



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Information for the Thinking Person

Vanguard
News Service Vol V
Week of February 21, 2010
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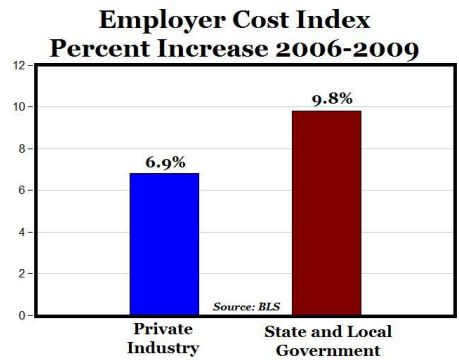
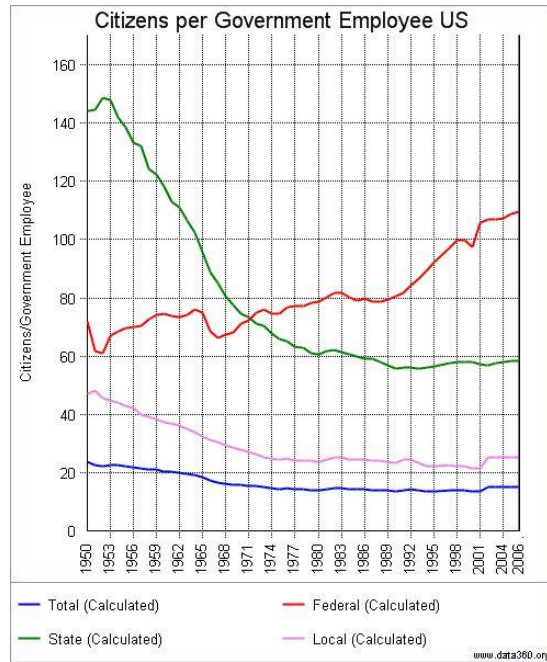
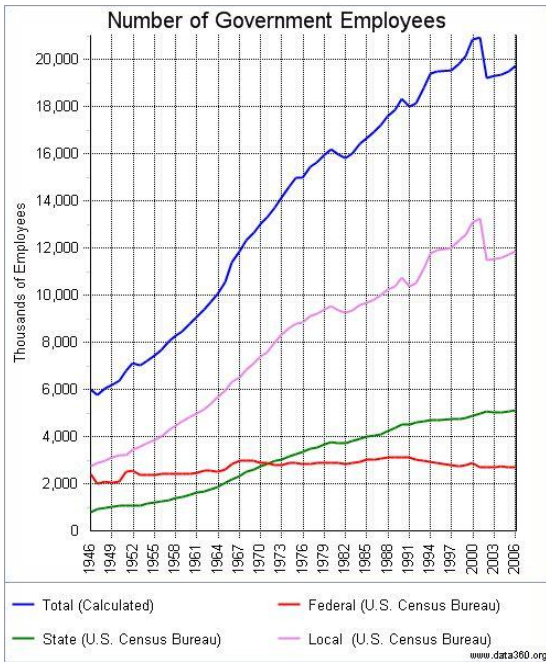
SPECIAL EDITION – BANKRUPTCY IMMINENT UNLESS....

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



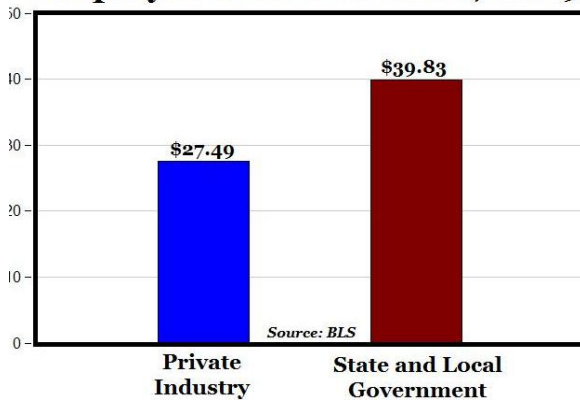
The charts below show what Elected Officials and Government Management have been afraid to recognize. Municipal or local government employment has been growing astronomically while the number of citizens per government worker has shrunk.

