



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol III
Week of February 17, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org

City Adds 104 to \$100K Club

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

When WE are complacent THEY win!

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

BREAKING NEWS

City Attorney chooses not to respond to questions about whether his office will provide counsel or representation to Council member Weaver who has issues before the DA, the FPPC and soon, the IRS.

[The Glendale California 100K Club](#) See who makes how much in Glendale

FOLLOW UP

Illness cluster at Verdugo and Broadview: Vanguardians has started to saturate the area with informational flyers to determine if a health hazard exists. Once the data has been gathered it will be analyzed by well-established protocols. Vanguardians reported that the soils report filed with the Fire Department was blatantly in error. The cover page of the report indicated an address of a gas station at 3600 N. Verdugo while the analysis was at a dairy located at 1400 N Verdugo. A top City Official wrote, "The soils report was at best negligence at worst fraud. Thanks for pointing it out." While another City official wrote, "... the soils reports we produced on February 4, ... were produced by the Fire Department in response to your public records request." We await the next development. Mayor Najarian demanded an accounting of this situation. [Other stories in the Insider and City Council]

HEADLINE STORY

The year ending December 31, 2007 saw a total of 523 city employees being paid at least \$100K Top honors go the Fire Department Battalion Chief Robert Doyle for \$250,830, \$8,000 more than City Manager Jim Starbird. (See #7 Jump for the top 10) This year the GFD had 181 people on the list while the GPD with more employees had only 137. The list will be available soon on our website. If you want a copy sooner, just email your request. Only 30 in the club are female, with the highest percentage being in the City Attorney's office and the GPD. Total payroll for the \$100K club was \$68,859,000. This amount does not include pensions or benefits nor does it include the many consultants on contract.

This just in...

Thanks are due to Dr. Richard Espiritu for his efforts to extend the ADA comment period another 60 days. If you are disabled or know someone who is, please contact Dr. Espiritu for information about the 60 day comment period. <mailto:rrespiritu@att.net>. Many in the disabled community had no idea that there was an outreach program to get their comments about the ADA study.

The \$11,000,000 cost of the Gladys lawsuits will devastate the reserves and the Capital Improvement funds. City may have to give up some overtime, for instance by putting three firemen on an apparatus -- ala Bruce Philpott's New Model -- instead of four, which would result in almost zero overtime.

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

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

City Council

Time for a reality check. Not only does Management request a payroll or benefits increase but they tend to hire more and more consultants to get the work done or at least add additional expenses. Seems as if the only person to question these activities is CM Bob Yousefian, for instance about paying 4 consultants \$1,600,000.

Mayor Najarian requested that the City prepare a report on the missing soils report. Due to the seriousness of the issue, he should have directed the 'embarrassed' City Manager [ED See #6 the Insider] to phone the people on Broadview to help assuage their fears and let them know that the City messed up and will bring about the change needed to see this doesn't happen again. [ED – Guaranteed this won't happen.]

Busy Blackberrys. They were really humming, Tuesday night. Between managers to give guidance as to how to respond or not respond. Even directions about civility. The buzz we hear on GTV6 also allows people to listen in to conversations and data on harmonic frequencies. The age of technology and counter tech is with us.

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	2-12-08	Overall	Contact info
Drayman	C	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian	A	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero	B	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver	absent	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian	A	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;

CM Yousefian provided good input to the Mayor on his experience in Washington looking for earmarks and he spoke up on the lack of ADA input. Mayor Najarian took up the hue and cry of the confusion in City documents in placing the soil report documents in with the wrong documents.

City Council was asked by Management to approve salary increases up to almost 4% for many of 61 employees represented by the GMA. The staff report indicated there was a comparison with the usual 12 cities rather than private sector. As we all know municipal employees are at the top of the food chain. Time for the Council to ask how much will this cost in payroll and benefits, is it necessary when we should be cutting back, what are the 12 cities, what if we said, 'no'? The solution is for the Council to tell management that pay raises should be doled out based on merit rather than keeping up with the other cities. The City has shown no regard for the recession and downturn in revenue. The City Treasurer said that as interest has dropped 1 point there will be less revenue provided. How many times can we raise utility rates?

