



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

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Hot Topics:
Hatch Act
New Technology

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol IV
Week of March 22, 2009
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
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HATCH ACT COMPLAINT FILED

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 advocacy



Vanguards top rated City Council Candidates:

- Bruce Philpott #1 with a score of 87
- Bob Yousefian #2 with a score of 82
- Aram Kazazian #3 with a score of 62

Writing an editorial is never for the lame of heart

The logic of the Glendale News-Press in selecting their prized choices for city council is nothing short of baffling to the point of absurdity.

So if property crime goes up during the tenure of two councilmen, we should re-elect them. Somehow their experience while at the helm is a rationale for more of the same. What then if this type of crime had gone down? Would that then be a reason to throw them out?

Ara Najarian for re-election? He got elected during one of the best economic times in the city with revenues brimming from high property sales and high appraisals. What did he do? He handed all that money to the city's golden employees of the three biggest unions - The GMA, GFFA, GPOA. The same unions who gave him money for his campaign in excess of the amounts in the new campaign ethics ordinance.

I've noticed the new rash of newspaper ads for the Police canine unit during this political season. Also the uncontested contract for advertising between the city and the GNP- a contract that expanded from the original \$30,000 to an amount three times as large last year.

During the terms of the incumbents the city grew by 3.5% but it sucked from the taxpayer nearly 100% more money. Money for the three unions grew at an exponential rate, and ratepayers were stuck with one of the highest utility rates in the state of California.

I never thought that I would experience first-hand the collapse of the integrity of a newspaper as I have recently. These are hard times for the newspaper business, and every advertisement counts toward its survival. Take away the city's \$100,000 in notification advertising, plus Caruso's advertising for the Americana, plus the local auto dealership ads and you'll find the GNP in bankruptcy faster than you can say, "We and our friends have you by the cojones."

To choose Friedman instead of Philpott for her experience in city government as an 8-hour per month commissioner vs. a man with 28 full-time years heading a division and working full-time for several years on budgets, is beyond any logical comparison.

During Quintero's time on the dais, Glendale middle management has grown at five times the rate of the rank and file or nearly ten times the rate of the population growth. We've got budget deficits of his own making. So now that he helped the city get in this pickle, he must remain because times are tough?

Where is the spirit of Katharine Graham? Don't look for it or any logical thinking in the pages of the city's leading newspaper.

Vote 'NO' on the Utility Users Tax

- 2000 absentee ballots have already been turned in to the City Clerk as of Friday
- Barry joins Vrej Agajanian, candidate for Community College Board, on Charter Channel 284 Monday, March 23 at 9 PM – The topic is the Argument against Ballot measure U, the Utility Users Tax on telecommunications
- Vanguardians filed a complaint against the Glendale Fire Department for violation of the Federal Hatch Act for engaging in political activity while on duty and while using a city vehicle. The use of Federal Funds assures Federal jurisdiction. The case was filed with the Office of the Special Prosecutor. [View article...](#)
- **FPPC sent an advisory letter to the Glendale Managers Association for its failure to comply with the Political Reform Act. This was the second time the FPPC advised them**
- If internet access is bundled with cable or phone (DSL, Dial-up, and cable modem) it will be included in the bundle for taxing. Pursuant to 4.38.030 **WHEN TAXABLE ITEMS ARE BUNDLED WITH NONTAXABLE YOU WILL BE TAXED ON BOTH**
- A 'NO' vote on the UUT does not take away the UUT and leave the City without the income - about \$8.7M. A NO vote does not take away our rights the way a yes vote would.
- [Glendale Family Jewels](#) (GFJ) writers have weighed in on Mayor Drayman of Montrose and the politicizing of the proposed request by Rick Caruso to hold a farmers market at the Americana. Apparently Sunday vendors were required to post signs protesting something that hasn't even hit the agenda. This begs the question of a market based economy. According to GFJ, voters should be wary of Drayman endorsements for Friedman, Quintero and Teahan and not vote for any of them unless they want to continue a dictatorship.
- Check out www.sustainableglendale.com A valuable asset for your Glendale knowledge base.
- While Glendale worries about neighborhood signage, Lancaster and Palmdale got to the meat of problem solving with a 5-prong program to create needed revenue and to continue to be business friendly. Read all about it by [clicking here](#). [Comment: Glendale has its priorities straight. See #6]
- Retired Fire Chief Hinz took on Council Candidate Bruce Philpott in a letter published in the GNP. He forgot to say that a Class 1 department is dependent on the Glendale infrastructure, and there is no impact on homeowners insurance. When Hinz was fire chief, he proposed that the city council approve the elimination of the private ambulance service that cost the city around \$300,000 per year to transport medical patients to hospitals. He guaranteed that by having the paramedic ambulance operated by the fire department, new revenues would be generated. He promised to give the council annual reports on how much money the city was making. He also promised that the \$1,900,000 loan needed for start up costs would be repaid within a year or so. To date this program has cost the taxpayers over \$10,000,000. The loan was never paid back. He never made one follow up report on the operation's finances. He apparently was too embarrassed. Thanks Chief Hinz for this wonderful contribution you made to Glendale taxpayers.
- Aramazd Stepanian and Barry Allen are collaborating on a new political play – working title “Corruption and Comedy in Cultureless Glendale”
- **I was at a cocktail party and met someone from the LA County Fire Department who**
 - **couldn't believe that Glendale pays fire managers overtime;**
 - **couldn't believe that Glendale won't release injury data;**
 - **couldn't believe that GFD is still fighting to save 4-man crews (County only uses three);**
 - **couldn't believe Glendale fire operates their own HR department;**
 - **couldn't believe Glendale BCs get a driver (only person in LA County Fire that gets a driver is the Chief);**
 - **couldn't believe Glendale doesn't support volunteers the way [County does](#) (County has 100 Call Firefighters);**
 - **couldn't believe that there was a shift differential that paid 11% more to personnel that only worked 40 hour weeks;**
 - **couldn't believe how many BCs Glendale has for under 200 sworn personnel.**

Their conclusion was that City Council has been walking around with their eyes closed. [ED That is just one more reason that bargaining sessions need to be public. Maybe Najarian is right, the City should contract with the County for fire protection.]