In 2006 there were about 20 million government employees with a population of 280 million people (subtracting government workers) or one out of 14 people. – Data from www.data360.org



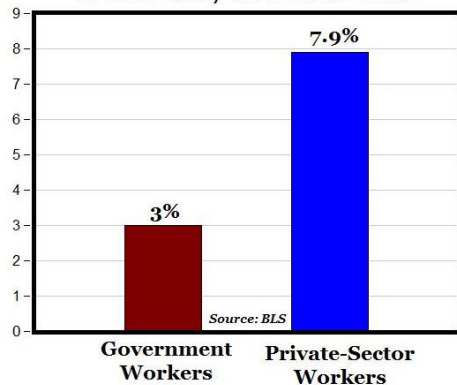
According to a BLS report, compensation for private industry workers has increased by 6.9% between December 2006 and December 2009, compared to a 9.8% increase for government workers (state and local) over the same period.

Employer Costs Per Hour, 2009



According to a December report from the BLS, state and local government employers spent an average of \$39.83 per hour worked (\$26.24 for wages and \$13.60 for benefits) for total employee compensation in September 2009. Total employer compensation costs for private industry workers averaged \$27.49 per hour (\$19.45 for wages and \$8.05 for benefits). In other words, government employees make 45% more on average than private sector employees.

Average Unemployment Rate Government vs. Private Sector Dec. 2007 to Jan. 2010



the rate for government workers over the last several years.

By every labor market measure, the public sector has done quite well and even expanded during the recession compared to the private sector. This has prompted Michael Jahr of the Mackinac Center to wonder whether recent government policies could lead to a long-run hollowing out of the private sector, i.e. could we be in the early stages of the "Detroitification" of the country?

Josh Barro writes for the Manhattan Institute about the "Two Americas" and the "sharp difference between two classes of employees: those who work in the private sector and those who work for the government. Workers in the public sector have experienced a very different recession from those in the private sector."

Third chart shows the average unemployment since December 2007 for government workers (3%) and private-sector workers (7.9%), so the private sector has faced a jobless rate more than twice as high as

THE ARTICLE ABOVE WAS AUTHORED BY PROF. MARK J BERRY OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT. DATA FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

The Two Americas: Public Sector vs. Private Sector

This article was inspired by Michael Jahr's post on the Mackinac Center's website, "Economy Contracts, Government Expands."

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.

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.

Municipally owned utilities like GWP, DWP, PWP and others need to be regulated by the California Public Utility Commission to prevent increases in utility rates without oversight. Increases in municipal rates cause an inflation by publicly owned utilities. Call your Assembly member or State Senator and ask them to write meaningful legislation that will control the local pickpockets that raise rates unfettered.

City prepares to spend \$100,000 on 4 administrative vehicles for the Fire Department and another \$30,000 for a police narcotics car that was hit by a train.

The Salem Street affordable housing project got fast-tracked by the City. Property was assembled and the City is requesting that HUD funding be released and that there is no significant environmental impact. The complainers about the parking reduction didn't show up for the back-to-back hearings.

VANGUARDIANS IS HOSTING A FREE BREAKFAST SEMINAR ON THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT ON FEBRUARY 24, 8-9:30AM, Le Fun Café, 6201 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, California 91401
YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO OBTAIN PUBLIC INFORMATION YOU WANT
THIS INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR WILL BE LED BY LISA ROSENGREN WHO PRACTICES 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 Cable 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 and want a chartered professional to prepare our report.

FRIDAY Advocates BREAKFAST
Join us on February 26th 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... NO CRYSTAL BALL – JUST AWARENESS & COMMON SENSE

While the City Council has been blackening the names and characters of Dr. Richard Espiritu, Herbert Molano, Bruce Philpott and me, they have done so for their own reasons. No one wants to



be aboard a train that has been predicted to run off the rails into the chasm of uncharted waters, especially by their antagonists.

Time and time again we have used the same data available to the Council and they have chosen to listen only to those with a vested interest, their fat paychecks with benefits that would choke a horse and with unsustainable pensions and post retirement healthcare benefits.



No elected official wants to have a bankruptcy on his watch. Recall how people railed against Rafi Manoukian for a business bankruptcy and John Drayman for his personal one. The elected officials are now fearful that their own gravy train will cease to run due to the gravity of the issue. As, in the case of Glendale, they will point to then retired Jim Starbird, drawing well over \$200 thousand dollars a year pension, and blame him, not them.