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

Fire Department

Dr. Espiritu asked about having a defibrillator in the City Council Chambers. There were no answers from Deputy Chief Scoggins nor Firefighter Marchant who were in Chambers when this issue came before the Council. They did not respond to what is necessary to place one in the Chamber. Twenty five police cars are equipped with them and, according to public records, police cars arrive at a medical emergency scene in 2 minutes and fire from 4 to 10 minutes.

Firefighters are paid more than police. In fact the 3 Battalion Chiefs' drivers are paid up to \$160,000 and they get to sleep 1/3 of their shift!

Fire Department has not responded publicly to Mr. Philpott on the issues that he brought to the public notice. Chances are they won't reply. Momentum is growing for a major change in the way GFD services are provided. The latest issue is the way they handle reports on soil that may be contaminated. It appears that while they pretend to be our friends, they are only picking our pockets.

The GFD can't keep its statistics accurately. For instance in the FY 06/07 the per month average for structure fires was 12 yet in the Glendale incidents report for November 07 they show that number as 1.6 structure fires as an average per month.

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

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



Women, hone your leadership skills in a Leadership Circle. www.5050leadership.org/Programs.htm

5050Leadership is a non-profit organization 501(c)3

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians*, Advocating for Accountability– Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city’s departments, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

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1 Commentary

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

Unfortunately it looks like the City isn’t paying its employees enough to get accountability. Especially our knights in shining armor, our Fire Fighters whom we speak of in reverence. When we review the \$100K Club the top pay of \$250,000 goes to an Operations Shift Battalion Chief, a person that is equivalent to a police lieutenant. The GFD has not been accountable or accepted fiscal accountability. Their programs are self serving; they take credit for that which our legislature has legislated. They now have a legacy of failing to respond to constructive criticism; failure to protect the public by at least reviewing soils reports and now we see corresponding errors in the Cert program. There is no control over rampant overtime; they didn’t review their budget and would have received \$486,000 for one employee. They have demanded \$41,000,000 worth of new fire stations because they said their sleeping accommodations were insufficient. Most recently the ADA survey shows that the fire stations need an average of \$200,000 to bring them to ADA standards yet these are not facilities in use by the public with the exception of a meeting room in station 21. The Council should correct this situation quickly and affirmatively. The life and well being of the Community is at stake.

Next up is Route 13 of the Beeline. The Transportation Department was to provide the Council with ridership and other cost information in January. Our understanding is that the operator has not provided that information to the City nor has it indicated revenue. Where is the oversight? Must we file continuous public records requests to get this information only to be publicly chastised by the City Management and in the GNP for doing what Management should be doing?

Once again we must call on the Council to demand accountability, to demand facts, to demand honesty not placation from the employees. Let’s be accountable when we gift tax dollars for mediocrity. Let’s be diligent and question management when they hire consultants to do the work of the City employees

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED

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

2 Potpourri

Email
ED –
published
express



Letters &

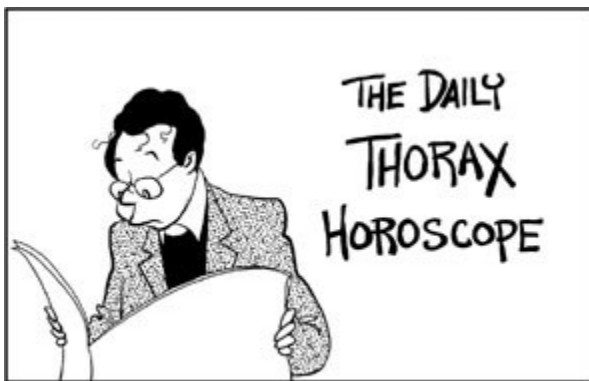
Letters do not necessarily the opinion of Vanguardians,

this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren’t signed and/or are hate oriented.

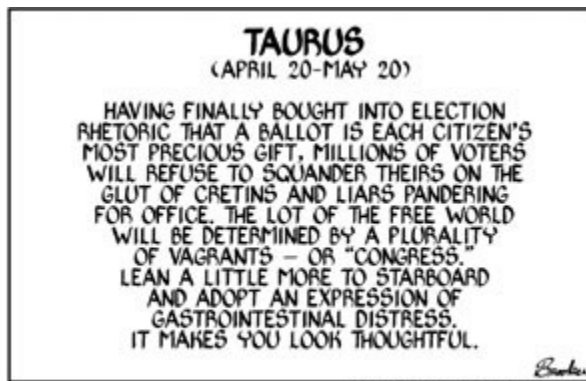
Another good edition. I sure hope that Mr. Philpot has some genuine influence on the FD problem -- it's really bad all over SoCal. I found the Mary Peters quotation fascinating. Within the past few days, I saw a captioned photograph, I think in *USA Today*, with a notation that Mary Peters is a regular Harley Davidson rider. JS

Does the News Press read Vanguard? [ED - As a courtesy it is sent to them] I have a hard time distinguishing between fact, opinion and fiction on their Letters page. How can I tell which is which? GK [ED – You may want to call them and ask or suggest they indicate whether the facts have or have not been verified.]

