets in a fiscally irresponsible manner, while making nonsensical claims the federal government owes the state money. And once again, he is refusing to consider increases in taxes.

Faced with a massive budget deficit in 2010, California has very few options: it can sell state assets, pass expenses on to organizations not equipped to meet them, cut or eliminate service programs or raise taxes sufficiently to meet the deficit. As will be discussed below, selling assets is trading one year's revenue for long-term state expenses. Passing expenses on to other organizations is very unfair and will be strenuously resisted. The Governor's proposal to cut service programs will cause great misery for millions of California residences and could cause the death of many. Raising taxes may cause the least harm, but there's no political will to do this on the part of the Governor, all the Republicans and many of the Democrats in the Legislature. To large numbers of people in California, increased taxes are a fate worse than death, although many people feel that death is a worse fate than increased taxes.

Before getting into the actual options, it is necessary to dispose of the Governor's contention that Californians pay more in taxes to the federal government than it gets back from the federal government. As Michael Hiltzik pointed out in his article in the January 25, 2010 *Los Angeles Times*, there is no evidence for the Governor's position, other than a five-year old study that has been discredited by the organization that prepared it. But even if it were true, Congress is not likely to decide to make the other 49 states turn over revenue to California. So it is a moot point.

B. SELL, SELL, SELL: The Governor wants to sell state assets to raise revenue this one year to close the budget gap. This is a very short-term strategy that won't work very well this year and will bite back next year. But the Governor won't be around in 2011 so he doesn't care what will happen then.

The Governor's first proposal was to sell the State Compensation Insurance Fund¹. The Fund provides workers compensation insurance to California employers. Employers are required by federal and state law to have this insurance and the Fund provides insurance to thousands of employers who cannot get or do not want private insurance. These employers are increasing as some private insurance companies are withdrawing from the California market.

There are many reasons not to sell the Fund including the fact the Governor does not have legal authority to sell it. And when the Governor was preparing to sell it, the State Insurance Commissioner, Steve Poizner, went into court and had the sale stopped. The Governor's next step was to auction off the Orange County Fair Grounds, which the state owned. The Orange County Board of Supervisors was adamantly opposed to the sale but the auction proceeded and netted a much smaller amount than the Governor expected, suggesting this the wrong time in which to expect high prices for real estate.

Undeterred, the Governor is planning to sell all the state office buildings and then lease them back. This is a particularly hare-brained scheme. Apparently, he still hasn't realized this is the wrong time to sell commercial real estate. Further, once the buildings are sold, the State will have to start paying rent for space they are currently not paying rent for. And finally, the Governor wants to sell San Quentin. San Quentin occupies some of the best land in the Bay Area with magnificent views. When the market is better it should be sold. But right now the State has no place in which to put its inmates.

C. PASS THE BUCK, EXCEPT THERE ARE NO BUCKS.

The Governor wants to transfer some 20,000 state prisoners to county prisons but he is not planning to give the counties money to house and maintain them. The counties are already seriously strapped for funds. After the passage of Prop 13, the counties (and the cities) became dependent on the state for the funds needed to operate. But the state cut those funds last year and will cut them again this year. In short, the Governor's proposals will create a fiscal nightmare for the counties if they go thru.

The Governor, or people in his office, is assuming that county and private hospitals will take care of problems caused by his budget cuts. This will be discussed later.

D. THE SMILER WITH THE KNIFE.² Next Week – References are found as endnotes. **STANTON J. PRICE**

869 Glendale foreclosures as of 1/29/10

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

2 Shout 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 will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



I read the emails in Vanguard last week. That is a tragic indictment on our system of fairness. Then I saw another that was from a long time resident of Glendale and apparently a legend in her own mind. It was vile and named your publication. What gives? TM [ED - Last week Vanguard published public documents that were sent to members of City Staff and City Council. Prior to their publication the emails were sent to each of the writers asking "Are these emails accurate?" at 6:44PM January 20, 2010. The responses received indicated they were accurate. One of the writers started making harassing phone calls to Barry Allen.]

3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

Neither the Audit Committee meeting nor the Police Committee meeting was on the City Calendar. The Audit Committee met on Monday the same day as the Police Committee. They complied with the Brown Act but did not attempt to have people show up. It is consistent with the policy of the Audit Committee as the last entry on the City web site was for the Agenda of April 27, 2009. Transparency at work.

Vanguard complained to Management Services about the failure to include meetings on the calendar. We received assurances that this won't happen again.

A note to the City Clerk got a quick response on missing minutes and URL link copying. Repairs were quickly made.

[Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)



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

Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor at 613 E Broadway.

Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.

Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.

Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

6:00 pm City Council --548-4844

Monday, February 1: Special Meeting – Arts & Culture Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2000

The regular monthly meeting of the Glendale Water & Power Commission has been re-scheduled to **Monday, February 8.**

Tuesday, February 2

2:30 PM CH Housing Authority -- 548-2060;

Redevelopment Agency -- 548-2005

Joint Meeting: RE: Temporary Art Galleries and Art Displays in Vacant Downtown Storefronts – 548-4844

Wednesday, February 3

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

Comm. Services and Parks Comm. – 3:00 pm, CH

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

RE: Public Hearing to Review the Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facility Ordinance –

Thursday, February 4

Comm. for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:15 am, MSB

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

Friday, February 5 No Meetings Scheduled

4 *Vanguardians*

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's we discussed Windows, Parking Meters, Zoning and more. Each week we add a few new faces and have returning warriors. Become one. This is an excellent opportunity to share opinions about quality of life issues.
- Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at www.vanguardians.org
- We need 2 working laptop computers with Windows XP. Letter for tax purposes.

