



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

ELECTION ISSUES ISSUE

Vanguard
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THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

Vanguardians Purpose: To Inform, Educate, & Motivate the people for their Non-Violent Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy in local government.

If you have given, donated or contributed any money, service or thing of value to a candidate for public office or a City Official on behalf of or for any other person or entity with the expectation of being reimbursed or paid back, now is the time to step forward. You could be charged with money laundering.

Contact Barry Allen at 818 243 1502 for information on what to do and who to talk with.

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson.

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On January 4, 2011 at the Glendale City Council meeting, [City Manager Jim Starbird](#) said that the City had found no shoddy construction at the ADI Vassar Villa project. However other City officials state that they found cut rebar as reported in Vanguard and ordered that those sections be repaired.

[Puerto Rico Senator and Businessman Convicted for Roles in Bribery Scheme](#) Puerto Rico Senator Hector Martinez Maldonado and Juan Bravo Fernandez, the former president of one of the largest private security companies in Puerto Rico, were convicted for their roles in a bribery scheme involving legislation beneficial to Bravo Fernandez's business.

[Two Members of New York State Legislature Face Corruption Charges](#) New York State Senator Carl Kruger and State Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr. were charged in Manhattan federal court with accepting bribes in exchange for

official acts. Six others were also charged in the bribery schemes, including an Albany lobbyist, two hospital CEOs, a health care consultant, a real estate developer, and a doctor.

A judge has ordered former Bell city manager Robert Rizzo, assistant Angela Spaccia, now-recalled Mayor Oscar Hernandez and former City Councilman Luis Artiga to stand trial. Altogether, they're facing 61 criminal counts. Rizzo alone faces 54 counts. Prosecutors contend 57-year-old Rizzo acted like a mob godfather figure, handing out loans to the others while at the same time enriching himself and boosting his salary into the millions. [Get more details](#)

Pension Costs Expected to Rise if CalPERS Adopts New Rate of Return The CalPERS Board will decide next week whether lowering the discount rate assumption to 7.50 percent more "reasonably prudent" than retaining the current rate of 7.75 percent. If the Board adopts the lower discount rate assumption, cities starting in FY 2012-13 will pay higher rates to CalPERS. [\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Redevelopment agencies take on huge debt to shield tax dollars from state Local redevelopment agencies have pushed through nearly \$690 million in bonds sales during the first two months of this year -- that's more than half of the \$1.2 billion in debt those agencies took on in all of 2010, according to figures the state treasurer's office compiled. [Read more.](#)

SAMUEL ADAMS: It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds.

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.

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... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT



Interesting Council meeting. This time Mr. Quintero renewed his attack on me and I can only say, "Mr. Quintero, your question has been asked and answered, by me, the GPD and the AG."

Perhaps Mr. Quintero should direct his attention at Mr. Drayman who continues to stonewall the hard evidence of his unpermitted extensive renovation of his personal residence by an unlicensed ADI contractor. Mr. Drayman has his supporters follow my weekly presentation to attack my character. The public has grown tired of this deflective theater and they want to hear Mr. Drayman produce his own evidence to show his innocence. You have had that opportunity since the story broke in the LA Times in December of last year.

Let me reiterate the charges once again Mr. Drayman so you can address them and prove to your supporters that you have done nothing wrong. During most of last year, you moved out of your residence so an extensive renovation of your condo could go forward. The scope of the work, as depicted in the photographs, requires review by both the DRB and the Planning Commission. Your claim last Tuesday that all the work was done in the Common Area of the condo complex is laughable.

The extent of the work was all done inside the condo. None of the photos show any 'common area'. The 64 photos all show the inside of your condo. Building permits are obviously required. Yet you failed to secure the permitting that all Glendale citizens must comply before the project was started. From the common person's perspective, you have placed yourself above the law. The ADI scandal is interwoven into the remodel of your condo because an unlicensed General Contractor working for ADI performed the work at a cost of around \$180,000. You admit the reason why you chose this contractor was because the owner was willing to work out a payment plan. Is this special treatment because as a council member you voted for and approved \$6.5 million in excessive payment to ADI? The evidence strongly supports this scenario. Yet you continue to deny that this ever occurred but you have not denied the photos I presented are accurate depictions.

You still have an opportunity to give your side of the story. But if you are culpable of these charges, you would be trying your best to deflect the facts and charges and, well, do exactly what you are doing. The longer you wait to respond to these charges, the greater the suspicion of guilt rises. The public deserves a thorough explanation from you because you are an elected official who is seeking reelection.

Last week, in violation of the Brown Act, you spent more than five minutes chastising the character of one of your opponents. You could have used that same time showing your innocence with the kind of factual evidence I have presented showing your guilt.

I am not the elected official or a public person, Councilmember Drayman is.

Here is the stinger: The construction project started in January 2010 using an unlicensed General Contractor. In the first week of January 2011, I filed a complaint with Neighborhood Services about construction without a permit. On January 13th Sam Engle indicated the matter was 'being researched and investigated' and there would be no fulfillment of the request until that matter was resolved. On January 27, Mr. Drayman and his contractor filed for and received a building permit that was not representative of the work done.

Like the Fortney memo, everyone will deny that they read the LA Times article that had an interview with John Drayman.