Barry, here is my thought about the ballot application issue. I know that you like to use cartoons and comics. JB



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9 Chickweed Lane

I am sorry I was not able to watch the meeting last night for various reasons but would greatly appreciate your analysis of the results to the controversy of CM Yousefian's offer to pay for the 6 banners that recognize the fallen soldiers.

I recall the Council not wanting to recognize those soldiers until CM Yousefian insisted that he would pay for those banners. He asked that they make a determination of the number and the cost. I believe he should be given credit for them being included in this good program as compared to the others who simply donated to the program in general. GFD Chief Biggs offered to pay half of the cost for these banners but did not intend to be named specifically to these banners, simply part of the program. I am anxious to know if he indeed paid the \$2300 I was told would be the amount to cover the actual cost of these 6 banners. My neighbor and I did look for and found some banners on Sunday night near City Hall on Glendale Ave. They look great! I am proud of those service personnel and believe the Council did the right thing in supporting this citizen group's plan to demonstrate our support. It is now up to the community to make individual donations to complete the payments and continue the maintenance of these banners and new ones. I hope you will find space in your news letter for this information on a weekly basis. Name, address and phone number for the place to send money. **CA**

It was nice to meet you at the Constitution seminar this past Monday evening. My wife and I enjoyed the discussion, and it was good to know that we have an advocate such as Vanguardians watching out for our best interests here in Glendale. **PK**

I watched Mr. Montrose [ED CM Drayman] on GTV6. He is an activist for Montrose. He chastised you and Dr. Espiritu for making the wrong comments on the ADA plan (I am disabled) and wasting 25 minutes of his valuable time. Yet one of the points you brought up was the lack of outreach to the Armenian community (I am an Armenian American). Councilmember Yousefian picked up on that and carried on your questions. Thank him for that. Is Mr. Montrose afraid that the money for ADA will

take away from his trolleys and buying property with City money? How much time did he spend, 1 hour or 2? CY [ED - The report from the consultant did not include the three hospitals, the DMV that issues Disabled Parking Permits, the Fire Department that is required to know where all the disabled live nor the census bureau. It is also our understanding Dr. Espiritu provided the contact information that was used.]

Why was there an extra police officer on Tuesday? Was there a fear that Glendale might become another Missouri where the Council was attacked? Was that why Mr. Weaver left after the afternoon session? Will the Council require a metals detector or a strip search to enter the Chambers? **SA**

The vote by mail issue is causing such upset. There are several issues, the first being that there has been no proof of lawbreaking; second, why not make the absentee ballot application a request for a permanent one? The issue that the Armenian community uses this 'tactic' for winning elections reminds me that no Armenians were elected in 2007. If voters believe this use of that tactic is so effective, they should require others to do the same things. As Cecil Shakespeare would say, 'Much ado about nothing.' **GC**

Wow the comparison between fire captains and police sergeants was interesting Barry. How does the city justify these differences in salary and compensation issues between their own fire and police departments? Have they been asked? The police are required to have college and the fire employees seem to just have to be breathing.

I am really curious why the city saw fit to extend those overly generous extra pay percentages (I think someone said 13 percent!) to their fire battalion and deputy chief people for working a 40 hour week. Aren't they supposed to work a 40 hour week when they're administrators? How is that worthy of extra pay? Does the police department also get this same bonus for working the same hours the rest of the world works? And how on earth can executive level managers be given overtime? Waste! Waste! Waste! **MD**

CALLS: We get numerous calls – here are some of the questions:

1. Who do I contact as I think my Home Owners Association Board is squandering our money?

2. I have information about Councilman Weaver and his free use of a limo for his daughters wedding and some other questionable things. Do you know who I should call?
3. I need help because I believe a local attorney was unethical.
4. Can you help prepare a presentation to a City Board or Commission?
5. I would like to have the schools teach children about disability to raise awareness and sensitivity. How can we get more disabled people to vote?
6. Explain how a public records request works? What kind of information is available?
7. Who can you suggest to clean my house?
8. We are having a large party, about 300 guests. What banquet hall do you recommend?