- The Protest against Utility rates had a delightful moment when CM Jim Starbird was spotted looking down from the City Hall parking structure at those gathered when Aram Kazazian invited him to, “come-on-down”. I also invited him to share the mic, but he continued to stay in the cat bird seat. There were several police officers with him. Contrary to the GNP article about the protest, Starbird did not speak to those assembled.
- [In a first, bankruptcy judge rules Calif. city can void union contracts](#) **Pamela A. MacLean / Staff reporter** March 17, 2009 In the first ruling of its kind, a bankruptcy judge held the city of Vallejo, Calif. has the authority to void its existing union contracts in its effort to reorganize, holding public workers do not enjoy the same protections Congress gave union workers at private companies.
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael McManus held March 13 that when Congress enacted 11 U.S.C. sec. 1113 to limit companies from outright rejection of union contracts it limited it to Chapter 11 bankruptcies. By failing to extend the limits to Chapter 9, which covers municipal bankruptcy, McManus said cities have broader latitude to break existing union pacts, *In re City of Vallejo*, 08-26813-A-9 (E. Dist. Calif.)
- [Vallejo is in worse](#) shape than most cities and has declared bankruptcy because of the ridiculous deals union-dominated politicians voted to give the city's workers. Now the same unions that virtually destroyed the city have been battling the city's efforts to rein in the contracts and renegotiate these unsustainable deals. Union recalcitrance has cost the city millions. [ED – The Campaign Finance Disclosure 460 forms are very telling. Review them for the past 4 years and include the Quintero Assembly challenge for Paul Krekorian's seat.]
- The [MEYERS-MILIAS-BROWN ACT LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#) act allows union members to have their dues go to Vanguardians -- (c) An employee who is a member of a bona fide religion, body, or sect that has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting public employee organizations shall not be required to join or financially support a public employee organization as a condition of employment. **The employee may be required, in lieu of periodic dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees, to pay sums equal to the dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees to a nonreligious, nonlabor charitable fund exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**
- [Mayor Drayman was taken to task](#) by Glendale Family Jewels regarding a commercial for a GCC candidate that was apparently made at City Hall. Drayman is endorsing everyone which really makes the endorsements pretty ridiculous. A question voters may want to ask is about the relationship between candidate Laura Friedman's husband and the Drayman Community Gardens.
- Other GFJ non-issues include an accusation that [Ara Najarian's wife received special VIP](#) treatment from GPD for speeding in a residential neighborhood. Vanguard checked and there was no substantiation of the charge according to GPD spokesperson.
- GPD made money with jail contracts from ICE in 2007 \$87,000 and \$260,000 in 2008
- **At 1 PM on Tuesday there will be a secret session to discuss employment contracts. Taken from the agenda: “a. Conference with Labor Negotiators. The Agency Designated Representatives Attending Closed Session are: James Starbird, Robert McFall, Yasmin Beers, Scott Howard, Matt Doyle, Robert Elliott, Steve Zurn, Harold Scoggins and Randy Adams. The Name of the Employee Organizations are the Glendale Management Association and the Glendale Firefighters Association.” [ED Everyone is attending except the public, the people who pay the salaries and benefits.]**
- Le Ronde played to a packed house for the last night of its engagement at Armazd Stepanians' Luna Playhouse. A superb cast took us through this 10 vignette romp from bed to bed in 1900 Vienna. It is too bad that more people including City Council members and the proponent for an Arts corridor weren't there to see, polish and encourage a crown jewel in Glendale. Especially when the City is looking to pump up sales tax with a \$150,000 stimulus.

JOIN US THIS FRIDAY and EVERY FRIDAY from 7-9AM
Everyone is Welcome



Vanguardians Weekly City Business and Networking Breakfast

- Meet Friends, Colleagues and Candidates; Customers, Clients and Service providers.
- Have time to engage them.
- Learn about serious issues facing Glendale
- Bring your issues – It's about YOU!
- Learn to be a part of the solution instead of the problem
- Meeting cost is a minimum donation of \$12.
- A sumptuous breakfast is served.

Call for location

For more information contact Barry Allen
Info@vanguardians.org or 818 745 6770

Remember, bring business cards!

Nothing to join – No Dues -- No membership fees

- **Vanguardians Conference call every Wednesday at 11 AM. A discussion of the previous City Council meeting, upcoming events and more. How to participate in Glendale government. Call 1-270-696-1555 Access code 521782# to ask questions and get answers.**
- **If you have issues with the City and fear retaliation, send them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.**

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

City Council report card

Council	3-17	Contact info
Drayman	D-	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Najarian	C	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Quintero	C-	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Weaver	D	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Yousefian	B+	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;

- Drayman- for mocking a speaker during oral communications and insinuating a correlation between the speaker and a mental institution.
- Najarian- for not thinking "out of the box" and challenging a design of a home because of a tunnel and elevator shaft as Najarian felt it was a "bad precedent to set."
- Quintero- for rejecting a plan to build a "larger" home in Glendale and expecting everyone to live in "humble abodes" while he resides in a 3,300 Sq Ft home in the Glendale hills.
- Weaver- for continually stating that he is not campaigning for any candidate but continues to use his position on council to attack fellow incumbents and candidates running for city council.
- Yousefian- for supporting new neighborhood signs while being cautious about the funds needed to create the signs and how city funds are spent.