Starbird is the guy that slams on his brakes for no reason causing a chain reaction car crash, then drives away wondering about those idiots behind him who don't know how to drive.

Once the Bankruptcy Judges are involved they will take the Draconian measures necessary to bring order out of chaos. They are not beholden to the highly vaunted public safety unions that contribute money to certain candidates.

Government employees don't contribute to the GNP (Gross National Product) they drain the mother's milk of the economy from the taxpayers.

Here are some for instances; The majority of the 21million government workers make more than their private sector counterparts; the average private sector pension is about \$30,000 a year (Social Security is \$15,000) while in the public safety employee sector it is over \$100,000 a year. That is for starters.

Yes, we have been doing our best to educate the public even though there are people that choose to block the information and educational element of Vanguardians.

The solution is not only in Washington or Sacramento, it is here in your own backyard in your own hometown.

BARRY ALLEN

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

NEXT WEEK: SOLUTIONS

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



COMMENTARY: LAUREL MILLER IS ON ASSIGNMENT

COMMENTARY: POISON IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER



One of the pleasures in watching the Glendale city council regularly is in painting the character of these elected officials as it unfolds before your eyes. Any politician can deceive the public on any one issue, especially during the first year in office. But after a while, their true selves are exposed. There are simply too many decisions, and many of them will run counter to some claim they've made during their campaign for election.

If the typical council calendar has fifty sessions in a year, and the typical calendar for the Housing Authority and Redevelopment agency adds another fifty active sessions, we would have somewhere in the neighborhood of one thousand agenda items requiring a decision. How council members deliberate or respond to those questions reveal a lot about the reasons why these councilmen ran for office in the first place. How they articulate the issues reveal how well they've studied them, if they've given an issue much thought, if they understand it, or if there is a financial benefactor whose objective before the council is hurriedly approved.

You would imagine that if the city council faces an expenditure of \$5,000 they would give it limited attention, and if the item on the agenda deals with a thirty million dollar expenditure, that they would give the pending expenditure commensurately higher vetting.

But that doesn't happen. The creation of the council's agenda requires creativity for maximum emotional impact on issues with the least financial impact, and for those big ticket agenda items, the least amount of scrutiny. Does anyone remember the day when the city council approved in 2005 the 25% pension increase they gave city managers? Probably not many people do. But, remember the conditional use permit given a homeowner who wanted to run a construction business from her home? I bet you do.

Do you remember how many people showed up to question the 110 million dollar bond issue to prop up the CIP reserves of the GWP? Does anyone one remember the half-hour grilling on the folks who wanted a five thousand dollar loan for the Fourth of July fireworks at an elementary school in La Crescenta?

That's just the way the city manager and his staff like it. Get residents all worked up about the next mansion in the neighborhood while slipping in the agenda a multi-million dollar contract or benefit while no one is paying attention.

Let's work out that 2% to 2.5% increase in pension benefits that councilmen approved for managers back in 2005. Assuming that Assistant city manager McFall last annual income was \$220,000 and that he has at least

thirty years of service. Under the old rule his retirement pay would have been 60% of his last pay. 2% for 30 years = 60% or \$132,000 dollars of pension benefits for the rest of his life, adjusted for inflation. That's a \$3,960,000 benefit. Under the new rules since 2005, his benefit rises to 2.5% for 30 years or 75% of his last annual pay. \$220,000 X 75% = \$165,000 annual pension.

If Mr. McFall lives another thirty years, he'll receive \$33,000 dollars more per year or \$990,000 dollars more in total pension benefits.

So in 2005, Mr. McFall and each of top managers including the chief of police, and the fire chief, got themselves nearly a one million dollar bonus courtesy of Mr. Frank Quintero, Mr. David Weaver and the other colleagues who were serving with them on the dais.

The question is whether they approved that arrangement because the city manager hoodwinked them into it? (As only a half a percent increase) or was it a deliberate gift for some truly wonderful work in helping the councilmen's favorite developer get the deal they were seeking?

Throughout the 1990's the city's expenditures on pensions was between five million and six million per year. But, by 2008 the expected pension obligation by the city to CalPERS was \$21,903,947

So what was it? Was it utter and unmitigated ignorance? Was it utter disregard – the devil may care – attitude toward the city's finances? Or was utter and unconscionable corruption as payment in kind for getting the councilman's favorite contracts approved?

