



"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 14, 2010
www.vanguardians.org
info@vanguardians.org

GLENDALE CONFIDENTIAL "GATEGATE"

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



COURT AWARDS DJM construction \$285,000 for its lawsuit against the City for the seismic retrofit of the Municipal Services Building. The City knew it would have to pay but wanted to bring some grief to the Plaintiffs. Vanguardians audited the payables on this project which showed that the city added in overhead projectors and internal work unrelated to the seismic retrofit. The City financed this project with a line of credit from SunTrust Leasing.

The award is in addition to an earlier award.

Look for another lawsuit by the contractors working on the Chevy Chase Canyon reservoir over the same issue...the withholding of monies they earned as the city tries to negotiate by fiat. The only losers are the tax payers. They will lose by having to pay both sides of the legal fees, the award and interest.

COURT AWARDS MARLA GRINDLE \$112,500 for her successful suit against the City.

CITY HIRES MORE ATTORNEYS TO DO BATTLE FOR THE CITY...A VERY EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION.

CITY, DURING AN UNNECESSARY CLOSED SESSION ,SET THE TERMS ON CONVEYING OR LEASING PARKING LOT 12 AND ON THE PURCHASE OF VACANT PROPERTY, TO CONVEY TO ADI FOR A SUBSIDIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN SPREADSHEET FORMAT. SEND REQUEST TO INFO@VANGUARDIANS.ORG

NEW BUS #66 ON ROUTE 7 HAS NO WORKING RADIO, DESTINATION SIGNS OR FARE BOX. A COMPLAINER CALLED THE SECRET COMPLAINT NUMBER AND WAS TOLD TO CALL BACK DURING BUSINESS HOURS. THE MORE MANAGEMENT FOR THE BEELINE SYSTEM, THE LESS THE ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

The Piano Lesson by August Wilson

On Monday, March 15th At 7:00 p.m.

1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

We have to give them your name and contact information by next Friday, February 19th.

WE ARE OFFERING THESE FREE TICKETS TO YOU, OUR READERS.

Email the number of tickets you want and will commit to using to: info@vanguardians.org

These will go fast, so email us right away.

Vanguardians is hosting a FREE Breakfast seminar on the Public Records Act in Van Nuys in late February. You will learn how to obtain the public information you want and need. For instance many jurisdictions do studies using your tax dollars. You can get them for 10¢ a page. One business saved a \$10,000 consulting fee by only paying \$40. Another was able to obtain mapping information.

Vanguardians uses public records to learn how well a jurisdiction is functioning. This informational seminar will be led by a member of the California Bar who has practiced in the area of public record law. Please let us know if you will be attending. Special accommodations for the media.

Fifty/Fifty Leadership and UNA Pasadena/Foothills Chapter cordially invite you to celebrate the 2nd Annual Women of the World (WOW) Awards on Saturday, March 13th 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.

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

Wanted a Vanguardians Volunteer who is an [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 19th 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... SPEND TIME AND ENERGY WHERE IT COUNTS



Each Band-Aid used by government to stem the tide of burgeoning payroll, benefits and pensions will not stop the erosion of municipal services. Raising fees for services; Increasing utility rates while hiring more people, hiding them as Temps or high priced consultants and granting pay raises by job promotions, will continue to erode the reserves. City counter services have been cut back; City buildings entrance-ways are littered with cigarette butts and the City Wide WiFi that was promised several years ago is dead.

The City Council, our legislative body, is not willing to make demands of the City Manager who rewards Council like one does a dog for rolling over on command.

The Council will soon realize that revenues are not what was projected. The Public already is aware of that. The City will have to deal with their illegal raids on the financial excesses taken into the General Fund from the GWP.

Most Councils lack the competency to understand the volumes of financial documents including internal and external audit reports; CalPERS pension obligations; bond debt; lines of credit, arbitrage; money transfer from municipal utilities that fly in the face of Prop 218 and the numerous and voluminous lawsuits facing the city, many of which stem from poor policies.

Recently I have been reviewing public documents that clearly demonstrate the lack of policies, enforcement and oversight. The battle over the parking structure attendant contract where the invoice process has been misunderstood by the contractor. The collection agency used by the City had to be contacted by the City Attorney for their failure to turn over the money and get paid. The issue of more traffic tickets and less revenue.

