



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

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Vanguard
Weekly News Vol III
Week of March 9, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org

Flaws in the Ointment

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 of Glendale 100K Club, Calendar Year 2006 and 2007 Comparison](#)

Paying too much? CA Governor has a salary of \$206,000. City Manager Patrick West in Long Beach (pop [462,000](#)) receives \$235,000. Glendale City Manager Starbird gets \$242,000. Marty Jones the Vanguardians Oxnard chair indicates his City Manager gets \$250,000. The greater the responsibility, the least amount of pay.

The Public is Still Waiting

1. For the City Attorney to respond to whether his office will provide legal counseling and/or representation for Council member Weaver as Weaver makes his way across the morass of the Los Angeles County District Attorney (DA), FPPC and the IRS.
2. For justification that the payroll for the \$100K Club increased \$12,000,000 in one year!

ELIE WIESEL

IT MAY WELL BE THAT OUR MEANS ARE FAIRLY LIMITED AND OUR POSSIBILITIES RESTRICTED WHEN IT COMES TO APPLYING PRESSURE ON OUR GOVERNMENT. BUT IS THIS A REASON TO DO NOTHING? DESPAIR IS NOT AN ANSWER. NEITHER IS RESIGNATION. RESIGNATION ONLY LEADS TO INDIFFERENCE, WHICH IS NOT MERELY A SIN BUT A PUNISHMENT

HEADLINE STORY

Flaws in the ointment – Beeline RFP is lacking any mention of the Million Dollar Mobility Study. The Odyssey Fare Boxes don't function properly, which makes accurate revenue collection difficult. Maintenance on the buses is abysmal. A \$1 change card may be good for more than 3 rides, which deprives the City of money. To keep proposers in the dark about the flaws, the City had guards posted at 1242 Los Angeles St. to keep out Dr. Espiritu, the ADA advocate and Barry Allen of the closed transportation proposers meeting. (See The Insider). The highly vaunted and costly Nextbus system (\$360,000) still doesn't work.

NEWS

Mayor Najarian declared his run for re-election to Glendale City Council at a private gathering at Brandview Collection while Bob Yousefian declared on the Larry Zarian Forum.

Glendale PD gets rated by [Calaware](#).

Legal Compliance	Score: 65	Grade: D
Customer Service	Score: 95	Grade: A

[Palmdale](#) – City lays off 11 workers in planning, building, safety and engineering after a 6% decline in revenue affecting those departments due to the housing and financial markets,

[Hawthorne](#) -- Former City Council member pleads guilty to felony conflict of interest charges. He avoided a three year prison term; instead he must pay a fine and cannot ever run for public office. One conflict of interest issue was that he rented a home from the wife of a developer whose project he voted to approve.

[Vallejo](#) -- Due to \$10,000,000 shortfall the City Council weighed bankruptcy against renegotiating the fire fighter contract, closing two fire stations and cutting two engine companies.

Detroit – Mayor uses campaign funds and money from non-profit for questioned practices,

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, bring them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council

The Council will soon have the opportunity to require a change in the Glendale Fire Department culture. They can accept or reject the City Managers selection for Fire Chief. The Insider states that the four candidate for Fire Chief are from the same culture that has been holding the City hostage by their salary demands, excessive overtime, paying exempt employees (supervisors) overtime and their failure to move forward on 12-hour shifts such as the Police Department has been doing successfully. The City Council is encouraged to view the Civil Service Commission meeting of February 27th to see first hand two of the candidates for Fire Chief. City Council in the past 10 years has never said “No” to the City Manager, according to City sources.

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	3-4-08	Overall	Contact info
Drayman	B	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian	C	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero	C	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver	A	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian	B	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;

CM Weaver kept the Hazbeth Lane CUP in play by suggesting the residents come together with Adel Luzuriaga to provide an easement that would give access to the property and satisfy the complaints. A good call by Weaver. Quintero had to be recused as he lives within 500' of the 6.5 Acre site.

Mayor Najarian has placed the Fire Department response to Bruce Philpott's report to the public on the agenda for March 25.

FLORYNCE KENNEDY

YOU'VE GOT TO RATTLE YOUR CAGE DOOR. YOU'VE GOT TO LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'RE IN THERE, AND THAT YOU WANT OUT. MAKE NOISE. CAUSE TROUBLE. YOU MAY NOT WIN RIGHT AWAY, BUT YOU'LL SURE HAVE A LOT MORE FUN.