Please Call It a Comeback



The Glendale city council has decided to lift the city's 1947 ban on boxing – on a trial, one-year basis. Whether or not you agree with boxing, you have to admit, you're kind of intrigued. Like that old crush you had in high school, you just wouldn't mind seeing what they're up to in the decades you've been off on your own.

There certainly have been mixed reactions in the last two weeks from the public. Some echo the sentiment of early post WWII Glendale, making a connection between the controlled violence in the ring with risky behavior outside it. There's a fear that some maleficent force will come to Glendale and explode on the night of the match. Like a live version of Grand Theft Auto, the adults might take to the streets, high on booze and testosterone, arms flailing in imprinted gesticulation. And this doesn't even include the illegal betting.

Those in the other corner of the issue argue for resuscitation of the sport for several reasons, one most sympathetically voiced in these financially difficult times – revenue for the city. With the Civic Auditorium costing more than it takes in, why not bring something to it that could generate large profits? Though, the first match is wagered to clear a meager \$9,000 in profit, it doesn't mean that future matches couldn't garner more.

The man behind all the fighting is former boxer-turned-promoter, Kahren Harutyunyan, who is a former champion with a successful Bantamweight career under his belt. Mr. Harutyunyan hails from Yerevan, Armenia, and on arrival in the US in 1997, moved quickly. He earned a degree from UCLA in English, and owns "Art of Boxing Promotions" in which he is not only putting on matches, but also finding new up-and-coming talent. It's no surprise that the Armenian community would come out in droves to support their fellow fighting countrymen, which means, an eventual easing of how many people can attend the matches. Currently, the capacity has been set to 1,100, drinks will cease to be poured at around 9pm and security will be abundant.

Save for Dave Weaver, the rest of the Council voted to lift the ban and decided to hold the first fight on June 12th. Just before the vote, an old boxing announcer weighed in on the positives and negatives of the sport as spectacle. As he was leaving the podium, Council member Bob Yousefian called out to ask him one simple question, "As I have not been experienced in boxing...Based on all the facts and evidence [of the city staff report and public's comments] do you [think] that we should allow this on a one year trial basis?" The self titled "ring man" answered, "Yes, positively."

As someone whose own interest of boxing never made it beyond the bizarre incidents like the ear biting and the sky diving, it seems mature of Yousefian, another apathetic party, to take an old ring man at his word. After all, both men don't see this as an opportunity for mayhem, but as a chance to bring a little culture to Glendale, delivered in a one-two combination punch. **Council Reporter Laurel Miller is a Vanguard volunteer.**

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians, Inc.* 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 You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.

From the Publisher.... Endorsements have little value and the Sun will rise again



The Democrats, the Republicans, the ANC, the Firefighters, the Police, the Sierra Club, the newspapers and every club, group and association is endorsing candidates for public office except 501(c)3 non-profit organizations that can neither oppose or support candidates. Like the Bar Association, Vanguardians can rate candidates and we have. Glendale has a non-partisan election so why are the political parties endorsing candidates? Is it because the candidates they endorse will continue to follow the party dictates, for instance do the Democrats endorse candidates that will give our tax dollars to the unions and create a bigger government? Or will the Republican party endorse those candidates that will follow their party line?

The Firefighters have endorsed candidates that are known for giving them more money and benefits; they have even endorsed a non-incumbent (something seldom done) because she is on record as wanting to give them even more money.

The Firefighters Union makes claims about fire safety and then they go after anyone that challenges them. We have seen and heard a new model for protection. Have they said lets discuss this and see if it has merit. Not in a heartbeat. They talk about public safety. There is a police officer assigned to the City Council meeting. Is there a Rescue Ambulance standing by for a medical emergency? Is there a defibrillator in the Council Chambers? The Firefighters have not made one significant statement about how those they have endorsed have done anything about public safety. There were no studies, yet the firefighters refuse to share the reason why there are so many injuries when there are no buildings with burning bodies to be rescued. They had a chance but blew it. The Fire Chief side stepped the reason why the street was blocked resulting in a slow roll where a woman died in the fire on Loraine St. A fire truck blocked the street according to GFD records! That is good fire safety? No matter what retired fire chief comes back to support his brethern while forgetting to remind us how big his pension is that we are paying.

Endorsements are self serving. Endorsers are special interest groups that are looking for a return on their investment. The GNP got \$100,000 worth of City business last year. Who will they endorse?

Don't be flim-flammed or bamboozled. It's your money. Take charge of how it is spent. Demand that contract negotiations for the employee associations be held publicly.

'The Sun will rise tomorrow,' is CCM Quintero's new mantra. Rather than acknowledge his responsibility for the financial fiasco he helped make and rather than look for viable solutions other than to transfer more wealth to the public safety departments he uses that mantra. Years ago I dated a woman who was a professional but when she thought things were going the wrong way she said, "I am going to bed. When I awake things will be better."



Just like Quintero nothing changed although being rested she could better deal with the issues. Not Quintero. He is just waiting for the election to be over so he can grant payraises to the Managers and the Firemen, totally oblivious to the financial devastation we are all facing. Quintero has let us down by telling us that we have lots of money (\$450,000,000) but not saying the money is restricted. Hands-off. He did not say that we paid exorbitant amounts of money for land that is going to cost millions to be able to use and care for. He is particularly proud of Rockhaven even though there is no purpose yet as the consultants haven't come back with an idea and a price tag.