What amazed me, in reading the documents in the now infamous GateGate saga, was the number of pieces of correspondence to the property owner that were acknowledged to be incomplete.

When I listen to the posturing by Mayor Drayman I hear someone who has become a legend in his own mind. He turned the hearing into a treatise on safety and forgot the issue. Maybe, just maybe, the Council should let their surrogates on the Commissions do their jobs and get out of the appeals business. Then they can concentrate on the fiscal issues facing the City.

Sometime soon they will realize that Vanguardians is an asset and not a liability to this City.

BARRY ALLEN

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

Next Week – Glendale the business, homeowner friendly city; The new upper class created by City Councils

COMMENTARY: "GATEGATE" SWINGS TO A CLOSE



The case of the soap star and her ill-fated gate has finally come to a close. On Tuesday, February 9th the chamber heard the last gasps of posturing, investigating and arguing over the house on Cordova Avenue.

Predictably, the Planning Commission's decision that overturned the Zoning Administrator's decision was upheld in a vote four to one, though the defeated appellant, Eva La Rue was not there to hear it, as she had already fled the property in question following the publication of her home address and another subsequent letter from her stalker. In a case mired by legal ambiguities, epic monologues and inter-chamber fights worthy of the local news, the conclusion was ultimately telling about how murky the law can be and how interpretation is anyone's guessing game.

If one wanted to interpret Council Member Drayman's actions on Tuesday evening, it would be fair to say he was on the attack, probably because of the negative light cast on the council on the heels of La Rue's local ABC news appearance. She went on TV and slammed the city in his eyes, and perhaps it was the reason he made everyone sit down and shut up for close to an hour while he explained how La Rue's defense had more holes in it than Swiss cheese. With the tenacity of the Hardy Boys and the brevity of a cross country road trip, Drayman used video examples, a photo and his own powers of psychological deduction to conclude that the actress could not have put the gate up to make herself feel safe, and that would be a chief reason he couldn't vote for her to keep it.

In opposition to Drayman was Najarian, who took issue with the way the city code was ignored from the very beginning of the case. One could argue Najarian's interpretation was to leave its interpretation behind completely and simply follow the law to a T. For Najarian, the case should have never come before them. Najarian invoked the lesson he'd learned as a young whippersnapper in the District Attorney's office, presenting the idea that, though many a person was guilty, if he or she was not afforded due process of law, the case was thrown out. This idea often splits people's moral insides in half – why should, say, a killer go free on a technicality? Shouldn't justice exclude procedural error? Najarian was arguing that it is in the procedure that justice *is* found, and perhaps, it is Lady Justice's way of teaching her interpreters a lesson if they don't play by the rules. Regardless of the philosophy behind U.S. law, the case ended up on a high wire, wobbling between conjecture and fact, code and interpretation of that code.

While Drayman gave no credence to Najarian's issue with the violation in city code, he certainly gave weight to the four findings one must meet to obtain a variance. One might call this hypocritical, but like Meadow Soprano once said to her father Tony, "We're all hypocrites." And truthfully, hypocrite number one is La Rue, herself, who illegally constructed when she was told to stop and then tried to use the system to get her way.

A final interesting facet regarding interpretation in this complex case rests with the public that lives online. Most people who have left comments on the myriad of online articles written on the case, defend La Rue and condemn the city for caring more about aesthetics than about one of their own citizen's safety. Anyone closely following the case would see it is indeed more complicated than that, but what can be garnered from the public at large, is that from most vantage points, local government has a tendency to look a bit silly, definitely petty and completely typical. **Laurel Miller**

Commentary: A SECOND LOOK AT A COMPLIANT CITY CLERK



It is not easy to be publicly critical of an elected official who is so affable, intelligent and whose role is not often contentious (Except perhaps during the city elections.)

The city clerk has the duty to reach out to the community and perform an effective outreach to city residents and stakeholders to apply for potential openings at the many city

commissions. These commissions are the link between the general public and the policies that the city should address.

But my inquiries following the presentations at the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) show me that the outreach by his office has been exceedingly ineffective. Has it been ineffective by design? Is his pay in jeopardy if he does not comply with the wishes of council members?

My review of California Public Records Act requests, answered by the city, show that in the last ten years, there has been only 12 applicants to the TPC and only five applicants to the civil service commission.