Here is the salient part from: **December 29, 2010** Los Angeles Times by Jessica Garrison, Melanie Hicken and David Zahniser,

"Details of the federal investigation are unknown, but the subcontractors known to have been subpoenaed each did work on the home of a Glendale City Council member, John Drayman, who, as a member of the Glendale Housing Authority board, has voted to approve several ADI projects.

Drayman acknowledged having hired an ADI subcontractor, Glendale-based National Fire Systems and Services, to renovate his condominium last summer. National Fire, in turn, hired at least six other ADI subcontractors, according to a list Drayman provided.

He said he picked National Fire in part because the company had agreed to let him pay over a period of months, a plan that he acknowledged was "not the norm" for a home renovation. Some of the subcontractors said they still have not been paid for their work.

Drayman said he had been referred to National Fire by an ADI manager, Khachik Zargarian, whom he identified as a longtime friend. But Drayman said he had no idea at the time that National Fire or the other companies were connected to ADI.

National Fire had never done a residential remodel before, the company's president, Mike Thomassian said in an interview earlier this month.

Thomassian told the Times his hiring was linked to ADI, which he said had informed his firm about the job. "They didn't want to be involved in that directly, so they offered us," he said. He later sent an e-mail saying he was not sure how Drayman had been put in touch with him, but acknowledged that he had discussed with ADI "who was going to be responsible for the payment" and confirmed that "Drayman was paying."

Drayman acknowledged that he was renovating his condo during the summer and no one on the City knew about it. C'mon. Drayman moved to Rossmoyne and stated for the record in January during the Eva LaRue gate case that he had had flood damage and no one from the City wondered why he hadn't taken out building permits.

How naïve can Drayman expect us to be? His 'longtime friend' Khachik Zargarian with whom he frequently had Sunday breakfast worked for ADI and then when he was fired Zargarian went to work for National Fire and John Drayman said he didn't know National and ADI were connected.

Drayman is in a very public way, getting away with code violations all other citizens of Glendale would be taken to the cleaners on. He has diverted attention to his blatant code violations that are supported by more than enough evidence to convict him, with a classic case of kill the messenger. The fact is that the evidence has been presented to numerous citizens and they have all made the same conclusion, absent Drayman producing his own evidence of innocence, is guilty of a gross violation of permitting codes and a very successful at this point of a glorious deflection.

PS: It was again a delight to share the Drayman Scandal with all the folks at the GCC Encore Group. As always their questions were thoughtful. One of the questions was, "Who should I vote for?" Certainly I wouldn't answer that questions but I did share who I wouldn't vote for and why.

"Politics is entertainment. It's a sport. It's for the well groomed and well heeled. The impeccably dressed. Party animals. Politicians are interchangeable." - Bob Dylan

The penalty good men and women pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. PLATO

Most people want the benefits of an accountable government but are afraid to work for accountability or to support those that do often because they fear retaliation or are the beneficiaries of the largesse or corruption of government

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM



Someone gave a political forum and the stage was set for the finest actor who wanted it "As he liked it." In what will be remembered as two of the most contrived city council candidate forums in memory, both the Chevy Chase Canyon forum and the more audacious Verdugo Woodland's candidate forum, demonstrated how one candidate can stage the presentations to attempt to crush his political opponents.

Like Shakespeare's "As you like it." These forums had all the elements of farce. One was barely comical, the other too outrageous to hold any humor in it. The Chevy Chase Home Owner's association candidate forum was moderated by Will Rogers, the natural master of ceremonies whose wit, crafty writing and keen observation graced the Glendale News-Press for many years. This time, his wit was put to a biased outcome as he set the stage to "out" every candidate's personal or political missteps.

The staging was elegant and worthy of the craft of Mr. Rogers. The objective, as it looked to me, was to make John Drayman's transgressions as a public official look equivalent to the personal transgressions of others. It was a kind equal air time that may have fooled many in the audience. The idea seemed simple. Give some candor to the charges against Drayman by making his involvement with ADI appear tame, make a humorous introduction, then force the other candidates to disclose their personal skeletons from many years ago. The actions of one candidate which may well have resulted in the overbilling of the taxpayers to the tune of millions of dollars by a developer being investigated for fraud was equated to another candidate's personal sex-related adult misdemeanor from some decades past. My personal loss was in seeing Will Rogers, a man whose work and dedication to good government I've admired, reducing himself to just another political hack, albeit a polished one.

But at least the Chevy Chase forum had a modicum of respectability. The Verdugo Woodlands Homeowners' Association candidate forum went beyond farce to a shell of a political forum bordering on debauchery. Presiding in the most aggressive and demeaning questioning I've ever seen, was Jason Wells, the city editor for the Glendale News-Press.

In a nutshell, Jason Wells started by giving the ground rules. This forum was going to be different. He was not about to accept or tolerate a candidate side-stepping the question. Fair enough. But what I didn't expect was a soft lob passed to Drayman complete with a bit of favorable editorializing then followed by an accusatory question given the other candidates. But the drama was going to get even more intense. Not only did Mr. Wells asked questions in the most demeaning way, he proceeded to interrupt the candidates when they tried to answer the staging portion of the question.