Several months ago I called on the City Council to look at new technologies they could support that would have an impact on turning around the economy. Only one CCM took me up on that. Only one was interested enough to start the beginning research even though he is running for re-election. Only one person was interested enough to pursue this technology. WHO IS THAT CCM? There are several ways to find out. The best one is to join us on our conference call or at the Friday Business Breakfast. You will learn the technology and the candidate that took me up on the offer.

WHERE HAVE THE LEADERS GONE? Certainly not to the Glendale Government. The City Council and



City staff have bogged themselves down in the minutiae of government to avoid tough decisions. Selecting signs for the neighborhoods, setting a policy to change and charge the planning department with new rules. When they are implemented, Council does not support their own creation. Surprisingly, CCM Weaver did. Changing the Downtown Specific plan to increase building height and the boundaries even when there is no movement in the development community due to the economy. Issues that need to be addressed: Consumer energy costs, overstaffing, reducing expenditures (I was quite surprised to see that the fingerprinting, livescan and passport department didn't close, it just moved to the already overcrowded finance department.) cutting out take-home cars and reviewing the decision by the Vallejo Bankruptcy Court over the decision to be able to break municipal union wage contracts. We need to look at the Mayor who is more interested in preventing the Americana from holding a Sunday Farmers Market than he is in tackling the hard issues like the economic downturn in Glendale. Drayman is cited because he sets the agenda. Drayman is like Nero who fiddled while Rome burned. You ask, "What can he do?" Very simple. He can direct the present contract negotiations to be held in public; he can pull together a panel of people that have ideas that can help bring about change. For instance, cutting back the bureaucracy necessary to get projects started; to grease the skids with Redvelopment money to jumpstart projects stalled because of uncooperative lenders.

CCM Najarian is an economist but no one has heard any ideas from him other than, 'Public Safety supports my campaign'. CCM Quintero hasn't a clue and we have heard nothing from him except there is \$450,000,000 available and the Sun will rise again tomorrow. Yousefian has approached

the economy with some issues about the landfill and gasification. Weaver is campaigning hard and isn't running so he is the last to say anything except, "business tax."

Bottom line is that there are no leaders at City Hall. However, there is a chance for the voters to change that. **BARRY ALLEN**

City Council Oral Communications: There really are so many issues. One of the main issues is endorsements by Public Safety – Police, Fire and their managers for CCM Quintero and Najarian.

In this election and the last two, City Employee Unions have given those two CCMs almost \$75,000, for their campaigns and endorsed them. In fact at the Chevy Chase candidate forum, CCM Najarian waved his magic wand and talked about how the public safety supported him. Magically 4 on-duty firemen appeared in a possible HATCH Act violation to support their candidates

Let's analyze the issues that CCMs Najarian and Quintero haven't taken action on:

- The GPD Sexual Harassment suit
- The Police Building fiasco with a \$32,000,000 cost overrun
- The Ovasapyan case, wrongful incarceration
- The case from Sherman oaks that cost almost a \$1M while accepting an insurance investigator's accusation
- The Armenian Police Car poster
- Two personnel cases in court

Of course standing by while a Police Lieutenant was allowed to work up to 36 hours a week on his own outside job, then retired and came back to work with a different job title: double dipping.

There's more: With the GFD there has been no written report on the fatality on Lorain St. except to say the victim was already dead. No action taken about a GFD truck blocking the first due in Engine Company

Next week: The CCM that is looking to our future; The need for a Hatch Act complaint that will be discussed on our weekly Wednesday conference call.

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. [Albert Einstein](#)

Today, grab that check book and send a check so Vanguardians can continue to represent you and your fellow Glendalians.



Commentary: JAMES THE CARPENTER MEETS BERNIE MADOFF

Many years ago, when I used to be much more idealistic than I am now, I thought that people who suffered through a major calamity would be much more empathic as a group than others whose good fortune saved them from the wrath of war, epidemics, or genocide.

By many accounts, the Jewish people contribute to charity in amounts considerably higher than their numbers would indicate. The recent exposure of Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme that hurt so many charities and the huge size of the endowments is a testament to that spirit of giving. I believe that the Hebrew term is Tzedakah – that spiritual necessity to perform charity that has the inherent meaning of justice.

But despite that tradition, or maybe because of it, the ability of Bernie Madoff to perpetrate such unimaginable damage on his own kind is the more perplexing. But then again, greed cuts across all cultural, ethnic or religious elements.

It is with a similar level of reflection that I heard of the endorsement of Ara Najarian by the Armenian National Committee's Glendale Chapter. Few people who have followed councilman Najarian's ambition can look at his record and claim that his actions promoted charity, justice or fair play. The very same organization, whose mission is the world-wide recognition of Armenian Genocide, chooses to endorse someone who in my book is the very antithesis of those values.

No matter how we evaluate Najarian's record in office, either forward or backward in time, we find numerous ethically questionable behaviors, actions and unmitigated self-promotion.

As you read this, Ara Najarian is very likely selling his candidacy for re-election as the six-million dollar man from the Metropolitan Transit Authority. His message that if he keeps his position on the MTA Glendale will get millions is an affront to decency. Should Glendale get more money as a result of having Najarian on board or as a result of a much greater transportation need than other communities? If we accept his pork-barrel offer for Glendale, what other community in greater need would be left out of the money? What would be his offer in exchange for a nomination to a judgeship? Heaven forbid!

Najarian is running for re-election aided in great part to campaign contribution limits he helped pass. While challengers need to abide by those limits, he nonchalantly accepted large sums of money from city unions just before the limits took effect. The concept of fair play inherent in the law, does not apply to his ambition. How does the ANC justify an ethically challenged candidate?