Fire Department

Deputy Chief Scoggins took the day off to study for the Fire Chief's exam, was the reason given for being unavailable to return the call of a local citizen.

GFD assigned an engineer (he is the one driving the engine or truck) to design new fire stations even though those fire stations have been taken off the table, This engineer cost the City \$200,000 last year plus he was given a City vehicle including fuel, maintenance and insurance. Public records indicate there are no usage reports and there was no written assignment for his activities. [ED – We are asked how and why the GFD can do these things that fly in the face of good management. The answer is, “because they can!” The GFD has had no community oversight and has been able to operate with impunity even after [John Orr.](#)]

Can you explain the picture of the BMW? [ED -The picture showed a for sale civilian car parked in a space reserved for fire department vehicles. The complainant called the Glendale PD and the car remained there with no apparent reaction from the GPD.]

Call: Why don't the deputy fire chiefs drive around in marked red SUVs? They would be more visible to the public who may want help. [ED see above....because they can.]

A letter reprinted from open government web site: Regarding the photo last week in Vanguard showing a Glendale fire engine company that had driven out of the city of Glendale and into a Tujunga shopping market parking lot so the firefighters could purchase food where they wanted to is clear evidence that the Glendale Fire Department is more concerned with their creature comforts than with providing the best services to the public. Former Pasadena Police Chief, Bruce Philpott, has driven this message home to the city council for the past several months citing numerous cases of these kinds of abuses. He has cited many occasions when our emergency first responders were doing things like food shopping out of their districts, jogging in remote parks, leaving their fire district to attend PR functions that only benefits their image, that cause unnecessary delays in medical responses that have time-critical outcomes such as full-arrest heart attacks and strokes. It amazes me that the public has not taken more interest in this because it is their welfare that is at risk. It is my hope that the city council will see through this and make the best policy decision for us citizens who actually live here. JD

GFD salary schedule – See 7 Jump [Click here to see national pay scale.](#)

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.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

WITHOUT DEBATE, WITHOUT CRITICISM, NO ADMINISTRATION AND NO COUNTRY CAN SUCCEED – AND NO REPUBLIC CAN SURVIVE

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.
Commentary is available in Spanish

After the shooting at the City Hall in Kirkwood MO reported in Vanguard several weeks ago, it seems as if all the self anointed security experts have jumped in with their opinions. My qualifications have been decided by the Courts that declared me to be an expert witness in these matters. [It is with those credentials](#) I address this issue as opposed to some editorials that compare Glendale with Burbank. For the sake of security I will not point out the strategic flaws in the design of the Council Chambers that would preclude the use of magnetometers. There are two excellent resources that I have interacted with, the US Secret Service section of visiting dignitaries and EL AL Airline security.

First, let us look at the issue of preventing an 'attack' with pre-emption before it occurs and place that issue within the framework of our Civil Rights. The majority of the public already fears the government and in Glendale with a high number of immigrants coming from tyrannical countries, there is a greater fear of the police. Not too long ago at least two members of our community were visited by the Glendale PD investigating their 'terrorist activities' because they were asking important questions of City Staff and contractors. [Under the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security legislation many of our civil protections were taken away.] I know both of these people and they have been working diligently toward a 'more perfect' Glendale. But the only recent threat that was made towards me was from a fire captain. It was reported to Chief Gray but Gray was unable to show me that this complaint was placed in his subordinates file.

Second, we have seen already how the City Manager has taken it upon himself to reduce the opportunity for dissent by prohibiting media from being displayed in the public sections of City Hall. Our City Manager does not encourage debate and that failure is a reason that assailants have given as a trigger for violent, deadly behavior. Our Mayor makes a tradeoff of cuts in the line of Oral Communications if you agree to talk less. That leads to frustration. Failure to agendaize important community issues leads to additional frustration. Penalizing people by not allowing them to be heard leads to further frustration.

The problems I have seen of physicality have come from the dais not the public. The public comes armed with words and other devices such as signs and placards, cameras and microphones to make their presentations. As you will recall the issue of a code of conduct was directed to the dais not the public.

Other editorial writers would say ban guns, do strip searches, harden the target, keep people out that don't work for the City, hire more police, contract with security firms, and make the Glendale Civic Center an armed camp. I say to them, "let's not chase away the Constitution by inciting the public, and let's rationally plan that which is reasonable and unobtrusive."