Mr. Wells craftily worded his long questions to set a narrative primed to expose the worse of each candidate with his own gesticulations. He then placed his second part of the question to have the candidate answer how, as a consequence of exposé, he could perform credibly as a councilman. When the candidate attempted to answer to the introductory narrative Mr. Wells had exposed, Mr. Wells cut the candidate short, interrupted him, and prevented him from answering while demanding that he answer only the second part of his question.

But the farce included members of the audience who have participated in Drayman's campaigns or assisted in getting Drayman's protégée, Laura Friedman, elected. Sitting in the audience was Elaine Wilkerson, the retired Planning Director, who directed Friedman's campaign, yelling and shouting at one candidate to expose more of the gory details of his past misdemeanors. She was assisted by others known to be on Drayman's camp into a level degradation that left many aghast.

For years we have seen in the Glendale News-Press what appeared, to many readers, as a biased and cleansed presentation of the local political news with hardly any letters critical of John Drayman published. Many people have called me in the last few years to share with me the many letters they've written to the Forum pages that never had a drop of ink adhered to their growing misgivings about Drayman.

In last week's "criminal" headline, the exposé and outing of Mike Mohill, came as a result of the oral communications portion of the city council proceedings. I can't recall, from my many years attending and participating in Oral Communications, that any topic presented there or any complaints by the public voiced during agenda item six, being published or getting sufficient ink at the GNP. I'd have to go back to the Americana debate or the flag lowering fracas of 2001. The above-the-fold story from what was an oral communications accusation, or the council blabber that normally ends the council sessions, was truly indicative, to me, of outright bias. But using a front page "criminal" headline to slam, demean, and weaken a council race challenger raises major issues of improprieties at the GNP.

If anyone was paying attention, he would have noticed that even the story on Advanced Development and Investment (ADI) and Drayman's unpaid condo remodeling performed by their sub-contractors did not put Drayman's name on either a headline or a sub-headline. You can't have such a big story of alleged corruption and not highlight the name of the public official. You shine the light on the suspect. The contrast of the handling of the two stories is too egregious to be passed on as merely incidental.

For some years now, I've been told of the personal friendship that may exist between Drayman and Jason Wells. They both have been seen together in the late night hours at Damon's Stake House. During Laura Friedman's campaign several people told me that had seen the two together in a corner of the restaurant sometimes on consecutive nights. But Mr. Wells is not a reporter. He is an editor. He is not likely to be gathering information to corroborate a reporter's story night after night. Though I refrained for many years from making these allegations based on hearsay, the actions by Mr. Wells during the forum on Thursday has left me with little doubt that Mr. Wells has been charmed and wooed by the smooth Mr. Drayman, just like he charmed me into giving him my unqualified support in the elections 2005 and 2007.

Like a farce, this last forum had all the ingredients of mistaken identity. Too many of us have been fooled into accepting the identity of Mr. Drayman as the heartfelt man of the people born and raised by his beloved father to represent a groundswell of popular support to defend Glendale from the hordes of invading politicians who lack the necessary roots. Mr. Wells has been wearing a fabulous disguise of his own as the impartial and disinterested city editor for the Glendale New-Press, dignified by their association as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Los Angeles Times.

Where is Steven Sondheim? It's time to put this farce to music.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

THE TRAVELING LIAR'S PARADISE

Lawyers consider small claims court a liar's paradise because those proceedings don't have the tools of evidentiary procedure to get at the truth. But political forums at the local level not only don't have an educated person trained in digging through outlandish claims (the judge), they thrive on voters who are typically clueless about city issues and won't spend any time corroborating the claims made by the candidates. These forums are a liar's paradise for the unrestrained politician.

Take the claims of Weaver and Drayman in the last few forums. These are samples of distortion and misdirection worthy of any long-term city manager who's survived political shifts.

Weaver: "The average pension of retired public employees is \$27,000"

That statement is a real gem because it is very likely true. The problem is that it is totally misleading. An average pension would include the pension of people who are getting a measly pension because they worked barely over five years in public employment, those who retired twenty or thirty years ago with much smaller pensions, and many low rank-and-file employees who never earned enough to get a huge annual pension. So the average would be skewed toward the very bottom of the scale.

What is real is the pension liability that grew by over 50% in the last ten years and now stands at around 1.3 billion dollars (1,293,336,000 as of June 30, 2010,) and the pension payments that used to average annually at around \$5.5 million per year, today stand at \$24 million and projections from the city's CAFR expect that payment to grow to about \$40 million annually in two years (\$42,882,532 page 76 of 2010 CAFR)

Drayman: "Glendale is one of the few cities in California where employees pay a large portion of their pension." This last one is a close paraphrase that is very close to his actual words. This one is perhaps a more egregious distortion. It is also literally correct and was probably fed to Drayman by the city manager. Assistant city manager Yasmin Beers made a rebuttal to my Oral Communications observation two weeks ago along the same lines. Here is the actual case taken from the 2006 – 2010 Glendale Fire Fighters' Association Memorandum of Understanding – The official collective bargaining agreement document.