It is no accident that the pension benefit increases far outstrip the financial shortfall of the city. But, having watched the city councilmen for years, I can just imagine their response. "Look at Los Angeles, they did it too and they are doing far worse than we are." And so the kettle waxes proudly at how much blacker the pot is.

In the mean time, the city manager will get his bonus for excellence performance and the city unions will continue to contribute campaign funds to their favorite councilmen under the umbrella of an organization titled – XXX for Better Government. Just replace the X's for your favorite employee organization or your favorite poison.

(http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35448576/ns/us_news-life) **HERBERT MOLANO**



COMMENTARY II: TIME FOR A TEA-PARTY TO DISH OUT FISCAL PRUDENCE

So the city budget will be experiencing a greater shortfall next year. (GNP Feb 17, 2010) Must be news to the city council and city management who apparently can't put tough controls on questionable spending. Who believes that they've been cutting staff or tightening their belts?

Let's make it clear to the public; staff positions are not the same as employees. On the budget the city has continually created a budget buffer by including more positions than actual hires. Did the city cut police officers? We know they declared that they've cut positions, but how many sworn employees are now in law enforcement compared to last year and the year before? How many more employees compared to 2004? The GNP needs to ask relevant questions instead of just feeding the public whatever the city management may send in a press release or in via talking points by the chief of finance.

As I watch the city's expenditures every week on the council's agenda, I still see lots of money funneled to consultants for work that no reasonable person would consider essential in harsh economic times. Let's improve Glendale's image, is one. Let's beautify the way-finding signs, is another. Let's survey GWP customers feel about smart meters and electric vehicles, goes another. I still see the change-order maidens bringing in project cost overruns (Adult Recreation Center) ready for the immediate stamp of approval by the city council.

We need to elect council members who truly understand a city budget and have the fortitude to control runaway salaries and pensions and who will put a stop to project cost overruns. The abuse is so ingrained, that I'd be happy with a council candidate who'd promote televised negotiations with the city unions. Let's see who is really running this show.

What we need are our own Glendale tea-party activists to put the fire of fiscal prudence underneath each council member's seat. **HERBERT MOLANO**

COMMENTARY: CALIFORNIA'S STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

AGONIZING ROAD TO FINANCIAL DISASTER



The public is beginning to understand the language of this financial disaster. Respected state and national experts in the fields of economics, finance and research are speaking in place of local fiscal accountability advocates who began warning local councils two years ago. The public can now read statements like those of the chief actuary of CalPERS that the financial institution designed to fund public employees' retirements does not have sufficient resources to sustain its present obligations and won't for decades to come. Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer, concludes that no one has a solution to restore solvency. Published articles by national and international experts in government finance

are now predicting major upheavals and tax revolts.

Articles quoting mayors, school superintendents and city managers warning of impending bankruptcies have become common place. Even now, some cities have completely eliminated their library systems, closed parks and removed basic social service safety net programs for seniors and the poor.

The financial crisis facing the state and local governments throughout California are of a magnitude not witnessed in a life-time. No current or retired public executive can recall anything that compares to this. There is only one way to identify the cause and that is to look at the financial books over the past several decades. Like any business or even family budget, the investigator has to examine the expense and income figures.

The primary cause of this debacle: the benefits given to public employees have grown beyond the revenue capacity to maintain them. This has created consistently huge deficits in annual budgets. To off-set the annual imbalances, starting in 2002, cities began borrowing heavily. They place the borrowed money on the revenue side of the ledger, thus creating an artificial appearance of stability.

Cities have been borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars in long term bonds and they are now reaching their debt limits. The annual premiums are taking millions away from traditional services and programs. With credit drying up rapidly, California cities are being forced to live within their means. Cities have become accustomed to living on borrowed money for most the past decade. Although the media focus has been on the insolvency of state government, the public is just beginning to understand that local governments will suffer the greatest decline in services and programs. To put it in perspective, California governments have a combined budget of \$516 billion, of which the state government consumes only \$138 billion.

Willie Brown, in a guest column in the San Francisco Chronicle (1-20-10), said, "The deal used to be that civil servants were paid less than private workers in exchange for an understanding that they had job security for life. But we politicians --- pushed by our friends in labor --- gradually expanded pay and benefits . . . while keeping the job protections and layering incredibly generous retirement packages . . . This is politically unpopular and potentially even career suicide . . . but at some point, someone is going to have to get honest about the fact". He also said that for decades, powerful public unions like police and fire have, in essence, had representation on both sides of the bargaining table.