Since I know Mr. Kassakhian to be quite intelligent and capable, then it bears to imagine that the reason for the ineffective results to outreach to the 100,000 adults in the city, must lie elsewhere.

Though the city clerk's job is an elected position and independent, his salary is nonetheless subject to the whims and direction of the city council. The city council members have not been recipients of hundreds of applicants for commission seats as one would expect. It seems as if the council members are inclined to give commission seats to those whose actions they can control directly. If the goal of the councilman is to sell his influence to outside entities that have contracts dealing with the city, then it would be necessary to claim that they also control the intermediate process through which approvals must undergo.

The fewer applications that are received by the city clerk's office, the better for a councilman to justify that that a friend, business contact, or family relative apply. Take the role of Councilman Ara Najarian toward selecting his people to the commissions.

Councilman Najarian selected Mr. John Gantus to the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Gantus, an attorney, represents Taxi Cab companies before the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) Councilman Najarian also selected his sister to serve on the TPC board. With his sister on that board, the better Mr. Najarian could claim, to a taxi company, for instance, that he can deliver the goods. After all, his own sister sits in judgment of the applicant.

If, in effect, there are no applicants, the councilman can appeal quietly to his closest colleagues and relatives to apply for those future vacant seats and help move along their contracts to fruition with the city. But having a designated civil service commissioner with inherent conflicts of interests only adds to the leverage Mr. Najarian can wield. Should any manager or employee dare challenge the qualifications of a city contractor favorable to Mr. Najarian, they'll have to contend with top management as they can accommodate councilmen and think up reprisals against the nonconforming employee. If the employee appeals, he will be in a perilous position having to face another of Mr. Najarian's appointees at the civil service commission.

Think Glendale stands heads and shoulders above similar cities? Think again, the patina of good government is wearing very thin under the influence of Najarian and his colleagues. Think mayor Daly in Chigaco and his begotten son Daly jr. Now think of mayor Zarian and his begotten protegee Mr. Najarian. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

How can the city clerk avoid any claim we may have about acquiescing to the city council? Easy, he needs to demonstrate significant and effective results in his outreach to the community to find the very best applicants who don't have a conflicting agenda. Good intentions and effort that don't yield results will only confirm our suspicions. **HERBERT MOLANO**

OPEN LETTER TO ATTORNEY LUCY VARPETIAN, GLENDALE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

February 12, 2010
Ms. Lucy Varpetian
Sr. Assistant City Attorney
City of Glendale

Yesterday I received a reply to my request for records under the California Public Records Act. (CPRA.) The records in question were to corroborate the claims made by the city staff with regard to the granting of a Taxicab owner's permit renewal to G&S. (AKA: City Cab)

The claim by the city staff during the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) hearing is that according to their performance records, the taxicab company, G&S, was in compliance and therefore merited renewal of the owner's permit to operate.

One of the members of the TPC voiced a concern that remained unanswered by the city staff. The commissioner wanted to know if the performance records were self-generated by the cab company or if they were evaluated independently by the city staff. The inquiry was left unanswered.

The cab company was represented by Attorney John Gantus who also sits on the civil service commission. As such, he can stand in judgment of the city staff at some time in the future and is in a position to intimidate or exercise reprisal should his client not get the renewal of the contract with the city.

The city's response to my CPRA request consisted of producing the same records presented during the TPC hearing. The public already had those records and they are available online. As such, your office was non-responsive to my request.

If the evaluation of compliance as presented by the city staff was performed independently of the cab company, then it would demonstrate due-diligence on the city's part, and would exemplify a fair and non-biased evaluation of a city contractor.

If the evaluation consisted of no other activity other than the public reading of the self-evaluation by the cab company, then it may be a demonstration of a lack of due diligence by the city staff due to an implied intimidation in the role Mr. Gantus has as a long-time member on the board of the Civil Service Commission.

This CPRA request is made with the urgent need to confirm that the city's business are conducted with a fair and equitable evaluation of city contracts or procurement process, and that no one may wield undue influence or pressure on the city staff to get biased results.

At the TPC hearing Mr. Gantus, failed to recuse himself from the process despite another attorney (ex-mayor Sheldon Baker) representing G&S at the hearing. The attorney representing the city on the dais also failed to disclose the potential conflict of interest to the TPC commission.