Page 32 - Article XXVI part B. Employer Contribution Rate

Effective July1, 2006, the City contributes approximately 23.610% of the employee's annual salary, including holiday in-lieu-pay, 40-hour assignment pay, arson assignment pay, paramedic assignment pay, staff assistant pay, Foreign language Sign interpreter pay, 27-day assignment pay and uniform allowance, exclusive of overtime and reimbursement compensation.

Page 34 - Article XXVI part F. Employee Contribution Rate

1. Employees contribute approximately 9% of their salary, including holiday-in-lieu pay, etc...
2. Effective November 16, 1991, the Employees' PERS contribution previously paid by the employer shall be converted to base salary as set forth in this Article.
3. Effective November 16, 1991, the City shall "pick-up" 9% (9/9 of the 9%) of the required PERS contribution for unit employees.
4. It is understood that this total nine percent (9.0%) **added to salaries by the City** shall be included in all salary and compensation comparisons.

In effect the city has given to the fire-fighters the amount of pension it used to pay to CALPERS directly and included it in the form of additional salary. So the fire-fighters now "pay" from their new 9% higher salary their 9% share of the pension. The damage is even worse. This new base pay is then used by other fire fighter organizations to tell their city employers to increase their salaries as "compatible" pay. When a cost of living increase comes up for renewal, the new 9% higher pay gets included in their calculation and in their "last salary" for their pension calculation - A nifty little piece of trickery if ever there was one.

A distortion of the facts, even if partially true, is not just a misinterpretation or a white lie. It is an indubitable falsehood.

Weaver now touts a couple of more lies that he has repeated at two forums.

Weaver: "The city of Glendale is well-managed. We are lucky to have one of the best city managers in California. The Assets of this city stand at 1.3 billion dollars."

But giving the public the Assets side of the ledger without acknowledgement of the Liabilities is about as meaningless as the assets of many homeowners who are underwater and who owe more than they have in assets. Weaver then gives his many years as councilman as testimony of how much time it takes to learn about the city. Without getting into too much accounting, a full and open discussion of the city's accrued liabilities and backlog of capital improvements in arrears would give the public a more transparent picture of the city's financial condition.

Weaver: "The city's reserves stand at 500 million dollars."

The problem with that picture is that most people imagine that the city can use that cash in case of an emergency, or they would think of it as savings. But most of that money is allocated for purposes limited by the funds from which they come. If the city borrows 50 million in bond money, it must park the money with the fiscal agent (the city treasurer) who places the money into interest earning accounts until needed for the activity for which the bonds were authorized. If the city receives HUD money, or redevelopment set-aside funds, it will also park the money with the city treasurer. Only about a third of the city's general fund is the true reserve. Don't expect the city manager to release a full report as this little gem has served the purposes of the two most clueless councilmen on the dais, Weaver and Quintero at every election.

I should be standing next to the panelists at the candidate forums with three colored signs - A green one for the truth, a yellow for the half-truth, and a red-one for the deceptions and outright lies. But given that most of these forums are controlled by the candidate's insiders, don't expect a truth semaphore anytime soon at the crossing of politicians and the general public. **HERBERT MOLANO** [Click here Glendale Today](#)

"HALT! IN THE NAME OF THE POLITIC!"
"WE'VE GOT FORUM RULES YOU KNOW"

Democracy is an intriguing concept. It is a sorry form of government. This bastard of Justice is, to this day, as unappealing to the politician as it is a conundrum to the populace.

Yes, I know, there is nothing better out there. We've got despots by the bucketful. We've got Kingdoms and self-declared "President-for-life." We've got lying politicians galore. We've got people who vote because they saw the name

on a lawn sign. But we've got campaign loyalists and insiders who the thought of truth in campaigning is close to drinking poison.

Take a little experience I had at the last two forums. I had walked in with my trusty little guide that depicts four essential city trends. Nothing out of the ordinary, except that these are four charts that tell us much about the city and contradicts what the incumbents have been telling the forum audiences.

At the Chevy Chase Homeowner's forum, one of John Drayman's loyalist troops, saw me distributing my handy charts when he attempted to dissuade me from doing my civic duty. "It's against the rules!" he demanded. "Stop!" as I went from table to table handing out the flyers, he followed me threatening to call the police and even tried to get the fire-fighters present to take action. "Call the police, he is handing out flyers!"

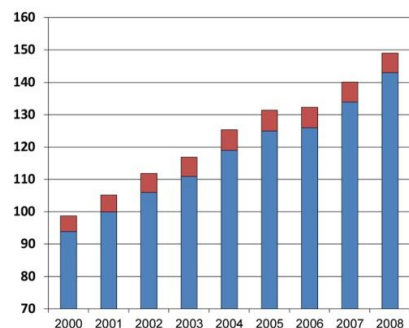
When I ignored him, he went out to seek additional troops. Out came Drayman's campaign manager, Ray Trim. An elegant man in his turtle neck and very debonair, he approached me to tell me about the rules. "We have forum rules and you need to place your materials on the table." He said. But I wanted to know more. "What do you have against placing information about the city's economics?" I said, but it was to have no effect on his intention of stopping me from disclosing material that anyone with some basic spreadsheet acumen could put together from the city's CAFR and a bit of Google search. He was unfazed. As the conversation was getting louder and more contentious, I decided to stop and hand out the papers as people exited. But that was not going to placate Drayman's other little soldier. He hounded me with shouts and flashes from his camera as attendees accepted my charts and graphs and thanked me for my essay contributions to Vanguard.