With public safety salaries in California now at \$100,000 and the full cost burden hovering around \$200,000, one can begin to get a sense of the mounting costs facing taxpayers, especially when these positions number in the tens of thousands. One city in the bay area advertises its starting pay at \$123,000.

Cities are in uncharted territory without a compass. Lacking any clear plan or understanding of the true severity of the problem, cities do what they have always done during short downturns: cut payroll for vacant positions, restrict new hires to public safety only, eliminate bonuses and raise taxes and fees. There are no long term strategies to deal realistically with the magnitude of this problem.

The residents and taxpayers of California are facing the greatest financial challenges in more than half a century. I believe a powerful wave of voter discontent and anger will sweep across the political landscape, remove the old guard, and replace them with reformers promising a return to the good old days. **BRUCE PHILPOTT**

871 Glendale foreclosures as of 2/19/10

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.



Great reporting and especially this week I appreciate your investigating expertise - wow!

In general, seems the Vanguard covered so much more information in this issue -- hey, I liked this issue! At the very least it brought an interest to the reader to question much that is done in this city in so many areas.

Information re: auditor report; exposure about the Commission appointments and the City Clerk's job in finding suitable candidates and how that sometimes seems a little lacking in outreach -- because there were 'no candidates' forthcoming well, that was taken care of very nicely, thank you very much, by those who just happen to have a sister, mother, brother, aunt, uncle, business partner, etc. ad nauseum; 'Insider; particularly interesting re: City Manager from other community (I really thought hard about Starbird's position); Molano's commentary; a reminder to me of how the lack of fiscal understanding by the council, opens the door to poor decision making and, of course, more control by the City Manager -- this was extremely good as a reminder to everyone when voting.

Seems all who run for council will forever be relying on the City Manager and the manager knows this -- cause council really doesn't know didilly squat (of course this is a generalization) about how to run the city -- I wonder if they even care about the financial situation of the city -- they seem to want to 'just get by'. All is power, power to use connections in business to promote themselves -- well it sure seems this way. The mind is a terrible thing to waste and the ego is a terrible thing to promote.

The council is supposed to be an election of citizens, then the elected ones rely on city manager and staff - that doesn't seem to work when there is an entrenched city manager who has control and a fearful city attorney who will state the law but is under the gun for his job. So the city manager runs the city, period.

I remember Burbank's city manager, Bud Ovrum, -- seemed to have done an excellent job -- then moved on to LA Redevelopment top job

Now, in Burbank, they have a person who started out as an employee of the Parks and Rec -- moved up to director of that dept. and then became assist city manager, now she is City Manager with all of this over the course of about 30 years. As far as I have heard, Burbank is doing much better than Glendale -- financially.

Anyway, for me, this Vanguard touched on so many important subjects -- guess it hit a nerve.

Note: I agreed with Najarian on the Gate issue. If one looks at the picture of her wall and gate, the gate is most appropriate. Too much control of people is not what I want to see. Esthetics and the laws regarding this are a matter of opinion and laws based on a few people who inspire these laws mean that so few control the many. I would like to see more freedom to the people in this area. Who the hell cares, except a few complainers, about what size gate -- looked good to me. . . . Yes, I know there are laws. Marlene Walker

Please do not send me any more Vangardian [sic] info. I have not been reading the info and I usually end up deleting the message. Hank Scheetz [ED Scheetz is a member of the Glendale Planning Commission appointed by Quintero]

Good job!!! Who's the attorney who will be appearing for the talk on the Public Records Act? SS [ED – We have to keep the suspense going but this attorney worked on a lawsuit against the City where the Court awarded almost \$20,000 for the City's failure to honor this State law now embraced in the California Constitution. People are signing up quickly for this seminar including a free breakfast.]

I have the deepest admiration for your work. Martin D. Jones

Thanks for the info. [ED – The advance article on Two Americas] Very good reading. You should incorporate some of the material in Vanguardian. Interesting to note that in the blogging that followed the charts, someone quoted an economist by the name of Gary Shilling: Higher Government Pay Will "Likely Lead to a Tax Revolt". I don't think that is too much of a stretch.