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

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

Monday, February 18

City Offices Closed – Federal Holiday - President’s Day

Tuesday, February 19

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

Wednesday, February 21

9:30 am Zoning Administrator's Hearing --, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, 548-2140
5:00 pm, Planning Commission –Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
7:00 pm, Community Meeting – Artists and Creative Professionals –Police Community Room, 131 N. Isabel St., 548-2780

Thursday, February 22

5:00 pm, Design Review Board #1 -- Municipal Services Building, Room 105,333 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Articles

Steve Lopez in the LA Times: You'd think that after fining a family \$347,000 last year for trimming some overgrown trees on their property, the city of Glendale could rest on its laurels. But there is no end to the zeal of City Hall bureaucrats, who are as determined as ever to let no good deed go unpunished. ...A City Hall emissary, working for the same Neighborhood Services department that was involved in the infamous tree-trimming fiasco, did not share this enthusiasm. [For waterless gardens]. He cited Anderson and Browder [residents] on Aug. 29 for having too much paving material and too few plants.

The law of unintended consequences, often cited but rarely defined, is that actions of people—and especially of government—always have effects that are unanticipated or "unintended." Economists and other social scientists have heeded its power for centuries; for just as long, politicians and popular opinion have largely ignored it. The concept of unintended consequences is one of the building blocks of economics. Adam Smith's "invisible hand," the most famous metaphor in social science, is an example of a positive unintended consequence. Smith maintained that each individual, seeking only his own gain, "is led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention," that end being the public interest. "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, or the baker, that we expect our dinner," Smith wrote, "but from regard to their own self interest."

3 Open Government

City Attorney refused to provide a petition that was provided to the City Council and to the TPC citing an election code.

1B4

Vanguard

Thank you to the GNP for the article about Vanguardians. Numerous people responded to offer help and some requested assistance on issues they have in Glendale

Wanted: Armenian and Korean Translators— Wanted: Vanguardians needs a light meter and a sound meter, MSVista compatible Adobe 8, a digital camcorder, a color laser printer with duplexer, a portable document scanner and office space.

VANGUARDIANS

Please make checks payable to “**VANGUARDIANS**” Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
If contributing by Credit Card call 818 243 1502
Checks are best -- the bank doesn't discount them
Contributions are tax deductible – Rev. Proc. 92-85, 1992-42 I.R.B. 32 –
You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

Email Vanguard1@charter.net to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support your advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.**

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5 the Insider Look into the Public Works Administrator. It's a position created in the last 6 months for a GMA board member, Mike Wiederkehr. The Civil Service commission was told it is equivalent to his old position in salary, and then as soon as they can, they will raise the salary for this position, but not his old one. [ED and they did raise him from code 844 to 898 which is an increase in base in addition to the increase in pay.]

City Master Jim Starbird may be embarrassed if the GFD didn't review the soils report that Barry Allen brought to the Council, However, the GFD never set up a process for handling those soil reports after having been given the responsibility by the County years ago.

CM Weaver was spotted at Joselito's on Tuesday tippin' a 'few' instead of being at his position between the City Attorney and CM Quintero on the dais.



6 Humor



7 Jump

Doyle, Robert G	Fire Battalion Chief Shift A	250,830.39
Starbird, James E	City Manager	242,642.00
Adams, Randy G	Police Chief	223,781.50
Galindo, Pedro G	Firefighter RA 29	220,063.71
Howard, Scott H	City Attorney	214,959.50
Wright, Donald C	Fire Battalion Chief HR	214,131.19
Creasey, Corey R	Fire Battalion Chief Shift B	211,927.37
Clark, James L	Fire Captain E22 B	208,732.65
Menier, Lance L	Firefighter E24 C	207,787.32
Lorincz, Reggie	Firefighter E24 A	207,328.16

BC Doyle was the 9th highest in 2006 at 193,099. He made \$57,000 more in one year. As a BC he should be an exempt employee. Not in Glendale, however.