At the Verdugo Woodlands homeowner's forum, I arrived early and started to hand out the city government trends to incoming attendees. Out came another of Drayman's troops to prevent me from handing them out. She got contentious and rude, but her alternative would have been to stop me physically or call the authorities. She demanded, "We will have none of this activity here!" but Mirna relented as I ignored her commands to comply.

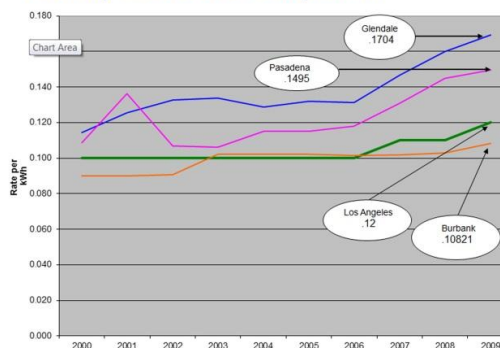
What was it that caused such consternation in Drayman's camp? What information was I passing out that could possibly derail his campaign? What kind of trash was I handing out? Well, on the next page you'll see for yourselves. The only minor change is the addition of the \$50,000,000 million dollars the city council approved last Tuesday to try to save the play money they get from the redevelopment agency. It is the money Drayman claims pays for our police, parks and roads. Another real stretch of the facts as most of that money comes from the General Fund. So hold on to your seats. Keep your children at bay. Get the salts and call the paramedics. Here is what Drayman's troops wanted desperately to keep from you:

Glendale City Government trends in the last decade

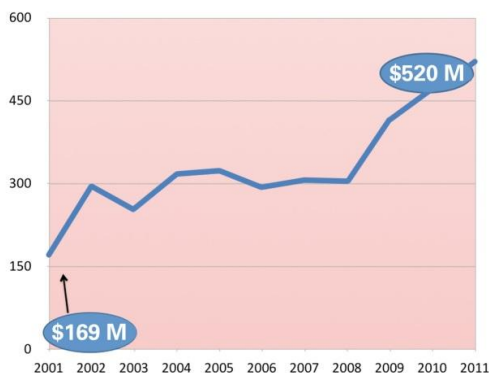
Glendale Wages (+ Deferred wages)



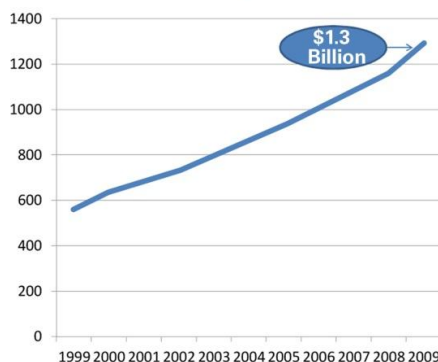
Four-city Electric Rate Comparison



Long Term Bonded Debt in Millions (\$)



Public Pension Liability in Hundreds of Millions (\$)



HERBERT MOLANO [Click here Glendale Today](#)

SKIMMING THE FAT WHILE THE GETTING IS RICH

For at least the past decade, the city council has postponed essential improvements in the infrastructure of the water utility as it has sucked the money to try to balance the general fund. We now understand why. The payroll of the general fund and its total pension obligation has grown so rapidly that the city has been unable to meet those requirements from the usual sources of property tax, sales tax, utility taxes, and fees increases. So transferring around four million dollars every year from the water utility has been a nearly critical financial step. But it has been illegal for a long, long, time.

Transferring the GWP funds meant that the water utility would reducing critical financial reserves it needed to take care of the rising backlog in core infrastructure needs. According to a study performed by consultants a few years ago, that backlog had resulted in over 200 million dollars of essential capital improvements to water mains, water pumps, reservoirs, and large valves that control the water into and out of the reservoirs. Since the city government had drained those funds, the GWP had to beg for an infusion of money from the issue of bonds.

For at least a couple of years, I've presented to the GWP commission and to the city council that those transfers were unconstitutional, but both the city and the GWP commission received the interpretation from the city attorney that somehow Glendale's charter was different and that the city could trump the state constitution and court rulings that supported the claim that those transfers were illegal.

But a Doctor came to the rescue. Professor Zavos, after his retirement from Loyola Law School took up the cause and researched it. His conclusion was that the transfers were an illegal form of property tax. But the city council would not budge. Dr. Zavos contacted the Howard Jarvis taxpayer association, who had supported similar lawsuits by other stakeholders at other cities in the past, and he, in not too uncertain terms, urged the city to rescind the transfers or face a probable lawsuit that would force it to pay a backlog of transfers to the tune of at least 16 million dollars. The city finally relented. But this little story doesn't end here.

The objective of Dr. Zavos was to have those transfers kept by the GWP utility so that it could put that money to work for capital improvements. In the case of a major earthquake, the aging and fragile pipelines could crack rendering fire hydrants useless in case of fires that such earthquakes could bring. The availability of water for many communities could be put under significant jeopardy. So what do you imagine the GWP director did with his newfound source of money?