Here is an example of the ethical dilemma faced by the city staff. The manager presenting the information to the TPC was Mr. Jano Baghdanian who a few years ago applied to the directorship of the public works department, but who lost out to Mr. Steve Zurn.

Should the position of Public Works Director become open again, it is likely that Mr. Baghdanian would reapply. If he is denied the promotion again, he would then have to appeal to the civil service commission where Mr. Gantus would be sitting in judgment of his appeal. If other members on the civil service commission hold similar conflicts of interest, then it is reasonable to expect that they would support each other's initiatives behind closed doors.

This case presents a significant conflict of interest by Mr. Gantus and places city employees in a very precarious position should they disclose findings not advantageous to Mr. Gantus' clients. I've presented this situation to Mr. Gantus in front of the civil service commission, yet he would not acknowledge the moral hazard his dual role represents. Furthermore, we have another member of the civil service commission who admitted to similar conflicts of interest as his justification for finding Mr. Gantus practices as acceptable. But there are more ethically challenging issues to observe.

Mr. Gantus advertises his legal service on his website as representing parties before city boards and commissions, and also advertises his special role as member of the civil service commission. In effect, to any discerning client, Mr. Gantus is advertising the power and influence he has over the city staff as a special consideration to represent his potential clients' interests.

The issue to which I am addressing my request is relevant towards maintaining a government that is free of corrupting influences and that will serve its stakeholders in a way that is free of bias, apparent bias, corruption, or apparent corruption of the city's processes.

Please fulfill my CPRA request without further delay, as I intend to continue to present this information before the city council and the general public.

Thank you for your cooperation. **HERBERT MOLANO**

872 Glendale foreclosures as of 2/12/10

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 noted the following in last week's Vanguard
'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.'

How do these people get away with this kind of contempt? On the other hand, based upon the responses to requests for policies and procedures, there can be no contempt because apparently there aren't any rules. Excellent "Commentary". JS [ED – There are some things happening. Unfortunately the soldier in this case forgot the message of Nazi Germany, "I was just following orders." Recently an officer in the Bell Police Department, under the direction of Randy Adams, turned a matter over to the FBI that was being swept under the carpet. This officer was suspended by Chief Adams, we are told. That officer followed the oath he took. At this time Adams is hunting for the insider sending information to Vanguard. Adams needs to make his position less political and more to protecting the public rather than the politicians. That is the job of the City Attorney.]

Thanks for sending me that Glendale audit report. The audit says the city has a debt obligation in its internal accounts of \$37 million. It also recommends that it take over \$2 million from the general fund to begin buying down

this deficit. That coupled with the illegal raid on the GWP and that refund will put the General Fund in a deep hole.
RG

How much will it cost the City to prepare the public request documents for Ms Weling per her comments Tuesday night? She wants 3 years of your [Vanguard/Vanguardians] requests? GJ [Good question.]

I was sitting in a restaurant and was near enough to a group of people, some of whom I recognized, that were talking about a project that one of them wanted. Later in the conversation the word 'kickback' was mentioned. What is a 'kickback'? XX [ED First to answer your question, it is the portion of an income demanded as a bribe by an official for facilitating the job or order from which the income is realized. Second, call me as soon as you get this note.]

Things are really heating up in local politics over budgets. Finger pointing is starting. One senior council member said that many on the council fear voter reprisals for this crisis will be taken out on them. They are trying to find scapegoats. The intensity is starting to build. BR [ED – This is true all over. Next week Vanguard will be sharing the real numbers of government employees – over 21,000,000 of them versus those who support them.]

3  **Public Information**
"Just the facts" 

Vanguard questioned the demographics used by the City in the latest CAFR. Under a PRAR the following was received:

Jue, Lizabeth

From: Nakamoto, Don
Sent: Wednesday, August 05,2009 9:19 AM
To: Jue, Lizabeth
Subject: RE: Follow up: Labor Market Data
Sorry, Lizabeth.