For those of us who recalled his over-the-top promotion of an aquatic center during the League of Women forum four years ago, his inaction during his subsequent four years to promote the very signature statement of his campaign reeks of demagoguery and manipulation. The year he got elected – 2005 and the following two years were for Glendale the richest revenue years in property tax ever. Yet, despite the tens of millions of extra money, he did not utter a peep to promote such a needed facility for Glendale’s youth, until now. All the money went to the very same unions who’ve given him so much in campaign donations.

Now that we’ve challenged the city council on the burden Glendale residents bear as a result of high electrical rates, Najarian has become the leading spokesmen to defend the huge endowment he helped bestow on Glendale’s gold-plated salaries and pensions. The public can suck it up and pay. Though if my numbers are correct, a whole bunch of them, who are paring down, doubling up, and paying through the nose are of his own ethnicity.

Maybe some of his Armenian brethren who got the full “Ara” image in south Glendale can get to know the “James” the Carpenter from up north. A Bernie Madoff he is not, but, to my thinking, all the seeds of unrepentant, unmitigated ambition have already been planted. I just wasn’t aware that it would be the local ANC chapter that would be fertilizing the ground.

HERBERT MOLANO

Hitting a new high in
Glendale
Foreclosures

**588 Glendale
Foreclosures**



Number of Glendale Foreclosure Filings Flat Out SKYROCKETS

As reported last week, the number of foreclosures pending in our city of Glendale was a grand total of 504 properties. Boy, how one simple week can change so many lives. Within the past 5 business days, Glendale foreclosures have skyrocketed with average of 17 **DAILY** foreclosure filings. To date, Glendale is now crowned with a new high of 588 pending foreclosures. Absolutely sickening and flat out inexcusable.

All this at the same time AIG pays out 165 million dollars in bonuses on a Saturday night! All this at the same time Glendale’s commercial real estate takes a nose dive with OVER 1,000,000 square feet of empty and abandoned commercial sites. Has anyone driven down Brand or Central lately? It’s the beginnings of a sad story. Empty units followed by empty buildings, followed by going out of business sales.

To the dozens of emails I get stating that "we are fine," this is "Glendale" and it’s just a bump in the roadwe’ll recover by year end, please let me know how it is that you expect "things will be fine." Essentially every other corner in Glendale has a vacancy, businesses are closing down by the dozens, lay off’s and pink slips are being delivered as if they were going out of style, and Glendale homes are being foreclosed on by the droves. Please humor me with your economic insight and let me know what planet it is that you are living on. I’d like to join you.

To all the ostriches that have their heads buried in the sand that email me to complain that I am negative, I invite you to please respond now and explain to the readers of Vanguard how it is that our local economy is in a "temporary slump?" Sure, there is a small percentage of independently wealthy Glendalians that can care less about the number of foreclosures and failing businesses. Our focus is not that of the few that pretend they are immune. Our goal is to educate the majority of our readers to shed a focused spotlight on our neighborhoods. Ignorance is bliss and knowledge is power. Yes, we know the sun will rise again tomorrow but whoever has the guts to state that we are not in recession, in my opinion, is a fool. Wait. Then again, those individuals may be right! On second thought, we may not be in a recession. The numbers have spoken for themselves. We may just be on the verge of a flat out depression. Please correct me if I am wrong. What say you, o’ positive ones?

CHRISTIAN ARBID



The writer is a Real Estate Broker and Loss Mitigator. 818.232.7899 Questions Relating to Foreclosures, Short Sales, Saving Your Home, Loan Modifications check out his blog at www.LenderLies.infoEmail Christian at christianarbid@gmail.com and your question will be answered in the next issue of Vanguard.

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 – SHARE VANGUARD – VOLUNTEER

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

2 Potpourri ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, 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.

We get mail:



I spoke before the city council to demand that the city resurface Glenoaks Blvd immediately. Glenoaks Blvd was looking like a 3rd world street with potholes and cracks. We residents were tired of seeing approximately 80% of the city budget going for employees' salaries and only 20% to fix our potholes, sidewalks or other basic city services. I reminded the council that my wife had a "trip and fall" in front of Adventist Hospital several months ago caused by a raised sidewalk. About 48 hours after I spoke, most of the major potholes had been repaired. I got the same quick service repairs when my wife had the "trip and fall" several months ago. In order to get basic city services one MUST go before the city council and demand immediate action. Mike Mohill

Dear Fellow Candidates: Did you notice how the Glendale News-press completely ignored our two last forums? Did you notice that the "clash" between the two candidates for Treasurer was given a prominent reporting position?

And elsewhere, did you notice criticisms of Ms. Friedman and Mr. Teahan, who are dismissed as good candidates because they have given the same precise and succinct answers to the exact same questions asked in more than one forum?

As a newcomer to this process, I think I have learned a lesson: To get written about we mustn't expect to be asked different and interesting questions from forum organizers and participants. I cannot make known my true disappointment of the forum organized by The League of Women Voters (or "You Guys with the great website" as Mr. Lafian called them) an excuse. No! To accept the repetition of the same old questions and the oppressive One-Minute answer rule is naive.

The solution is to have pointed confrontations between us- otherwise the only other way of appearing in the media will be through advertising, and that, quite frankly, is beyond me. I don't accept donations and I need all the money I have to operate my theatre.

