



"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 February 7, 2010

[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

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## GLENDALE CONFIDENTIAL THIS TUESDAY AT 6

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



**BARRY ALLEN GUESTS ON RAFI MANOUKIAN'S** Charter Channel 286 Directions, a news program, on Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Tune in as we discuss politics in Glendale.

GLENDALE, Calif. -- "["CSI: Miami" actress Eva La Rue](#) is fighting the city and her neighbors about the height of her home's front gate, which she increased due to issues with a threatening stalker. "I had to literally leave, because I was scared to death," said actress Eva La Rue.

The Broad Theater of Santa Monica has given us a limited number of tickets to

**The Piano Lesson by August Wilson**

**On Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> At 7:00 p.m.**

1310 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

We have to give them your name and contact information by next Friday, February 12th.

**WE ARE OFFERING THESE FREE TICKETS TO YOU, OUR SUBSCRIBERS.**

Email the number of tickets you want and will commit to using to: [info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org)

These will go fast, so email us right away.

Who gave money to your favorite elected official? You can find out by reviewing the 460 forms, showing contributions and expenditures, available at the office of the City Clerk or online. KUDOS to City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian for his staff getting the 460's on line within 24 hours of their being turned in. Vanguardians staff is putting that information into searchable spreadsheets.

Glendale prepares to lose another arts venue as Aramazd Stepanian prepares to close the Luna Theater. The City Council should take a stand to keep this performing arts venue. Maybe even finding a new venue in a darkened retail establishment or share the multi-million dollar gift to the Neon Museum with Luna Playhouse. Luna Playhouse is operated By CAPS Community Arts Project and Services, a non-profit agency. Readers can help by calling Stepanian at 818 450 4801

How is your knowledge of politics? [Take this test and find out.](#)

The recent California Survey shows that most Californians haven't a clue where the money to run a government comes from and where it goes. [Click here to read the survey.](#)

[Pasadena officials furlough staffers in what union calls 'unnecessarily punitive' retort](#)

**Fifty/Fifty Leadership and UNA Pasadena/Foothills Chapter cordially invite you to celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women of the World (WOW) Awards on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 3PM to 6PM. The event will be held at Mijares Mexican Restaurant, 145 Palmetto Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105. Tickets are now available for purchase at [www.5050Leadership.org](http://www.5050Leadership.org).**

Secretary of State **Debra Bowen** assigned proposition numbers for the **five measures** that have qualified for the June primary ballot. Click [here](#) to see the measure numbers and summaries.

The Planning Department was pushing hard to get an affordable housing project on Salem Street through two processes on Wednesday. The Zoning Officer hearing to reduce parking from 90 to 58 for 36 units including 4 live/work units. Then the Planning Commission was being asked to approve a use variance. The live/work component hasn't been defined and won't be until it goes before Council and Housing Authority on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The project represented by Rodney Khan hired a parking consultant that minimized the loss of parking lot 12 to the building; ignored the fact that the south side of Salem is a red zone and that parkers, in an effort to avoid paying to park, park in the lot for 229 N Central taking away the parking for the tenants of the office building. They also forgot to mention that the MTA doesn't run on Central north of Broadway and the realignment of the Beeline on Central may eliminate public transportation on Central; and too they forgot the fact that parking lot #1 at Wilson and Central is going to be a hotel and the employees will need to park on the street if they have to pay to park in the hotel parking structure. The project is looking for a \$5,000,000 subsidy from the City.

The project received the green light from the Planning Commission. Chair Kane brought up many significant reasons that it should be denied or set for a continuance. Commissioner Lee led the charge for the approval with so many conditions limiting the live/work issues that no one would want to live and work there,

This furthers the question of inclusion vs. exclusion. The cost of affordable housing at \$500,000 or more per unit is outrageous when the City could buy condos for \$200,000 in various buildings where residents could network with successful people and get a head start. Closed session on Tuesday will set the terms for the acquisition by ADI of parking lot 12.