As one of his first major acts after the city council rescinded the transfers, Mr. Glen Steiger submitted a request for a \$20,000 per year raise for his second in command. The money is not going to a new employee. It is not going into training. It is not going to prop up the lowest rank-and-file employees. It is going to fatten the paycheck of his closest administrative ally. That's where government goes wrong. As soon as management gets a hold a little more money, it goes to pay themselves first. Naturally, as Mr. Steiger's subordinates get a raise, his own pay would have to be even higher next time around to keep up the natural order of things hierarchical – the boss must be paid much more than his immediate reports – much more.

How does the city council accept this with a straight face? I've been watching for years as they've created this drama of two council members feigning a protest, but in the end, three council members always prevail to raise the salary bar for the city management. I have no doubt after watching all five current incumbent council members, that they have been either selected or groomed to serve the interests of three employee associations who have given tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions – The new Glendale Management Association, the Police Officers Associations and the Glendale Fire Fighters' Association.

The actions of the five current council members seem to indicate that they serve the interests of these three employee unions before they serve the interests of the public. The amount of wealth that has been transferred to these fabulous three organizations has been stupendous. To support the massive amounts of salary, benefits and pensions increases, the city council has put Glendale's infrastructure into severe jeopardy. It could not have been demonstrated more clearly than in a 2007 report that highlighted that the contents of the Dietrich reservoir could be lost in massive flooding due to the aging valves that had corroded beyond repair. It has been demonstrated by the power plants' ageing boilers and antiquated equipment now decades beyond their expected life. The long list of essential capital improvements has been made public, but the emphasis muted time and time again despite my requests for clarity. I take the actions by the public employee unions as extremely self-serving. They have been so determined and pervasive in promoting and supporting their own candidates for office that their pay and pensions improvements have been their most significant strategic accomplishment.

A \$20,000 dollar raise to pad the wallet of a GWP executive tells me where their priorities lie. A discussion on how the water utility plans to use the new money it no longer transfers has yet to be made public. The raise in pay for an executive came first, while delayed presentations on how the GWP plans on augmenting the capital improvement fund shows their true colors. This is the self-serving mentality we all should be fighting. Dr. Zavos and I did not put so much time and effort to help the GWP keep their own money so that it could be funneled into the pockets of the higher up insiders at the first opportunity. I, for one, think it's a travesty to have the rank-and-file give up their pay increases in a good will gesture to keep the city's budget balanced only to have the top management start skimming off the top at their first opportunity.

Don't think we need to clean house and dump all the current incumbents? Think again. The five members of the current narcissist club have got to go and about 40% of the managers that have increased the ranks of the GMA in the last ten years.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

A GUEST COMMENTARY

I have been reading Vanguard for over three years and your publication gets better and better. But I have decided to come out, unlike John Drayman. I voted for John 4 years ago because I thought he would be like [Harvey Milk](#) the gay San Francisco Supervisor who was assassinated before he completed one year in office. Instead John Keith Drayman has become more like another John, [John Edgar Hoover](#), the first Director of the FBI, reclusive and outing gay's and bi's who could ruin him. A poignant quote from Wikipedia - Hoover was noted as sometimes being capricious in his leadership; he frequently fired FBI agents, singling out those whom he thought "looked stupid like truck drivers" or he considered to be "pinheads".^[7] He also relocated agents who had displeased him to career-ending assignments and locations. [Melvin Purvis](#) was a prime example; he was one of the most effective agents in capturing and breaking up 1930s gangs and received substantial public recognition, but a jealous Hoover maneuvered him out of the FBI.^[8] And from [The Dark Side of the Force: J. Edgar Hoover](#) Arthur Murtagh, former FBI agent, interviewed in 1990 stated; "I certainly do not want to indicate that Hoover did not have some unusual ability in structuring an organization designed to perpetuate a sort of dictatorial control of both the FBI and, so far as he could manage it, the minds of the American citizens: but so did Adolf Hitler".

How does this relate to me and to us all? Under John's regime – either one of them – it is better to become a supporter than a detractor. You will live longer. You won't be vilified, eviscerated, chastised or berated. Ask City employees how comfortable they are now that John can control their jobs.

As a minority voter I am concerned that the City Clerk has moved the voting staff to the police facility and that there have not been any 'vote' banners below Colorado that I have seen. The police department is being sued by 10 of their own for discrimination and harassment and then the City Management, in an effort to keep minority voters away, moves the voting operation to the police department. Glendale has

turned into a third world fiefdom or has reverted to the days when the Nazi party was headquartered on Colorado.

When people say to me, "vote for Drayman and Weaver because we share their values," I am appalled. Weaver paid a \$9000 fine for violating the political reform act and Drayman is being investigated by the City for building code violations. He also, in my book, has been 'playing for pay' with regard to his votes on ADI projects. I may be gay but those are values that are not mine.

Like the City of Bell we need to throw these bad eggs out of the carton before there is no way to work ourselves out of this quagmire and morass they have placed us all.

The ballot box is secret. You can smile and say that you voted for these two tyrants and vote for others or not even vote at all. There is no requirement to vote for two or one or vote at all. This is a tough decision for many but not for me.

I don't want J. Keith Drayman in my City and either do you!

STEVE STONER

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 may be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.