So the next time let's have a fight. It'll be fun. I'll say a few unkind things about one or two of you. And you can do the same. Better still, let's use the forum formats and divide into 4 groups and the first person from group A will get a minute to vilify a candidate from group B, then group B will attack group C, and C will pick on D and D back to A.. Then we'll go to the second person of each group. This way we will avoid a Laurence of Arabia type situation: forcing Mr. Will Rogers to shoot us (like Peter O'Toole) in order to prevent reciprocal animosities to go on forever. (Mr. Rogers must be so bored with this by now and he may be too willing to do the task).

Please note: From now on I will not be subjected to the format of the forums and the type of questions that has been the case so far. **Aramazd Stepanian PS** With all the genuine concern about the high salaries that quite a lot of City employees draw, the way people on lesser incomes pay for them through indirect taxation and the real need for cutbacks on burdensome expenditures, it is a pity that no one earning over \$200,000, \$150,000 or even \$100,000 has volunteered to take a cut in salary (even a temporary one) - You know, to show that the well-off do have some understanding and sympathy for the rest of the people.

The Friedman "arts corridor" idea is a joke. An art district can't be forced into creation. SOHO in NYC was cool because there were artists there who found cheap rent. The SF corridor is not cool, easy to rent or even to park near. It's not Culver City or North Hollywood. It's a one way stretch of established businesses that don't look like they are moving anytime soon.

How about doing something in downtown Glendale? Not in between Armstrong's Garden Center and Home Depot. I don't think a theater group would enjoy the train noise during a performance. GFJ

I am so glad I signed up for your www.Vanguardians.org RSS feed. I got the Hatch Act complaint early on. Thanks again. SR

As a former cop who worked in a neighboring city, I think I have a pretty good grasp on issues of public safety. I won't profess to be an administrative genius, because I never worked an administrative job, but I do think I can make some valued observations.

Reading your last Vanguard I saw mention of some police command staff retiring. I also saw one of those same positions listed on the \$200k club, the assistant chief.

I must admit I didn't know the GPD even had an assistant chief. What does this person do and where has he/she been? I see Randy Adams at events. I have met captains and lieutenants at events. I have never seen or heard of an assistant chief. That would indicate to me the agency does not need the position. This is probably some fluff job created for someone in particular and if he/she is leaving, the job should disappear with them.

If you want to save some money, I would start there. Seems to me I heard the fire department did away with theirs. These departments just aren't big enough to need so many layers of bureaucracy and they won't miss them when they're gone - especially if we never saw them when they were here. **Retp'd [ED Check the Org Chart]**

I looked up the org chart as you suggested. I stand by my position they don't need that assistant chief. The rest looks pretty balanced. Actually, they don't seem to have enough lieutenants for the size of the agency. They could buy two with that chief's salary.

As for the Glendale guy working hourly, I don't see that as a real big deal. I used to work more hours than that doing security and movie gigs on the side. There's 168 hours in a week and only 40 belong to the bosses. That's about 25%. Who cares what an employee does with the other 75%? It's their own personal business.

The big rip off is how LAPD and others have full time DROP programs now. They pay full top shelf salary and even promote to higher pay after starting to collect their big management retirements. That's a huge double-dip! I'm not sure if Glendale has that or not. I hope they don't.

I would like to introduce www.PoliD.org. We have put up a demo page and you can see how the site will function when it's done. PoliD is a gateway that enables you to influence Public Policy, become aware and active in influencing change. Our comprehensive system allows you to interact and take action by;

- Viewing Top Issues,
- Expressing Your Viewpoint,
- Influence Public Officials and
- Building Networks of People.

We are in the design phase of this project and would like to get your suggestions so we can implement them while the opportunity is available. Jeremy Mulvihill PoliD Political Debate



Utility Users Tax: Official Argument against Measure U

The City of Glendale wants you to vote for a measure they say will cut your telecommunications tax rate. In fact it will INCREASE YOUR TAXES because the City will increase the number of devices and services you pay taxes on. If a non-taxed service is bundled with a taxed service you will be taxed on BOTH!

Don't be fooled, the money goes into the General Fund to pay salaries. The tax is NOT earmarked for essential services. That is scare talk.

- The existing 7% tax is only on a portion of your telephone service, while the 6.5% tax will tax many additional uses like watching TV on your cell phone and those not even invented.
- This is a general tax. As it is not earmarked it will be used for City salaries and benefits.
- City documents show that this measure WILL increase your overall telecommunication taxes.
- An affirmative vote will make it more difficult to challenge the law when it is wrong.

A 'NO' vote will save you money.

Taxpayers and families are facing loss of jobs, foreclosures, higher food prices, declining home values and higher utility rates.

Vote 'NO' if you want to cut your tax bill.

Remember the \$100K club, 523 city employees being paid between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in 2007, not counting benefits. In 2008 they received \$8,000,000 in raises from your pocket.

A 'NO' vote is a vote for accountability.

A 'NO' vote means money in your pocket.

A 'NO' vote sends a message to council to live within their means like we do.

A 'NO' vote may mean a refund of the onerous tax.

MORE REASONS TO VOTE NO. Taken from the proposed Ordinance:

[Special Election Regarding a Measure Related to the City's Utility Users Tax to Modernize the Application of the Utility Users Tax](#) Highlighted comments are clarifications by Vanguard.