[California Public Utilities Commission](#) (PUC) is concerned about disconnections by the three major public utilities. Unfortunately the PUC has no jurisdiction over municipal owned public utilities, an issue Vanguardians brought to the attention of Commissioner Peevey. The multi-million dollar smart meter system will allow GWP to turn off your power remotely which will reduce confrontations. LA Mayor flies in the face of Prop 218 as he plans to transfer people instead of money. In the past excess 'profits' from LADWP were illegally transferred to the General Fund for payroll. Taking the lead from Glendale, the Mayor is transferring people to put them directly on the payroll of LADWP in order to circumvent Prop 218.

Vanguard is following the Charter Lawsuit (2); the 5 GPD officers; Ovasapyan; Foothill Lumber; AIG (Gladys); Montrose Collection and other actions. They can be found at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

[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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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# 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... WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL MESS?



From the mountains to the shining sea, elected officials and government management blame the current financial mess on Prop 13. The drum beat is reverberating all over. I spoke with a college professor who complained that he was paying \$6,000 a year for property tax while his neighbor was only paying about \$1,000.

It was the elected officials we voted for that listened not to their constituents; not to their conscience; but to

those who work for them. What is a fair wage? What is a fair pension? What is a fair benefits package? What is a fair post retirements benefit package?

Today many books, such as Plunder are being written and published showing what our elected officials have done to us. Of course, rather than accept the blame for their folly, they simply blame Howard Jarvis and Props 13 and 218 that allowed those poor souls who have only their \$15,000 a year Social Security to live on, of which they paid in 50%, while municipal mid and upper management along with rank and file public safety workers get \$150,000 to \$250,000 a year in pensions to live on. Prop 13 homeowners will pay those pensions if the CalPERS system goes bust. The time has come to put all government workers on Social Security and have non-government workers set their wages.

I have sat in Council meetings where people, fat with taxpayer largesse, promote the concept of more and larger pensions for government workers without sharing that they are receiving some of that money. We should tell our elected officials that if Social Security is good enough for the private sector it should be good enough for government workers.

Maybe the time has come for elected officials to be honest with the public, us, and say that they haven't a clue about what is a fair wage and what is excessive. They only know what they are spoon fed by management that 'negotiates' the wage contracts.

Recently at a function for an elected official, a union representative told me that firemen are paid excessively for what they do. The Chilton fire for instance resulted in two injuries that should not have happened. Maybe it was because the firemen were tired after working a grueling 24 hour shift putting out fires and saving burning babies from burning buildings. I almost gag when someone tells me about how brave these men are; how much money they save the insurance companies...I meant the homeowner. Actually I don't know any home owner that has cancelled their fire insurance because of the Class 1 fire department. (The Glendale Fire Department is presently undergoing the ISO renewal. Maybe that is why they lied about the injuries in the Chilton fire.)

We need elected officials that understand the word, "NO," when it comes time for the Urgency Ordinance to pay more money. The salary negotiations have to be made public so we can shine the bright spotlight of accountability on those officials.

Yes, I know I will hear from the attack dogs of the elected officials demanding accountability from Vanguardians. As always we can take the heat. When we catch someone they yell and scream that we aren't accountable. Just look at how Mr. Weaver proclaimed his innocence but he paid his fine and attorney fees to boot for money laundering. Vanguardians complies with Federal and State laws; the IRS, the State Attorney General and Franchise Tax Board. We gave money to a couple for their legal fees, none of which got to their attorney except for the check we sent to him to clear our commitment. Certain officials, names you would recognize, ordered a police investigation on Vanguardians and me. We have been cleared. The investigation was conducted without an official complaint, just like juntas do in third world countries. It appears that the PD is overstaffed to use 'valuable' resources to go on a fishing expedition. The City Attorney may want to brush up on 42USC1983. (United States Code...deprivation of civil rights under the color of law.)

The City of Glendale is managed for the upper crust employees, the employees that have been elevated to a new class of wealth that take, according City Manager Starbird, 90% of the City's redistributed wealth. The money that has been spent was approved and authorized by those people sitting on the dais. This is the same Council that authorizd Temporary Staffing Agencies, Contract Employees Consultants and Contract Law Firms for the City Attorney's office ...millions of dollars.

Monday I was at the Pasadena City Council where they were being asked to support a \$120 parcel tax for the Pasadena Unified School District. Only two people spoke out for accountability and involvement while a number of educators, administrators, professors and a board member spoke out about how this \$7M tax would save them from a \$21M deficit. Sounded like they needed some math training. There was no response to what would happen if the Governor decided to reduce the funding \$7M because they did it on their own. They just don't realize that at some point, after salaries, benefits and pensions are paid there will be no money left for education.