Barry, you once again beat everybody to the punch. Where did you get those photos? Damning evidence indeed. Following your tight and professional presentation, Drayman orchestrated a short parade of his minions who, armed with nothing else, took the tactic of deflection: they attacked the messenger. Without any solid evidence to support their side, they had no other course of action to take and still remain loyal to Drayman. Keep it up, the message is getting out. Drayman is running and hiding. He has no other choice because he has nothing tangible to offer that would clear his name from this scandal. RG

We did view you on Channel 6 -- you all were most eloquent... and of course, the "gods of Glendale" stacked the deck to push their side, and dodge the real issues. Interesting, that in the municipal code, the 'redevelopment agency' can mute most of the ordinances for their own purposes. Hopefully, soon, they will NOT be able to wear that hat! MS

Looks like Quintero is really unhappy with you [Barry Allen] for beating up on him about the Alliance for Education money rep-off from the City. He had his script and those other three people couldn't even keep their stories straight. I guess Drayman is afraid he may lose the election that is why he is having Quintero lead the attack. I remember Drayman declaring that the police department investigated and they found Vanguard was in complete compliance and Drayman said they didn't go far enough. KGB

It is obvious to me that some of the candidates have gotten your help with their campaigns. Isn't that against the IRS rules? [ED – Vanguardians has always offered to provide candidates for public office any public documents we have obtained. That holds true for the Bell election and now for the coming Glendale election.]

In my opinion Mayor Najarian allowed Council member Frank Quintero to violate the Brown Act by allowing people to speak on an issue that is outside the jurisdiction of the Glendale City Council. I would suggest that you file a Cure and Correct letter and file it with the Los Angeles County District Attorney, Public Integrity Section.

Brown Act violation: Brown Act Applicable sections to Oral Communications

"54954.2. Agenda requirements; Regular meetings --No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities...

--
54954.3. Public's right to testify at meetings -- Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2. ..."A member of the Bar and a Vanguardian

I think it is disgusting how Mr Drayman has taken over the city. People and staff are afraid of him. At the Chevy Chase forum, City Commissioner Morgan and Drayman's manager Ray Trim chased Molano out for passing out materials that the voters should have. Materials that show where our money is going. Having Will Rogers there as a moderator doesn't do justice to the community. I think that Barry Allen or Herbert Molano would be much more appropriate. They are not 'friends' with any elected official, which makes them much more objective. They work with facts and don't tell us how to think. BK

Vanguard, have you ever looked into Mr. Quintero's huge stock portfolio and asked him how he acquired it? GS [ED – Actually, no. You are the third person that asked about that since the last Council meeting. We are still looking at his Florida lodging bills.]

I noticed Councilman [REDACTED] sitting really close to Ray Trim at the Woodlands candidates' forum. They were almost holding hands as they sat thigh to thigh. Very close to the picture I see when Councilman Drayman has dinner and beverages with Glendale News-Press City Editor at Damon's as they gaze into each other's eyes. Is it any wonder why the GNP didn't publish the entire December 29th story from the LA Times and didn't even mention John Drayman? Is there any question why the GNP has refused to publish letters that were critical of the use of City resources? J

I am a plumbing contractor and heard Council member Drayman say that a pipe burst in the unit above him and his unit was flooded. BS. Galvanized water pipe does not explode, but begins to leak with small damage that becomes visible over time as watermarks and does not create a disaster that renders all interior living spaces uninhabitable. His statement that it was the responsibility of the HOA to file for the permit. Drayman should demand that code enforcement take a look. SG

IT is a shame that people in Glendale are afraid of their government. If you make a legitimate complaint or bring up a valid issue you can expect to be eviscerated by any of those on the Dais or their supporters if they don't want to get their image dirty. Whatever happened to the Constitution? Are the Nazi's still in charge in Glendale? There are many who appreciate and support what Vanguard does and reports. At least you give us hope. It is time to let the tyrants at City Hall know that we are fed up with what they have done to Glendale. SG

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

Glendale \$100K Club climbed to 647 employees up 45 from 2009 total of 602

“All truths are easy to understand once they have been discovered; the point is to discover them.”- Galileo Galilei.

Agendas for the City of Glendale CA



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, March 14

Commission on the Status of Women – 5:30 pm, CH 548-4844

City Council -- 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Tuesday, March 15

Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005

Wednesday, March 16

Community-Police Partnership Advisory Committee – 12:00 pm, Police Community Room, 131 N. Isabel St 548-4818
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Joint Meeting – RE:

- Courtyard by Marriott's Property Development at 225 W. Wilson; and
- Evaluation of Sustainable Construction Practices under CAL GREEN
- plus consideration of a citywide Sustainability Coordinator –

Thursday, March 17

Arts & Cultural Commission – 2:00 pm, MSB 548-2000
Design Review Board #2 – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Friday, March 18 No Meetings Scheduled

4 *Vanguardians*

Vanguard is accepting reduced rate ads from Criminal Lawyers. A number of 'victims' have already 'lawyered-up' and there may not be enough lawyers to go around.

Vanguard archives are available by clicking – [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)

People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and for Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.

Vanguard is following these lawsuits and others: the 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza. The cases cited are from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa.


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

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.
- www.maplight.org to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, call 818 243 1502

5  **the Insider** is written by 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.