There are methods to secure the area without denigrating or abrogating our Civil Rights.

NEXT WEEK – Why there are only 2 Female Managers...a tribute to top City Management

THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE YOU AGREE WITH CAN SPEAK IS TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE YOU DON'T AGREE WITH.
[ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

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](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT International Fieldworks welcomes Glendale's Margaret Shepherd back for "An Evening of Vision Building for Panoramic Success" Tuesday April 8th at the Westside Pavilion and Wednesday April 9th at Glendale YWCA. [Details](#)

2 Potpourri



WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

RESTRICTION OF FREE THOUGHT AND FREE SPEECH IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL SUBVERSIONS. IT IS THE ONE UN-AMERICAN ACT THAT COULD MOST EASILY DEFEAT US.

Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express 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.

Why are there so few women managers in Glendale? I agree with Carole Welling about the lack of female firefighters. What can we do about this? [ED – Monday evening is the Women's Commission. You are encouraged to go there and ask them to put this on the agenda. On Wednesday go to the Civil Service Commission and thank them for taking a strong stand about the fire department's failure to get more women.]

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

You made some sort of allegation regarding Councilman Weaver and his disclosure form...what was that about? [ED Candidates for public office and officeholders are required to disclose contributions and expenses on form 460. Mr. Weaver filed such a form for the year ending 12-31-07. There was a \$5,000 omission on the summary page.]

Articles

[Why Can't Governments Treat Us Like Customers?](#)

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, read [Piglet Book 2007](#) . -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#) [The Glendale California 100K Club](#) See who makes how much in Glendale [Videos by Glendale Citizens](#)

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

Monday, March 10

Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

Tuesday, March 11

Glendale Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2060
Glendale Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2005
Glendale City Council – 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844
Hearing on setback Ordinance for Glenoaks Canyon

Wednesday, March 12

Zoning Administrator's Hearing – 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2110

Thursday, March 13

Arts and Culture Commission – 2:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2780

3 Open Government

Courts have long struggled with this seemingly easy question. While no doubt exists that "mainstream" media, such as broadcast stations, newspapers and magazines, enjoy the freedom of "the press," the line gets blurrier in cases involving underground newspapers, free-lance writers and pamphleteers. In general, however, courts have defined "the press" so as to include all publishers. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, for example, has said that First Amendment protections extend to "every sort of publication which affords a vehicle of information and opinion." von Bulow v. von

Bulow, 811 F.2d 136, 144 (2d Cir.) (Quoting [Lovell v. Griffin](#), 303 U.S. 444, 452 (1938)), cert. denied, 481 U.S. 1015 (1987).

Scott Howard, Glendale City Attorney, is to be commended for his involvement with the health issue in the Broadview-Verdugo area where Vanik's Gas Station is being replaced by a medical center. Mr. Howard facilitated getting the correct soils report and the Glendale Haz Mat group involved. A cursory review of the soils report shows that there was TRPH and TPH-g in the soils. Both are known to cause Cancer in animals. Numerous pets died in that vicinity from, we are told, cancerous tumors.

4 Vanguardians

Wanted: Volunteers to translate Vanguard into Armenian and Korean — Wanted: Vanguardians needs a digital camcorder, a color laser printer with duplexer 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 The insider is a digest of information from several city employees that care about the way the City is run. They are concerned about retaliation. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. Their identities are kept confidential. The comments are their own.

HARRY S TRUMAN

ONCE A GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCING THE VOICE OF OPPOSITION, IT HAS ONLY ONE WAY TO GO, AND THAT IS DOWN THE PATH OF INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE MEASURES, UNTIL IT BECOMES A SOURCE OF TERROR TO ALL ITS CITIZENS AND CREATES A COUNTRY WHERE EVERYONE LIVES IN FEAR.

Orders from on high had two security guards on duty keeping Dr. Richard Espiritu, the ADA advocate, and Barry Allen, the Vanguardians Executive Director, out of 1242 Los Angeles St. where proposers came to inspect the Beeline buses that were the cleanest they have ever been.

The fire chief exam was held on 3/6. Leading contenders are Battalion Chief Wright, Deputy Chief Scoggins and Deputy Chief Howard based on their pre-meetings with Assistant City Manager Bob McFall who will be on the interview panel. The fourth finalist was retired Oakland Fire Chief Gerald Simon. Looks like the GFD will still be a good old boys group with zero change. Starbird will make his selection quickly. Assistant City Manager heir apparent, Bob McFall has been on all the recent panels for the new executives, almost like he is hand picking his team for when Starbird retires. The Fire Chief panel included Police Chief Adams and CA Howard.