Speaking of Arnie I spoke to his office staff the other day about furloughs and learned that the 3 furlough days a month reduce salaries 15 to 17% but don't affect the pension payments. It all doesn't affect the Assembly and Senate or their staffs of approximately 10 people each.

So have you taken the pledge? Or made the commitment as I have?

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

**BARRY ALLEN**

**"THE WORLD OF POLITICS IS ALWAYS TWENTY YEARS BEHIND THE WORLD OF THOUGHT." - JOHN JAY CHAPMAN**

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**Laurel Miller is on assignment and will be back next week.**



**Herbert Molano is taking some time off.**

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**COMMENTARY: DEATH, TAXES AND A DYSFUNCTIONAL STATE PART 1.2**



**D. THE SMILER WITH THE KNIFE.**<sup>2</sup> Preliminary analysis by Disability Rights California of 2010-11 Governors' Proposed Budget

On January 8, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011, which once again targets low-income Californians by reducing or eliminating crucial health and human services programs<sup>3</sup>. The Governor's track record with these proposals is poor. Some duplicate those of previous years, most of which were rejected by the Legislature. Some of the proposals approved by the legislature last year have been stopped by federal courts. Still, the Governor keeps bringing them forward. As in the case of the attempted sale of the Fund, it is unclear whether the Governor doesn't know that what he is proposing is illegal or just doesn't care.

The administration has indicated what each proposal would save, but has acknowledged that it has not factored in the costs, both human and financial, of the massive cuts, including the costs that would be shifted to future years or other organizations. For example, the proposed dismantling of two key programs for Californians with disabilities including seniors – In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Adult Day Health Care – will inevitably lead to:

1. Death and massive harm to the health, safety and independence of the elderly and disabled;
2. Increased use of more expensive hospitals and nursing homes; and
3. Loss of at least 375,000 jobs, including those of home care workers and of IHSS consumers who are able to work and pay taxes because of IHSS. This means in turn the loss of large amounts of money these workers will pump into the economy. This also means great harm to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). While the SEIU has not always been on the side of the angels, it doesn't deserve the Governor's desire to inflict great harm on it.<sup>4</sup>

Once again, poor Californians would be hit by the budget hammer again and again, if they depend on multiple programs for their health, safety and income, as so many do.

This analysis is based on the documents released by the Governor's office on January 8, 2010. Its focus is on programs and services which are particularly significant for elderly adults and adults and children with disabilities. It is arranged by relevant state department. The analysis does not cover all the proposed cut, including cuts for which details have not been released.

- \* Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- \* Department of Education
- \* Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- \* Medi-Cal (not including In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS))
- \* Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- \* Department of Social Services (DSS)
- \* In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
- \* Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP)
- \* Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)

**Department of Developmental Services (DDS):** DDS is the state agency providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. These disabilities include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and related conditions. Services are provided through state-operated developmental centers and community facilities and contracts with 21 non-profit regional centers. The regional centers serve as a local resource to help find and access the services and supports available to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Governor proposes to reduce the DDS budget by \$200 million:

**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS):** Medi-Cal is California's version of the state-federal Medicaid program; most Medi-Cal programs are housed in the Department of Health Care Services. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is part of Medi-Cal, although it is administered by DSS. California receives matching funds from the federal government to finance most of the Medi-Cal program, i.e., the portion that meets federal requirements and is therefore eligible for federal funding.

Ordinarily, the federal government provides 50% of the cost of Medi-Cal services. As part of the economic recovery package enacted by Congress in January 2009, this amount was temporarily increased from 50% to 61.59% to provide the state with fiscal relief. This increase in federal funds saves the state \$1.5 billion. The Governor is asking the federal government to increase the permanent federal matching funds rate by 7%, from 50% to 57%. This would be in addition to the temporary 11.59% increase that is already in effect. He calculates that this will save the state an additional \$1.8 billion. (The total federal/state cost of the Medi-Cal program is about \$30 billion.) He proposes one set of budget reductions if the federal government does what he asks. He proposes a different set of budget reductions if the federal government does not do what he asks; these are being called "trigger cuts."