There are those of us in the GWP that are pissed that Steve Lins had the gall to ask for and receive a \$20,000 pay increase plus a car allowance or he would go to Burbank. This is a slap in the face of the public. If Lins wants to go to Burbank or leave after he builds his resume he should go now.

Starbird has been making lots of noise about a hard-hiring freeze and now Czar Haghani gets another plan checker for the Americana and the taxpayers get the shaft.

Here is one more example of Council buying the lies of staff. In approving the new position in building and safety, Hassan used the reason that the position was needed to check an influx of express plan checks. Wrong, first, there is no influx and second, the position is a management position that can't do overtime plan checks. If you collect the money to pay overtime, you have to have a position that can be paid overtime. And didn't you have that series of info on Eddie Lee! He used to do the express plan checks. He made the City over \$200,000 a year on express plan checks and they FIRED him for all his hard work because Zurn didn't like him making extra money working so much overtime. The other guy you mentioned with Eddie didn't get fired, but if his still working here. They must have him locked in a closet somewhere out of site because he's never part of anything anymore.

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

Jim Starbird, the City Manager controlling his decision makers.



Could something like this happen in Glendale? The names have been changed to protect the guilty. A Parody.

At a clandestine meeting in the bowels of City Hall, in violation of the Brown Act relative to a quorum meeting without benefit of an agenda.

"Awright," said J, "You all got yours from AID and I want mine. Do you know how bad it is to live with constituents always nagging?"

"So, what do you want us to do?" Said F.

“Turn off the spotlight. Stop the train. Cover my tracks. Remember if I go down, all of you go down including Star and Howie. I have evidence on all of you.”

Daisy Mae said, “J your makeup is running. Want me to fix it?”

“Don’t touch me.”

Alky said, “What about the press?”

“No problem. They can’t afford to lose all our business and, don’t whisper a word, I am in bed with the City Editor.”

“No, not them. The real press. The one that shows up here.”

“F is going to take care of that scumbag, whatever his name is today.”

A said, “Do you think this is legal?”

They all chimed in, “Maybe if you had been awake in Law School, you would know.”

“You can’t win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot” Kraft

When it began?

Weaver*	Quintero	Najarian	Drayman*	Friedman
1997	2001	2005	2007	2009

* Drayman and Weaver terms expire April 2011

7 It happened in Bell...the incumbents are gone!

How did Basta do?

Each of these short statements is MY OPINION about how I think these feel about this election outcome. I don’t even need to say this to a mentoring blog-writer but if you really want political banter; to ask each segment will produce an awfully interesting set of diverse, likely contradictory opinions. I consider myself close to center though how can anyone who lives here in Bell, with the elements and issues, honestly say their opinion is not subjective.

- 1] **Voters** sounded a double alert in the vote. Since the election had become such an issue of keeping or literally disbanding the Pd. voters could not help but plug that into their vote. The other issue is about honesty and commitment; I feel they (we) voted on that as well. I was disappointed that we got only 33% of the vote out vs. 4000+ recall but in the recall, we went to the homes.
- 2] **Basta** in January, which by the way includes no council candidates, made the public statement in their monthly meeting, that the POA had only paid for BASTA’s first two months of rent last summer. On the other hand, there are other ways of providing support in exchange for support, yes? There is also more than one BASTA leader with family on the Bell Pd. I suspect they are all breathing a bit easier today. PS - two of the winners are former Basta leaders.
- 3] **Five of the candidates** were directly endorsed though not funded directly (see my ENDORSERS vs. FUNDERS article), by the Bell-POA. Three of these five candidates are now to be council, representing a (3 of 5) majority vote on new council decisions. Two of these candidates have committed to me and in public that they are going to be critical of the Pd. to the extent that the Pd. has to cooperate. This however, falls short of the other group who more or less sided with Molina in the quest to replace them directly, with the sheriff.
- 4] **Three of the candidates** (one of whom is Miguel Sanchez - deceased), expressed the need to likely disband the Pd. in a single-blow effort to cut the budget by cutting public-safety; therefore level of service. They made this an issue in the campaign and so voters were harshly reminded that this was an agenda item. One of these three was elected to council.
- 5] I have no doubt that the **Bell POA members** (tier one Bell police officers), are quite relieved that a majority vote on the new council is their endorsed candidates!
- 6] **The Bell Pd** too, which includes over half the Pd. staff not in the BPOA, are definitely breathing easier today, knowing that they will not be disbanded as a public way to cover up so many other areas of total waste in city hall; however, as I stated before, I am going to remind all these, my Pd. acquaintances and readers (put them on notice), that the voters, the activists, and the new council expect cooperation and tough decisions regarding cleaning out corruption and reducing cost to budget affordability! **BB Steve**

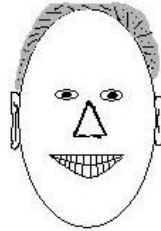
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Weavanomics

\$250.00

X 4

\$2000



Back in 2005 Weaver was given \$2000 in cash which is a no-no. When interviewed by the GPD and the DA, he explained that 4 people gave him \$250 each. One of the investigators said, "That's only \$1000." To which Weaver said, "Oh, I'll change it."