In the LA Times today [ED – Sat Feb 23, 10], LAUSD Supt. Cortines talked about the prospect of the school district having to declare bankruptcy. In two other articles, the mayor and council members are starting to spar and point fingers as to who is to blame for this catastrophe. This is going to be one hell of a show to watch over the next several years. I do predict it is going to get very ugly. I can easily see unions getting very aggressive and conducting destructive job action activities.

It will be kind of weird sitting on the side line knowing the cause and effect of this crisis and watching the public figures, executive management and unions play out their absurdities. ACC

I read the mention of former Police Chief Adams in the Insider column and nearly chuckled at the suggestion there was something sinister about his departure from our fair city. Those of us who had occasion to interact with Chief Adams during his tenure know that he was quite open in his approach to things. His departure was nothing different. He stated at more than one public forum that his leaving for the smaller city of Bell was a matter of timing and opportunity.

For those non believers who are watching for black helicopters hovering around city hall, you can simply look into his salary and benefits at Bell PD. You will see it exceeds what he was earning at the larger Glendale PD. I'm sure even an NFL player offered significantly more money and an enhanced retirement to play at the high school level would jump at the opportunity. DN

[ED - Chief Adams did not disclose his relationship with Rick Caruso that resulted in the infamous letter to voters on the ABC election. He presided over the female police officers suit and is in the middle of the present lawsuit with the Armenian officers. These are not external issues. Our research has shown there was a studied effort in GPD to promote those officers who were part of the GOBC. There were retirements and those retirees were brought back to work as consultants instead of allowing some new blood to get their wings.

The issue with the City of Bell is not Adams' salary but his political posturing that has caused the FBI to get involved. He is unhappy because V is involved. Openness in a public forum has nothing to do with an internal management style.]

Vanguard, thank you for being here for the public even though certain Council members want you to go away. I listened to those two women attempt to ruin yours and Arbid's reputations. They just are plain wrong. Christian helped members of my family on a foreclosure and were it not for Vanguard I wouldn't have had anyone to turn to. I enjoy your editorials and Laurel's and Herbert's commentaries although sometimes his writing is just too long. Look for my continued financial support. MP

The Vanguard newsletters are terrific and a very helpful means of support for me, while dealing with Glendale's corruption. I wish I lived closer and could be at the breakfast events to learn more about the hidden dangers with Glendale's city services, and share information, ask a question, etc. RD

3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

[The truth about Congress](#)...City Manager Starbird makes more than any member of Congress and will retire with a larger pension than any member of Congress

[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 22

Transportation and Parking Comm. – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960

Tuesday, February 23

Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060;
Redevelopment Agency 548-2005;
Joint Meeting –RE: Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the Columbus Elementary School Soccer Field Joint Use Project –548-4844
City Council -- 6:00 pm, 548-4844

Wednesday, February 24

Planning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm CH 548-2110.

Thursday, February 25

Design Review Board #2 -- 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Friday, February 26

Community Development Block Grant Fund Comm.
– 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, CH 548-2060

4 *Vanguardians*

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's we discussed the financial 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.



Molano is correct; the survey that GWP did is not worth the effort and cost. The Smart Meter project should be stopped now. There are utilities all over the country that are not doing this at this time. GWP's revenues are badly needed for other things, not including the General Revenue Fund. Glendale's economy is going down; we don't live in a bubble. We want GWP to quit blowing smoke at its customer and step up to the plate and do what's right.

What happened to the re-paving on Stocker between Brand and Pacific? It is in a mess and was supposed to be done last year. The contractor has been fired and the City is in another lawsuit and the residents are stuck with a botched job and it is unsafe. It's funny how a re-paving in the Royal area gets a premium job and

the people on apartment row get all the bad work. Stocker and Central is one of the most active intersections in Glendale.

Mohill is right on the target, WE NEED A COUNCIL THAT REPRESENTS THEIR OWN WARDS. He needs to start a campaign.

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.

[ED-Letter] I just drove by the house that has caused so much commotion lately, the house on the corner of Cordova and Stocker where the owner had installed gates for her security.

I saw two people moving items out of the open garage into a car and stopped to speak with them.

Turns out they are the owner's parents. Their daughter is Eva La Rue an actress who is being stalked and the owner of the house.