City of Glendale wants to prevent discovery by use of 'Attorney Work Product'. Previously they had tried 'Attorney Client Privilege' but realized that the 'Client' (City employee) could choose to share with whomever. Today it's a new strategy to keep the public from accessing what the City Management no longer wants to be public information.

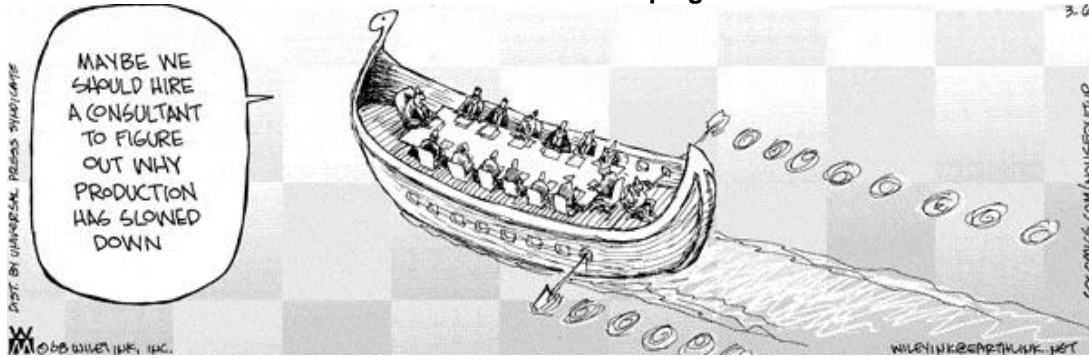
TIDBITS: The contractor for the Municipal Services Building retrofit has already filed suit against the City for delays caused by the City.

New tentative date for the Matrix report is April 15. GRA is currently updating what they want the report to say. Keep in mind that when this was presented to Council, the selection of the Matrix group was based on their ability to respond within a tight timeframe. It was approved by council 10/25/05 with a maximum time of 14 months to complete. They are now 15 months late.

6 Humor



Brewster Rockit on the campaign Trail



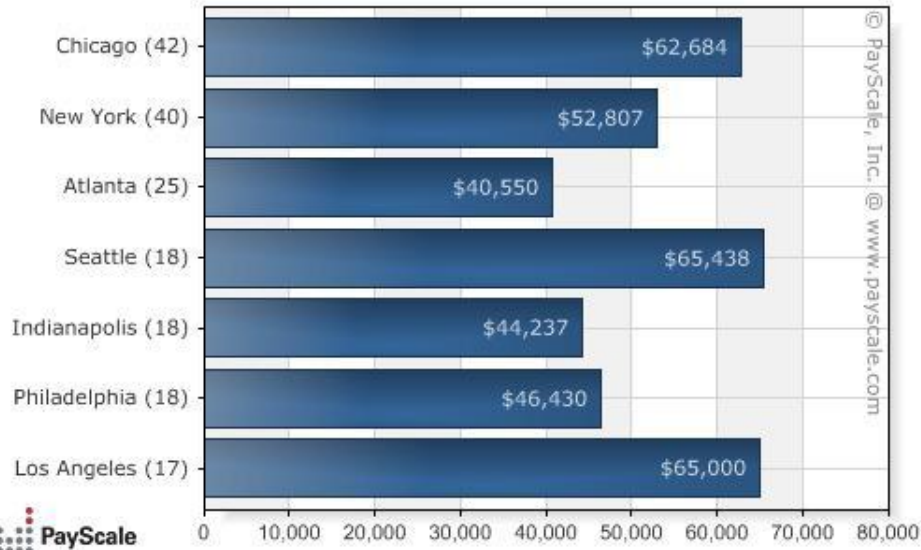
Non Sequitur—Suggested by City Employees – the people that know why they can't be productive

7 JUMP

GFD SALARY SCHEDULE :July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 showing the 4% increase. July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 there will be an additional 4.5% increase.

Salary FY 08/09	Fire fighter	Fire Engineer	Fire Captain
Annual	\$92,280	\$105,20	\$123,84
Hour	\$31.60	\$36.03	\$42.41

Median Salary by City - Job: Fire Fighter (United States)



[Click here to see national pay scale.](#)