The first set of reductions listed below is proposed whether or not the federal government agrees to increase federal matching funds to 57% - they are not "trigger cuts."<sup>5</sup>

Medi-Cal (other than IHSS) cuts:

1. Cut \$104 million by eliminating the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program;
2. Cut \$118 million by eliminating Medi-Cal for adult immigrants who are lawful permanent residents (LPR) but who have been residing in the United States for less than 5 years. Medi-Cal would continue for immigrants who are permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) and amnesty immigrants. (Federal funding is not provided for these groups.);
3. Cut \$750 million by:
  - a) Limits on services and utilization controls
  - b) Increased copayments, premiums, or both
  - c) Other unspecified programmatic changes;
4. Cut \$55 million by delaying payments to institutional providers;
5. Cut 28.7 million by rolling back a rate increase for family planning providers;
6. Save \$26.4 million through increased anti-fraud efforts; and
7. Reduce Healthy Families program eligibility from 250 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. — A decrease of \$10.5 million in 2009 10 and \$63.9 million in 2010 11. This is the service that pays for health care for children in low income families without health care.

The Governor proposes to reduce Healthy Families program benefits and increase premiums by eliminating vision coverage and increasing monthly premiums in families with incomes from 151 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level by \$14 per child or \$42 maximum increase per family with 3 or more children. Current premiums are \$16 per child or \$48 maximum per family.

Trigger cuts form the second set of cuts: The governor proposes these trigger cuts if the federal matching rate for Medi-Cal is not increased to 57%, and other federal funding increases are not forthcoming by July 15, 2010:

1. Eliminate all remaining state funding for Medi-Cal county mental health services;
2. Reduce Medi-Cal eligibility to the minimum allowed under current federal law. This would result in elimination of:
  - a) The medically needy (MN) program. This includes all individuals who have a share of cost for Medi-Cal.
  - b) The medically indigent (MI) program. This includes individuals between 19 and 21 who do not have a disability, are not pregnant, or are not a caretaker relative.
  - c) The 250% Working Disabled program;
3. Eliminate most Medi-Cal "optional" services, including medical supplies such as diabetic test strips, prosthetic limbs, orthotics, wheelchairs and other durable medical equipment, hearing aids and other benefits. He does not propose to eliminate pharmacy coverage. He cannot eliminate these Medi-Cal services which are mandatory under federal law: Inpatient hospital services; Outpatient hospital services; Rural health clinic services; Laboratory and x-ray services; Physician services; Home health services; Pregnancy-related services; Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services for individuals under age 21; and
4. Eliminate the Healthy Families program.

***In part II these cuts and who they will harm will be explained in further "detail. In the third part the article will discuss possible tax increases which might alleviate some of this harm. References are found as endnotes.***

**STANTON J. PRICE**

## 878 Glendale foreclosures as of 2/5/10

### 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.



Laurel Miller has a great sense of humor. I look forward to her column and am disappointed when her day job takes precedence. I predict she has a great future. Vanguard has some wonderful volunteers. Thanks for being here for us. SS

1. I have not had a chance to see the "Infamous illegally erected gate" that so much comment has been wasted lately against Eva LaRue, but I am sure if the Council would spend a little time walking up & down Brand Blvd they would see more than one code violation in process. For starters let's take a look at all the restaurants that are not near but on public property with their extension of outside dining. -- Gaucho Village is at the top of the list with more than half of the sidewalk taking up space in one of the narrowest sections of the walkway, (potted plants, railings blocking the way making it hardly wide enough for two people to pass by at one time -- the hotel in the same block with its pots way out on the sidewalk -- Don Cucos Restaurant taking up more than half of the sidewalk next to the Alex Theater, Far Niente with their excessive taking up public space and the list goes on. Where are the permits for these excessive violations and why is this being allowed? Soon the pedestrians will have to walk on the street to get by. Now after the store on the 300 block of California St. removed the illegal water machine they have taken up the entire main walking sidewalk with their merchandise to peddle. Where does this all stop and where is the enforcement agency that is supposed to follow through on these violations that affect the public daily-- Poor Eva La Rue and her gate--what must she think when she is being harassed in the paper weekly for something that I am sure has little effect on the public.