Section 4.38.020 2. **THIS DOES NOT SAY THERE WILL BE NO TAX ON THE TIME YOU ARE DOWNLOADING**

B. Video Services. **SERVICES TO WHICH THE TAX WILL BE APPLIED**

H. **THIS PROVISION INDICATES THAT THE TAX COLLECTED WILL BE SPENT FOR ANY LEGAL PURPOSE AND IS NOT DIRECTED AT PUBLIC SAFETY**

4.38.030 **WHEN TAXABLE ITEMS ARE BUNDLED WITH NONTAXABLE YOU WILL BE TAXED ON BOTH**

4.38.040 **NO PROVISION TO INCREASE INCOME THRESHOLD OR ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION**

4.38.130. **TAX ADMINISTRATOR CAN ADOPT RULES WITHOUT PUBLIC INPUT OR COUNCIL APPROVAL**

4.38.180 **PRE-EMPTION OF OUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

4.38.230 SECTION 5. **AFTER THE FACT RATIFICATION OF AN ISSUE BEFORE THE COURTS THAT WOULD REFUND TAXES OBTAINED WITHOUT VOTER APPROVAL**

IF THE SERVICE PROVIDER IS DELINQUENT ON ANY TAX OR PAYMENT TO THE CITY, THOSE DELINQUENCY CHARGES AND PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED TO THE SERVICE USER. MASTER ANTENNA SYSTEMS AND RESELLERS OF SERVICES WOULD HAVE TO COLLECT THE TAX AND PAY IT ON IN OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. A 'NO' VOTE WILL KEEP THE STATUS QUO.

You can cast your 'vote' on the UUT-Telecom in the Vanguardians poll located on the [Vanguardians Home page](#). The tally is available for everyone to see.

Join the 80% of Glendale voters who are opposed to the UUT.

LETTER: I got the mailer from the City supporting the UUT. They mailed it a a high rate instead of the sorted rate. Is that how they will squander our money? Then they talk about equal treatment. Coming from Glendale politician, that is just horse****. You are right. We should vote NO. Just because others weren't informed we should vote the way they did? We have Vanguard. Thank you!! JP

Barry Allen is available to speak to your group to share the hidden agenda and tell you the truth about the Utility Users Tax. This is an opportunity for you to vote to keep your money in your wallet or purse!



We get calls: I thought your utility rates were so cheap as I recall a few short years agoyou had the cheapest utility rates that you told me...well...what happened?....time caught up with Glendale and their socialistic city owned utility??? [ED A message from a Vanguardian in Huntington Beach regarding the televised protest against energy rates]

- I saw a spreadsheet on salaries and occupations that certainly answers the question of where a City employee will go for a new job. No way would they want to leave Glendale when the pay is so high.
- Glendale uses mirrors and fuzzy math to show the public how well off they are. We are fortunate to have people like you, Herbert Molano and Bruce Philpott who give us accurate information. Cheers to you.
- Thanks for forwarding the article about the Vallejo bankruptcy. I have heard you speak specifically about these topics in the past. How did you know? After listening to the candidates and seeing that Quintero and Najarian are so set to give away more money and Laura Friedman wants to increase salaries I know three people I won't vote for. Too bad Drayman and Weaver aren't up for re-election.
- The Mentally disabled community is planning to demonstrate at City Hall following the drubbing they got from a very insensitive John Drayman. He needs to treat everyone with respect. If he doesn't like the job of serving all Glendalians he should give it up and go back to being a 'Nut' acting career. President Obama apologized for his words about the Special Olympics even before the Leno program was aired; while Mayor Drayman has shown us no humility at all. He was even late for his Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

- Every time I wrote a letter to the GNP that called and asked for corroboration. There sure wasn't any with their editorial picks for Council. Did they hold their interviews in public? I certainly haven't heard those statements from the dais from Quintero or Najarian. I have absolutely no trust in the GNP. The GNP only prints the news the City wants us to have. Maybe that is why more City workers read Vanguard than any other publication.



I got my 'vote by mail ballot' and it was missing the place to vote for the clerk and the UUT. What shall I do? I really don't like all these languages! [ED This really isn't a language issue. Well, maybe. I asked the caller to go to the card marked 'Glendale' and verify the names. He did. I asked him to go to the bottom of that card and read what it said...in English. He said, "CONTINUE VOTING ON BACK." "OK, turn the ballot over, what do you see?" There in front of his very eyes were the missing questions. My suggestion is to make sure you look at both sides of the ballots.]

- Barry what shall I do. My husband's girlfriend has been flirting and making passes at me? [ED – Wrong media. Check with Dear Abby or Ann. My best wishes for the resolution on your dilemma.]



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

Monday, March 23

Historic Preservation Commission – 2:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-3960

Tuesday, March 24

2:30 pm Glendale Housing Authority -- Glendale Redevelopment Agency – **Joint Meeting** RE: Proposed Action Plan for CDBG Funds; the Emergency Shelter Grant; and the Home Investment Partnership Act for 2009-2010

6:00 pm Glendale City Council --, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

Wednesday, March 25

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 26

Design Review Board #2 -- 5:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

3



Public Information

City attorney says Weaver didn't expend City funds to determine if his office was being bugged. Drayman denies he talked about it.

4

Vanguardians

- **Wednesday conference call report: We had a number of people on the weekly call. There were questions about the election and concerned calls about the flagrant way certain council members are treating the financial meltdown. There is room for you to share the conference call.**
- **Vanguardians Conference call is every Wednesday at 11 AM. A discussion of the previous City Council meeting, upcoming events and more. How to participate in Glendale government. Call 1-270-696-1555 Access code 521782# to ask questions and get answers.**
- **Vanguard Friday Breakfast Club had a small group that had an excellent opportunity to share their opinions while networking. Unfortunately, the Bob's Big Boy restaurant closed with no notice. Call us for our new Friday breakfast meeting location. Join us every Friday.**
- **Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at www.vanguardians.org.**
- **Here is an opportunity for you to suggest web links and events to the Vanguardians website without having to register. Just click on the "Suggest a Link" and "Tell Us about an Event" links from the main menu and submit the forms. You can also contact webteam@vanguardians.org directly.**

- Serious bloggers wanted for the **Vanguardians** website. Contact webteam@vanguardians.org for more information.