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

Please make checks payable to "VANGUARDIANS" Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
Your contributions are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes
You may donate online at www.vanguardians.org

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

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

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

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

5



the Insider

is a report from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.

RE Vanguard January 24, 2010: Jimmy was right about his comments regarding Bob McFall. He does have a lot of institutional knowledge, especially the Family Institution. The ones he broke up with his Institution hanging between his legs. This is a good time to eliminate the Assistant City Mgr. position and save the city a lot of money, they don't need it.



Starbird's quote about McFall having "institutional knowledge" was just another way of saying he knows where a lot of the bodies are buried and he could not have been gotten rid of any sooner.

There are a lot of unflattering McFall stories all over City Hall involving cars and female employees.

Rumors on the street: Hassan is being set up to be the scapegoat re doing Drayman's bidding on the Cordova case. Once he resigns Elaine Wilkerson will be hired back.

Answer from Insiders No chance for Wilkerson to come back. Hassan was appointed because he is willing to bend to Council wishes in planning matters. Cordova is just one of many examples, 1808 Niodrara and 504 Kenneth are a couple others. He is comfortable in place as long as Council still wants non-building neighbors controlling the neighbors that want to build.

Just rumors on Chapjian but with him being the current golden boy, he would definitely be the front runner to take McFall's place with Ahern taking over Parks for a year and then retiring with a big pension.

The big question is when Starbird will go. With the current budget outlook, expect him to go soon rather than later to avoid being here when the big shit hits the fan.

Based on the staff report for the green buildings, looks like the reuse of the old police building will be a \$4,000,000 venture and won't be done until late 2011 or 2012. Talk of being in there by July was never realistic.

Looks like the Civil Service Commission has backed off of closing all hearings for the moment. Expect them to sneak it back at a later date.

The new Planning positions going before the Commission this week, clearly advance the current assistant planning director to a level over both the Building Official and Code Enforcement Administrator setting in place the pecking order in Hassan's new Department.

Neighborhood services takes no notice of the personal problems of the folks they issue notices to, like trees, and water bills. No permit can be issued for the Cordova gates unless the ZA determination stands after all appeals.

6

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL

Drayman upstaged Quintero with his mastery of working the political system. On the 19th after a protracted sidebar with CA Howard Drayman recused himself from voting on the Cordova variance appeal. On the 25th he decided he wanted in because his minions have



provided a script. The perception is that he is, no doubt, bowing to the pressure from the emails he received from Carole Weling, Laurie Collins, Al Hofmann and Lila Ramirez [See last week's Shout Box]. In a telephone conversation with Vanguard publisher Barry Allen on January 25th, Mrs. Weling, a former attorney explained that she was the one to ostracize Vanguard editor Pauline Field, the founder of the Glendale Women's Commission, and she would do the same for Mr. Allen. The tip to Mayor Drayman...beware of the women scorned unless you do their bidding, you could lose a bid for re-election...just a year off. The latest is that Drayman has decided he didn't need to recuse himself so he is back to go nose to nose with Najarian. Najarian has an uphill battle because he, as David to Goliath, is fighting to preserve and protect the rule of law and the quality of life while the others are just trying to save face. Especially Drayman who realized that his message to Haghani could hurt his chances in the entertainment business by way of a black ball. As a reminder South Pasadena School District has outlawed nuts.

Drayman. Flip. Flop. Flip. Flop [Real Life Soap: Eva La Rue Fights City Hall! | Daytime Confidential](#)
One councilman, **John Drayman**, who rents properties in La Rue's neighborhood, initially recused himself from the debate over fear of ethical conflicts. ...

7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[Opinion: San Jose council must reform pension boards](#) San Jose Mercury News

But the **city's** future may depend on our ability to come together on sensible reforms to prevent **bankruptcy**, preserve pensions and protect taxpayers. ...

[Elected Officials' iPhones and BlackBerrys To Be Subject To Public Records Laws](#)

Technologies such as iPhones and BlackBerrys will no longer be free of avoiding public-records laws.

A new disclosure policy is set to be approved in San Jose that would ensure that messages about public matters that elected leaders send or receive on personal devices be subject to disclosure, just like other official records.

[Vallejo weighs change in binding arbitration during labor negotiations](#) Vallejo Times-Herald

The **city** spends about 75 percent of its general fund on labor costs -- more than most **California cities**. The imbalance between **city** revenues and the cost of ...

[Editorial: Debating Public Records Requests From Blackberry, iPhone](#)

San Jose's new disclosure policy will require the messages sent on smart phones to be available for public review. The proposal isn't groundbreaking. Some have argued that this is what the law has intended all along.

[Mayor of Inglewood Pleads Guilty to Corruption](#)

The mayor, who has stepped down, is barred from holding public office again as part of his plea to a misdemeanor charge. See this and more of Tuesday's top local government headlines.

[City Votes Out City Manager; Mayor Calls For Resignations](#)

The day after a fractious council meeting, the most polarizing man in town said he is ready to move forward with a fresh beginning and a new city manager.

IRS Audits Find Independent Contractors Should Have Been Classified as Employees

The city of Dana Point contacted the League about the results of an IRS audit of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The audit concluded that the city had misclassified certain department part-time instructors as independent contractors instead of as employees. Dana Point should have consequently withheld various payroll taxes from the instructors pay, which had not been done. The IRS fined the city and required that it classify part-time instructors as employees going forward. The city intends to appeal the IRS's audit determination to the United States Tax Court. [\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact you. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government. 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, vanguardweekly@gmail.com and 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. ©2010**

¹The writer's son is an attorney employed by the Fund;

²This is actually the name of a detective novel by Nicholas Blake but it refers to Schwarzenegger's infamous video showing him playing with a knife while smiling and discussing his budget cuts.