2. Now may I comment on the Dorn Platz Building on the corner of Brand & California? This company has cost the city many dollars with their violations over the controversy of their empty building asking many times for

variances for building use that has never materialized and now they are requesting sign variances for signage for the steel structure that they have already installed on the building, God only knows what they want to hang on the structure. Did the City approve the part they have already installed? I doubt it. We have had to look at that eyesore of a building for many years and I doubt that Good Will will ever have the chance to move in. Good work Dorn Platz you are not a credit to the City.

3. Not related to the above but I was wondering since the Alex is still having financial problems could it be feasible for the City to sell the \$50,000 refurbished Box Office (Never Used) to a Historical Museum should the City decide on one to be built.

Hopefully you can see the frustration of only one citizen as all we ever hear is Talk, Talk, but little action by the dysfunctional City Council, as you point out every week.

Thanks for allowing me to vent and keep up the GOOD work you and Vanguard are doing. I have more to say but will save that for later. DF

Herb Molano has it right re Gantus look at his past handling of Carvel Gay's zoning matters. ACC

The interesting things in which everyone seems to be finding himself/herself every week are more captivating than a TNT drama. Maybe our next staff member should be an agent. I would have said screenwriter, but then I thought, 'Nah, don't need one. Everyone writing the truth as it happens already is plenty exciting.' Keep up the great work. JS

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### **Public Information** "Just the facts"

This is in response to your public records request referenced above. Your requests and the City's responses are set forth below.

Provide the policies, procedures and practices for referring a case, complaint or investigation from a COPS unit to a detective, investigator or other person for an investigation.

**City's response: No responsive records exist.**

**This means there is no tracking and no accountability**

Provide the form used for the transfer of that information the complaint from a civilian or other person or entity.

**City's response: No responsive records exist.**

**This means there is no tracking and no accountability**

Provide the policies procedures and practices in assigning a case number for a "case" or "complaint" to be investigated.

**City's response: Responsive documents will be available at the City Clerk's office on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, during normal business hours.**

Provide the policies, procedures and practices for a detective, investigator or other sworn personnel to follow up a report, complaint or other request without a case number being assigned.

**City's response: Responsive documents will be available at the City Clerk's office on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, during normal business hours.**

#### [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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, February 8**

**Special Meeting** – Glendale Water & Power – 4:00 pm, ch 548-2107

Comm. Status of Women – 6:30 pm, ch 548-4844

#### **Tuesday, February 9 2:30 pm ch**

Housing Authority -- 548-2060

Redevelopment Agency -- 548-2005

6:00 pm, City Council 548-4844

#### **Wednesday, February 10**

Zoning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, msb 548-2140

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

#### **Monday, February 15**

Federal Holiday – City Offices Closed for President's Day

## 4 *Vanguardians*

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's we discussed Drayman vs Najarian – 702 vs 1149, the Salem property, the state of theater in Grimdale 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 News by signing up for an RSS feed at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

### *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](http://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](http://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.



As an Insider I want to thank you for the opportunity we have in expressing ourselves without fear of exposure. Some of us may not live in Glendale but our interest is in this community. We have seen unsuccessful efforts to malign Vanguard and to ridicule those who have taken the step forward to use the vehicle you have provided. It is a win-win situation for the employees and the City.

Certain Councilmen are using the GPD to malign the good work of Vanguard, for an illegal political purpose. Your efforts are paying off.

From the consent calendar 5c the GWP wants more money: "Although the proposed work will not exceed \$12,000, by policy, Council approval is required whenever a selected consultant is performing work for the City in excess of \$50,000 for the year. The Lewis Group is currently performing services for the Public Works strategic plan development with total expenditures currently approved by Council above the \$50,000 threshold." This is a bunch of BS. How long is this going to be going on? Money wasted. The city pays big salaries to Managers that have this ability, why don't we fire everyone and just hire consultants.

Lots of talk about why Randy Adams left Glendale voluntarily to take the chief's job with the small, impoverished City of Bell. It's equivalent to a professional football player voluntarily leaving the NFL to go back and play for his old junior high school team. Lots of rumor as to why he would make such a stupid career move. Many factions with loyal followings are prevalent in the GPD along with cliques and strong union power; Adams didn't possess the management skills to deal with all of it. The circumstances surrounding the allegations in the recent multi-million dollar lawsuit brought by five police officers all happened on Adams' watch.