I found this data quite a while ago but just have not gotten around to sending it to you. Here is the info: Population 94,004; Per capita income: \$28,774; School enrollment: 50,342. **[handwritten on the memo: will use numbers provided by Michele Mara (GCC) & Frances Kinolt (GUSD)]**

I noticed some differences from past data. This data is from 05-07 survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. I think Finance took the population data from SCAG, which tends to project a higher level. I think the amount you have for Per Capita Personal Income is either income over a certain age only (Probably 18 and over or 25 and over, and I don't have this data) or median family income (\$52,443). The Per Capita Income I have includes the average of every man, woman and child. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (818) 409-0476 Ext. 7351. Don

The report from the Outside Auditor to the Audit Committee carried this message, "This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Audit Committee and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties."

Timely Departmental Invoice Submission to Finance

Condition: During our search for unrecorded liabilities, we noted two exceptions in which invoices processed by the Finance Department several months after fiscal year-end relating to construction services performed prior to the fiscal year-end date were not recorded as payables in the proper period. Conversely, we noted a payable related to insurance for the subsequent period that was improperly included in payables as of the fiscal year-end date. It appears the invoices and other supporting documentation needed by the Finance Department to properly process these payables are maintained with the respective City department and are not timely submitted to the Finance Department. The proper recording of liabilities at period-end is fundamental in producing accurate and reliable financial statements and matching revenues with expenses.

Recommendation: We recommend all City departments review and strengthen their policies and procedures with respect to processing disbursements so that invoices and other supporting documentation is timely submitted to the Finance Department for proper payment and timely recording into the general ledger. The following procedures should be considered when reviewing the adequacy of the department's policies:

- Departmental personnel should log all invoices received subsequent to June 30 and review/process those invoices timely for proper recording in the correct period.
- All unpaid invoices, open purchase orders and unmatched receivers should be scanned for items or services received before year-end for inclusion on the add-on listing, along with other known liabilities.
- Departmental administration should review the open accounts payable log at least monthly subsequent to June 30 to ensure proper recording of the invoice.

Deferred Revenue

Condition: The City over accrued revenue for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant at the governmental fund level for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 by approximately \$1.2 million. The City's policy with respect to accounting for intergovernmental revenue is to recognize intergovernmental revenue in the period it is susceptible to accrual (when it is both measurable and available to finance the expenditures of the fiscal period). Intergovernmental revenue is considered available if it is expected to be collected within 120 days of fiscal year-end and all eligibility requirements are met. Not all revenue earned by the City as of June 30, 2009 was received as of October 31, 2009 to comply with the City's policy. As a result, the City would have recognized deferred revenue at the fund level of \$1.2 million.

Recommendations: We recommend the City comply with its revenue recognition policies to ensure intergovernmental revenue is recognized in the proper period consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Comments and Suggestions

In addition to the above internal control matters, the following are comments and suggestions with respect to matters that came to our attention in connection with our audit of the basic financial statements of the City for the year ended June 30, 2009. These items are offered as constructive suggestions to be considered as part of the ongoing process of modifying and improving the City's practices and procedures:

Deficits in Internal Service Funds

Condition: The City has the following four internal service funds with fund deficits as of June 30, 2009:

- (1) Liability Insurance Fund with a fund deficit of approximately \$10,070,000;
- (2) Compensation Insurance Fund with a fund deficit of approximately \$9,419,000;
- (3) Employee Benefits Fund with a fund deficit of approximately \$7,958,000 and
- (4) Retiree Health Savings Plan Benefits Fund with a fund deficit of approximately \$7,342,000. [A total of \$34, 789,000]

By definition, an internal service fund is operated on a cost-reimbursement basis. For an internal service fund to operate on a cost-reimbursement basis, its charges to other funds should result in revenues and expenses that are approximately equal overtime, even though it may periodically report annual increases or decreases in net assets. Because the intent of internal service funds is to facilitate cost allocation, the accumulation of net asset surpluses or deficits over time generally indicates that service is no longer being made on a cost-reimbursement basis.

Recommendation: We recommend the City reassess the cost allocation methodology of these four respective internal service funds so that the user funds or departments are charged the appropriate amount that covers the cost of providing the respective services.

Debt Covenants

Condition: The City has various bond indentures that contain various restrictive and financial covenants. Failure to comply with the restrictive covenants or failure to meet the financial covenants could result in the debt becoming due and payable. We found no formal monitoring of these covenants was being performed during the year.

Recommendation: We recommend a checklist be developed containing all restrictive covenants. Restrictive covenants should be reviewed periodically for compliance and this review should be documented on the checklist. We also recommend formal calculations of any required financial covenants, such as debt service coverage, be completed monthly and reviewed by management.

