



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Council Spends \$196M More Than Revenue

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

When WE are complacent THEY win!

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

BREAKING NEWS

Montrose Collection vs. Sharon & Robert Thompson Case Dismissed March 27

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YR9srnCh_Aw Weaver Unhappy [Videos by Glendale Citizens](#)

Weaver refuses to make Dreaming of Roses Inc. public disclosure documents available. "Public Inspection of Exemption Applications and Returns – Section 501(c)(3) organizations must make their application (Form 1023) and the three most recent annual returns (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) available to the public, upon request and without charge. These documents must be made available at the organization's principal office during regular business hours. Upon request, an organization must furnish copies of the application and the three most recent annual returns. The requests may be made in person or in writing," necessitating a complaint to the IRS.

ELIE WIESEL

It may well be that our means are fairly limited and our possibilities restricted when it comes to applying pressure on our government. But is this a reason to do nothing? Despair is not an answer. Neither is resignation. Resignation only leads to indifference, which is not merely a sin but a punishment

Who will be next Mayor?

Within the next few weeks the Mayor will be selected by the City Council. Moreover, this person will likely be Mayor for the next election. (Note: Council member Weaver was Mayor when he was re-elected.) Who will it be? Mayor Najarian, CM Yousefian and CM Quintero will be candidates in the April 2009 election. Should it be one of them or CM Drayman or Weaver? Our 'spies' tell us that Weaver wants to be Mayor and an Airport Commissioner and free of complaints and investigations. Who do you think it should be?

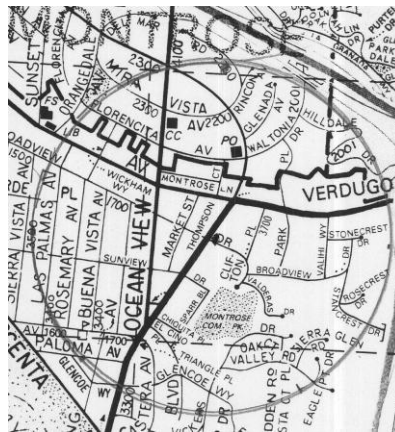
NEWS

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

The companies bidding on the Beeline contract are: MV Transportation – the present provider; Southland Transit – the Dial-a-Ride provider; First Transit FKA Laidlaw; and Diversified Transportation. The RFP response packages (2 from MV) will be open away from public view, a rather contentious policy that begs the issue of duplicity as two of the bidders have preexisting relationships with the Transportation Department. This 'policy' is in keeping with Managements' policy of keeping the public in the dark.

An award to Southland Transit would give that company and its ownership a vertical monopoly in Glendale...the Dial-A-Ride (Para Transit); 52 of the 81 cab licenses (Checker-8, City Cab-15, Yellow-17 and Bell-12) and the Beeline (Fixed Route). An Award to MV Transportation would give the public continued broken down buses, and malfunctioning wheelchair lifts and climate control as well as long periods of time with broken fare boxes.

The contaminated soils saga in Montrose continues. station at 3600 N. Verdugo was torn down in 2005. The hoists were removed and soils were tested down to 18 supervised this and a report was filed with them in 2005. obtained under the Public Records Act, Vanguardians accepted by the Fire Department was for another site Allen, Vanguardians Executive Director brought this attention of the City Council and the City Attorney who mistake be corrected. A corrected report was filed almost removal of the tanks.



The 50-year old gas gas tanks and hydraulic feet. The Fire Department Upon reviewing the report noted that the report (1400 N. Verdugo). Barry misfeasance to the then requested the three years after the

Vanguardians became involved after a call from Broadview resident Ivan Snyder who indicated a substantial number of gas station neighbors had acute illnesses including Cancer, Kidney Failure, Congestive Heart Failure, Asthma and other unidentifiable illnesses. In addition, numerous pets died from Cancerous tumors. Since that time flyers were distributed in the neighborhood to identify the boundaries of the contamination.