VANGUARDIANS needs your financial support in these recessionary times.

Please make checks payable to “**VANGUARDIANS**”
 Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
 Contributions are tax deductible – You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes
 You may also donate online at www.vanguardians.org

5



the Insider

is a digest of information 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.



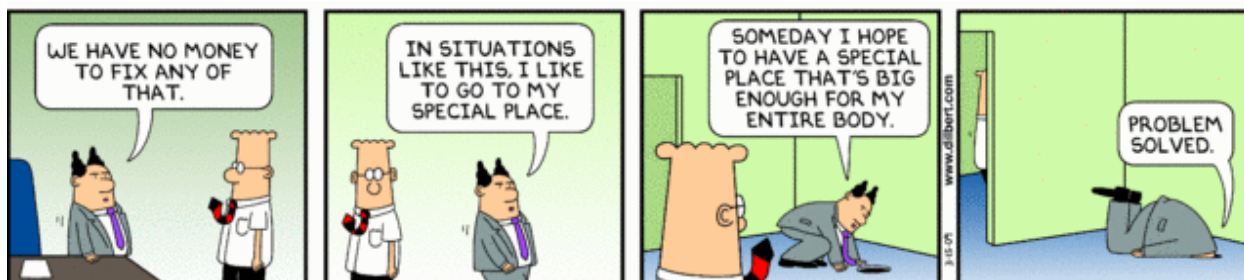
Talk of Starbird standing up for his managers was highly overrated. His voiding the GMA contract and then pushing the GMA board to bend over has left most managers with big questions about his integrity and that of the GMA board that hands out the political donations.

After being warned about getting too involved in the election, and then having managers go on the attack to make themselves look good, most employees are looking not only for a change in the economy but changes in the council and city managers as well. Seems that staff confidence in the supposed leaders of the City is as low as the public's confidence in the economy.

The shifting of funding since Starbird has arrived has given the Council more money for pet projects, but as Vanguard has noted, it has taken a toll on the reserves. But, as we have found out recently, lawmakers don't necessarily read the laws, or budgets that they vote on. (Think about the tree law.)

6

Humor



Council and Manager facing the tough decisions

7

The Election Process:

[Read Candidate Campaign Contribution Statements](#) [Read responses to Vanguardians questionnaire](#)

[Glendale Municipal Election April 7, 2009: Candidate Contact Information](http://aramazdstepanian.freehostia.com/)

[2009 Glendale City Council Election Forum Schedule](#) Thanks to Hal Weber

The City Unions have given Ara Najarian \$40,000 and Frank Quintero \$33,400. A small investment with big returns! CCM Najarian and Quintero, we call on you to honor the spirit of campaign finance reform and give the money back and just say, 'NO' to the IE committees. Off year and after election contributions, if any, are not shown.

8 Public Safety

[Court rules against Firefighters and for the City of Richmond when they needed to layoff Firefighters](#)

Faced with a severe financial crisis, the City of Richmond laid off 18 firefighters and consequently reduced the number of firefighters on each work shift. The firefighters' union, International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 188, AFL-CIO sought to meet and confer over the decision, but the City claimed the layoff decision was not subject to collective bargaining. Local 188 filed an unfair practices claim with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), which dismissed the charges relating to the layoff and shift staffing decision. This appeal arises out of Local 188's petition to compel PERB to issue a complaint against the City.

The threshold jurisdictional question on appeal is whether a court may consider a challenge to a PERB decision dismissing an unfair labor practices charge and refusing to issue a complaint under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (Gov. Code, [fn. 1](#) § 3500 et seq.) {Slip Opn. Page 2} (MMBA or Act). We conclude an aggrieved party may seek a writ of mandate on certain narrow grounds described in this opinion to challenge a PERB decision not to issue an unfair labor practices complaint.

The substantive issue raised on appeal is whether a local government agency's decision to lay off firefighters is a mandatory subject of bargaining under the MMBA. Consistent with our Supreme Court's decision in *Fire Fighters Union v. City of Vallejo* (1974) [12 Cal.3d 608](#) (*Vallejo*), we conclude a decision to lay off firefighters is not subject to collective bargaining. Accordingly, we shall affirm the judgment of the trial court denying Local 188's petition for writ of mandate.

The City of Glendale refuses to share injury information as to the type of employee injuries and the location of the occurrence. Meanwhile workers compensation insurance costs are astronomical. For instance a firefighter costs \$7100 per person per year.

City off the hook but under the Charter will have to pay for its agents in the Ovasapyan case:

[Case 2:08-cv-00194-CAS-JWJ Document 99 Filed 03/02/2009](#)

Following trial by jury and pursuant to Special Verdict filed February 20, 2009 and Special Verdict II filed February 25, 2009, JUDGMENT is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff Edmond Ovasapyan and against Defendants, Arthur Frank and Ian Grimes, jointly and severally, for general and special damages, in the sum of \$1,160,000.00; and for punitive damages in favor of Plaintiff Edmond Ovasapyan and against Defendant Arthur Frank in the sum of \$75,000.00; and for punitive damages in favor of Plaintiff Edmond Ovasapyan against Defendant Ian Grimes in the sum of \$75,000.00.

Plaintiff Edmond Ovasapyan is awarded attorneys' fees in the sum of \$ (to be determined by motion) and costs in the sum of \$ (to be determined by application to the Clerk) as against Defendants Arthur Frank and Ian Grimes, jointly and severally.

Judgment is entered in favor of Defendant City of Glendale and against Plaintiff Edmond Ovasapyan.

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