Capital Asset Impairment Policy

Condition: The City does not have a formal policy in place to determine capital asset impairment. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 42, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Impairment of Capital Assets and for Insurance Recoveries*, establishes accounting and financial reporting standards for impairment of capital assets. The City's capital assets include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets. A

capital asset is considered impaired if both the decline in service utility of the capital asset is large in magnitude and the event or change in circumstance is outside the normal life cycle of the capital asset. Governments are required to evaluate prominent events or changes in circumstances affecting capital assets to determine whether impairment of a capital asset has occurred. Common indicators of impairment include evidence of physical damage where restoration efforts are needed to restore service utility, enactment or approval of laws or regulations setting standards that the capital asset would not be able to meet, technological development or evidence of obsolescence, a change in the manner or expected duration of use of a capital asset or construction stoppage. This Statement also requires governments to report the effects of capital asset impairment in their financial statements when they occur, rather than as a part of the ongoing depreciation expense for the capital asset or upon disposal of the capital asset and to account for insurance recoveries in the same manner.

Recommendation: The City should establish formal written procedures for the process of identifying, capturing and recording the required capital asset impairment information. These procedures should (a) document how potential impairments will be identified by individual departments with custodial responsibility for capital assets, (b) establish methods for testing for impairment, (c) assign responsibility for performing the impairment testing and (d) establish a timeline and process for communicating the capital asset impairment information to the Finance Department for recording in the City's financial records.

[Underlining added for clarity]

[ED - Using public records Vanguardians pointed out a number of these deficiencies in the past after reviewing payables and other documents that Council attack dogs are claiming we cost the City a lot of money. How much will it cost the City when they fail to monitor debt and the bonds become due and payable immediately?

Further, overstating revenue and understating payables makes the balance sheet look better.]

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 1 DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SEC. 2. (a) Every person may freely speak, write and publish his or her sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of this right. A law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press.

(b) A publisher, editor, reporter, or other person connected with or employed upon a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical publication, or by a press association or wire service, or any person who has been so connected or employed, shall not be adjudged in contempt by a judicial, legislative, or administrative body, or any other body having the power to issue subpoenas, for refusing to disclose the source of any information procured while so connected or employed for publication in a newspaper, magazine or other periodical publication, or for refusing to disclose any unpublished information obtained or prepared in gathering, receiving or processing of information for communication to the public.

As used in this subdivision, "unpublished information" includes information not disseminated to the public by the person from whom disclosure is sought, whether or not related information has been disseminated and includes, but is not limited to, all notes, outtakes, photographs, tapes or other data of whatever sort not itself disseminated to the public through a medium of communication, whether or not published information based upon or related to such material has been disseminated. [ED Paragraph on radio and television was deleted]

[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

Monday, February 15 All City Offices and Library Branches
Closed – President’s Day Federal Holiday

Tuesday, February 16
2:30 pm CH 548-2060; Redevelopment Agency -- 548-2005; **Joint Meeting** Environmental Impact Report for the Columbus Elementary School Soccer Field Joint Use Project –548-4844
6:00 pm City Council -- 548-4844

Wednesday, February 17
Zoning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Thursday, February 18
Arts & Culture Commission – 2:00 pm, CH 548-2000
Design Review Board #1 – MSB 548-2140

- At the **Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's** we discussed the future of Glendale. 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

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.



This week a new position for Building and Safety was posted, internal promotion only. Looks like Jan Edwards will finally get appointed to the position that she's been acting in for the past 4 years. If not it's a significant blow to female managers in this Glendale!!

Discussions regarding transit cuts are going forward for presentation to Council.

We really like Council member Drayman because he cuts through the red-tape and goes directly to staff, avoiding public and management scrutiny, to get things done, like the LaRue pilasters.

Should Mayor Quintero be hearing planning and zoning issues when he 'forgot' to get permits for the changes he made on his house since 2001, such as the wood removal and stucco treatment along with a whole new front door and entry way? He did get a permit for the reroofing.

Should CCM Friedman disclose the \$5,000 she got from a cab company licensee that 'should' show up in July on her 460?

Should Rodney Khan disclose his relationship with a member of the Planning Commission staff?