Even though the lawsuit is massive and embarrassing, one alone would not take a police chief down. That thought has elevated the rumors: what else is going to be revealed?

The Civil Service Commission meeting was a great example of how politics work in Glendale. The Commissioners, especially Gantus, were all over Hassan about how great he and his changes were for the City.

Despite the fact that there was no org chart for his new Department or the fact that Building and Safety, by Charter, is still in Public Works. But they had to kiss up to him and look the other way because they will have clients that need planning or building and safety approval and they will now call Hassan and go to the front of the line and get favorable rulings. If Vanguard readers believe that these Commissioners are not participating on the commission for personal or professional gain, think again.

Loved the fact that you addressed the Civil Service Commission, but to clarify, the Commission in general and the commissioners specifically, are not there to protect employees, they are there to control them. You will never see employees address the commission. It is career suicide! Those commissioners are there to protect management decisions. Period. The reason the City Attorney defends Gantus so strongly is because he has

never, in all his years on the commission, failed to give management exactly what they asked for. Because he is so accommodating, he has the benefit of being able to call staff for actions or have his clients call to receive favors.

Have you made the connection yet that CM Najarian appointed both his sister to the transportation commission and the cab company's attorney, Gantus, to the Civil Service Commission?

As it seems that an increasing number of planning items are going to the Council to for resolution, you can expect that the Council will be approached early in the development process to get their approval for special conditions and variances. This will also mean that their war chests will grow from the donation from the developers leading to an entrenched council for year to come. And they did it by eliminating all the checks that were put in place just 15 years ago and nobody raised a concern.

Don't be fooled when a Department Head tells the Civil Service Commission or Council that title changes do not raise salaries. Those changes lead to "adjustments" during the budget process. Just look back a couple of years when they created the Public Works Administrator position saying that there was no change in salary then immediately "adjusted" it during the next salary ordinance. Based on that, I will assume the new Planning position will quickly and quietly be adjusted soon. Same happened with Parks and GWP. Always with GMA position, and never with GCEA ones.

While he's on his honeymoon with Council, look for Hassan to raise building permit fees to pay for new hires in Building and Safety. If it doesn't come up, it means the honeymoon is over.

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## 6 THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL

Some men are born mediocre, some men achieve mediocrity, and some men have mediocrity thrust upon them. -- Joseph Heller, Catch 22.

Dave Weaver joined the Council in 1997; Frank Quintero in 2001; Ara Najarian in 2005; John Drayman in 2007 and Laura Friedman in 2009. Drayman and Weaver are up for re-election in April 2011

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## 7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[Time Has Come to Consider Reductions in Police Force](#) LA Downtown News Online

Los Angeles could face **bankruptcy**. That is a horrifying thought. The **city's** credit rating would suffer dramatically, costing us more in the long run

[Pasadena Playhouse will close Feb. 7](#) Financial woes force the decision. Bankruptcy filing is among the options under consideration.

[Lawndale employee union plans vote against city manager](#)

**Letter cites "hostile and vindictive behavior" as reason for no-confidence motion.**

By Sandy Mazza, Daily Breeze Staff Writer

City Manager Keith Breskin is the target of a no-confidence vote by the union representing Lawndale employees.

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<sup>2</sup>This 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.

<sup>3</sup>This portion of the article quotes or paraphrases materials developed by Catherine Blakemore, Executive Director; Margaret Jakobson-Johnson, Advocacy Director; Evelyn Abouhassan, Senior Legislative Advocate; Deborah Doctor; Legislative Advocate; Disability Rights California, Inc. DRC, Inc., is the largest organization in the state advocating for the rights of the

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disabled and has extensive experience responding to proposed state budgets. The writer is a former member of its board of directors.

<sup>4</sup> The governor's budget proposals are intended to damage many other unions, including the prison guard union, the California Nurses Association, the state employees union, the California Faculty Association and the various teachers' unions. Except for the CNA and CFA, all of these unions have carried out acts that were not in the best interest of the public. Nonetheless, it is one thing to curb their excesses; it's another thing to try to destroy them.

<sup>5</sup> At this point, there is no reason to think the federal government will grant the state this increase.

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