They told me that their daughter has purchased another house in an unnamed city where she will be able to live with her daughter in a safe and secure neighborhood.

They also said that the root cause of all the problems was a neighbor two doors down on Cordova who has been driving this whole issue.

It is lucky for her that she has the means and resources to be able to go out and purchase another home...but for those who cannot do so, they are doomed to the whims of mean and vindictive neighbors who even though a variance is granted are just mean enough to keep pushing until they get their way. Looks like even if you get a variance, a crazy neighbor with time on his hands can get it taken away from you.

So the City of Glendale sends someone who is concerned about her personal security away, while they debate behind a ballistic protected dais. Very sad and also very telling. ACN

Frankie and Johnny were sweethearts
They had a quarrel one day,
Johnny he vowed that he would leave her
Said he was going away,
He's never coming home, etc._



"This story has no moral/This story has no end/This story only goes to show/That there ain't no good in men."

[Another Call for Transparency in Labor Negotiations](#)

From Vanguard of Davis: The Davis Enterprise argued in an Editorial yesterday that the city's labor negotiations should be conducted in public. They used the conflict that emerged last month on the dais that started over a dispute between two members of the council as to what happened behind closed doors as an impetus to once again argue for public negotiations. It is an interesting idea that was broached by the Enterprise last spring before the commencement of bargaining. However, the city cited confidentiality laws among other reasons for not conducting negotiations in public. [ED – This is something that Vanguardians had suggested for all cities]

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

[CAR SEIZURES AT DUI CHECKPOINTS PROVE PROFITABLE FOR CITIES, RAISE LEGAL QUESTIONS](#)

[City of Indio wants a citizen's oversight committee](#)

[La Puente mayor pleads not guilty in perjury case](#)

La Puente Mayor [Louie Lujan](#) pleaded not guilty Thursday to one count of perjury, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said. Lujan, 33, allegedly committed the perjury in connection with an official report he submitted that failed to fully detail all funds received and disbursed from his campaign account, according to a criminal complaint filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Traffic Tickets & Fines (01/06/2010)

Violation	Total Fine Due
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VC 12814.6	214
Failure to obey license provisions.	

VC 14600(A) Failure to notify DMV of address change within 10 days <i>Note:</i> The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.	214
VC 16028(A) Failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility (insurance) <i>Note:</i> This fine may be reduced with proof of insurance on or after the violation date.	796
VC 21453(A) Failure to stop at a red signal.	436
VC 22350 VC 22349 Unsafe Speed, 1 to 15 miles over the limit.	214
VC 22350 VC 22349 Unsafe Speed, 16 to 25 miles over the limit.	328
VC 22450 Failure to stop at a stop sign.	214
VC 22454(A) Passing a school bus with flashing red signals .	616
VC 23123(A) Drive using wireless phone not hands free, First offense	148
VC 23123(A) Drive using wireless phone not hands free, For each subsequent offense.	256
VC 23123.5(A) Drive while wireless device to send, read or write text.	148
VC 23124(B) Minor drive using wireless phone.	148
VC 22500(I) Parking in a bus loading area.	976
VC 22507.8(A through C) Violation of disabled parking provisions, first offense.	976
VC 22507.8(A through C)	1876

Violation of disabled parking provisions, second offense.	
VC 26708(A) Unlawful material on vehicle windows.	178
VC 27150(A and B) Adequate muffler required	178
VC 27315(D and E) Mandatory use of seat belts.	148
VC 27360(A and B) Mandatory use of child passenger restraints <i>Note:</i> This fine may be reduced by completing a court authorized child seat diversion program.	436
VC 27400 Headsets/Earplugs over both ears.	178
VC 27803 (A through C) Motorcycle safety helmet requirements.	178
VC 34506.3 Commercial Driver - Log book violation	616
VC 4000(A) No evidence of current registration. <i>Note:</i> The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.	256
VC 4159 Notify DMV of change of address within 10 days. <i>Note:</i> The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.	178
VC 5200 Display of license plates. <i>Note:</i> The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.	178
VC 9400 (A through C) Commercial weight fees due <i>Note:</i> The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.	178

[Cities are battling over creating](#) their own traffic codes to make fines easier to pay and keep the money from the State. [An article in the LA Times explains the details.](#) Traffic fines are just one more revenue enhancement method.

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