Why is former Chief of Police Randy Adams conducting a witch hunt in the City of Bell to find out who is leaking info to Vanguard?

What RE brokerage gave Friedman \$800 and brags about his influence with the City Council, something he was unable to do when there were three Armenians on the Council?

It's fun watching Vanguardians make all of the connections between applicants, commissioners, council members and staff. (One great big dysfunctional family.) But the fact that disclosures of relationships between "friends" is so murky, it's not unusual for "friends" to determine between themselves that there is nothing inappropriate about the extent of their relationship until it is outted because once something is declared, you can't take it back! After all, the best thing about friends looking at your projects is that they often have the same outlook about it as you do, which makes it all go smoothly.

We have to look no further than any Council meeting or Commission hearing to see an example of this. Got to love business as usual in Glendale!! That is why if something is important to you, you need to get involved, like Vanguardians, and speak up!!

From the NewsPress, the City goes 20% over budget on the seismic retro-fit of the MSB building and the City's audit folks determine the City did pretty good? Can't wait to see how much is wasted on the next project Zurn touches. Don't forget the great job he did on the Police Building, now let's get ready for the old police building money pit.

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.

During the Drayman recusal reversal in the matter of LaRue vs CoG, it seemed as if Mayor Drayman was trying out for a new acting career as a technological Perry Mason with the video clips that were taken out of context and not complete. It was obvious that he was working with a script prepared by his running mate, in the next election, Mr. Weaver. Attorney Najarian was adept at his questioning of Mr. Howard although Howard kept referring to other jurisdictions in the handling of appeals from zoning and/or planning. Bottom line is that the GHCC rules the roost and will make sure that the TROIKA will pander to them, to wit the fact that Mr. Hofmann, their new president, was not favored by Drayman when it came time to consider his appointment to the Arts & Culture Commission.

Those who sit in judgment of you: CCM Quintero, failure to obtain building permits for his front door and sidewall treatment; CCM Drayman, violation of zoning codes by using his store for storage after he closed his business; CCM Weaver, \$9000 penalty by the FPPC for violations of the Political Reform Act; CCM Friedman, failure to report her interest in her husband's business.

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

7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The bankrupt city of Vallejo cut health care payments for retired employees, but an initial recovery plan does not touch pensions. In groundbreaking actions in the Vallejo case, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael McManus in Sacramento ruled last March that city labor contracts can be overturned in bankruptcy, and then in September dissolved a contract after mediation failed.

Retirement costs are by far Vallejo's biggest debt. The top two creditors listed by the city in its bankruptcy filing were retiree health, \$135 million, and the California Public Employees Retirement Association, \$84 million. The bankruptcy filing seemed to acknowledge that the city council had let labor costs get out of control.

Vallejo employees have some of the most generous retirement formulas. Police and firefighters have "3 at 50," three percent of final pay for each year served when retiring at age 50, capped at 90 percent of final pay.

The city's workout plan said the CalPERS chief actuary, Ron Seeling, has been quoted as saying that the "3 at 50" formula is "unsustainable." The city plan would avoid pushing debt into the future, reducing annual payments in the long run.

Like many California governments, Vallejo has set aside no money to pay for future health care promised retirees. "The city's commitment had been to pay virtually the entire health insurance bill for its retirees and their families for the rest of their lives," said the workout plan.

The plan proposes to reduce retiree health payments to a flat \$300 a month. The big cut would be expected to shrink the \$135 million debt or unfunded liability for future retiree health care to \$34 million. [Read more here...](#)

Larry Seabrook, a Bronx, N.Y. city councilman, has allegedly funneled \$2.5 million to himself, family and friends. The 58-year-old's most shameless scheme included altering a \$7 receipt for a bagel sandwich and a diet drink to make it appear he paid \$177 for a lunch that was delivered to City Hall. Seabrook then took that receipt for expense reimbursement. [Read more here](#)

The Kern County grand jury condemned a City Manager and a City Council on Tuesday, issuing a report on Tuesday that called Taft's city government out as fractured, uneducated and incapable. According to the [Bakersfield Californian](#), the report finds that the City Manager ignored state law and Taft ordinances to dole out large raises to his top management staff without a vote of the Taft City Council, which is required by law. The report stated that the City Council failed to hold him [accountable...](#)

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**