We concluded two possible apparent reasons for the contamination. First, according to the Department of Public Works, the property was excavated to a depth of 40 feet, 22 feet greater than the soils test. Second, according to Snyder, the excavation wasn't 'wetted down' to prevent the soil dust from blowing into the properties of the neighbors. If you live in the area of the map above or know anyone who does and have had an acute serious illness or pets die in the past two years, please contact Vanguardians, 818 243 1502

Questions arise: Why wasn't the soil sampled to 40 feet? Why wasn't the excavation wetted down? Where was the soil exported? Why did the Fire Department accept a report for another location? Where is the oversight on the part of City Management?

Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) cancels a meeting because the Chair was unable to attend. The TPC was charged with expediting the driveway access issue of 3612 Linda Vista by Mayor Najarian in December and the case may be heard in April. The TPC could have met with 4 Commissioners but for some reason known only to Management, didn't. The City Council needs to consider the duties and responsibilities of the TPC. Often they are kept out of the loop in such areas as Environmental Impact Reports or private parking structures that feed into public streets. See 4 – Open Government for more details.

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

City Council

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	3-25-2008	Overall	Contact info
Drayman	C	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Najarian	D	C	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Quintero	C	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Weaver	D	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Yousefian	B	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us ;

Scoring Criteria:

1. Responsiveness to the needs of the community,
2. Knowledge and understanding of the issues on the agenda, placing the needs of the public first;
3. Attitude, attentiveness and accountability during the public sessions on Tuesdays, through community input.

Weaver couldn't wait for a report from the GFD before wanting to approve \$500,000 for a fire academy. Yousefian did ask a question but in the rush to spend money the following questions weren't asked: Will the GFD recruit women? (A la Civil Service Commission hearing.) Is there a relationship with the Fire Academy of the Glendale Community College? Does the pay for the Captain instructors include position coverage overtime? CM Yousefian also spoke out on the politicizing of the issues between the School District Board President and the Mayor. Then he took his leave.

FLORYNCE KENNEDY

You've got to rattle your cage door. You've got to let them know that you're in there, and that you want out. Make noise. Cause trouble. You may not win right away, but you'll sure have a lot more fun.

Fire Department

The fire battalion chief who was paid \$252,000 last year received \$168,000 for sleeping and leisure time activities. The City Council is too generous with your money.

The Glendale Fire Department (GFD) responded to public safety advocate Bruce Philpott's new model for the GFD with a two hour presentation to Council. Two of the issues Philpott brought were: slow response times due to out-of-district exercise and teleconferencing instead of leaving the fire district for training sessions. The exercise out of district policy has been changed while they are reviewing holding Captain's meetings by video-conferencing if they can get a grant. Those in the know successfully use free teleconferencing which apparently is not good enough for the GFD. The fire union boss Chris Stavros spoke regarding older firefighters that are prone to injury. However, as the GFD refuses to release the injury logs, the public will never know how they rack up almost \$3,000,000 per year in workers compensation injuries.

When asked about sending out strike teams Chief Howard indicated that they would have to call in off-duty personnel as there weren't extra sworn personnel available. The GFD records indicate the Chief was wrong. There are 13 sworn officers available not counting the three Chiefs. A sad day when the City Council is misled by their chief fire officers. They compared the State Forestry Dept. (Calfire) to Glendale's need to train for wild land fires. They did not indicate that those firefighters with the most dangerous jobs get paid \$50,000 per year when 181 Glendale firemen each get well over \$100,000 per year plus the finest in benefits and a fantastic pension.

Four vs. three...Philpott advocates for three people on an apparatus instead of four. The GFD management gave the impression that when the first engine gets on location they will call for assistance that would take another 8-10 minutes per Capt. Stavros while the Chief said 6-7. Then they also said that on a fire call they respond with three engines, two trucks and an ambulance. Add to that the Battalion Chief and his aide for a total of 24 people. Philpott's model would reduce that by five or a total of 19 which is totally adequate.

Herbert Molano spoke to Mayor Najarian's call for 4 is better than three indicating that 5 is better than four and six is better than five. Molano also said that 9 Council members would be better than five according to the Mayor's argument.

Another person who requested anonymity said, "If it takes 1 woman 9 months to have a baby, will 9 women be able to have a baby in one month?" Go to 7Jump for more.

JOHN F. KENNEDY Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed -- and no republic can survive

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

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1 [Commentary](#) You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.

[Commentary is available in Spanish](#)

It's all about \$\$\$\$\$. Management plays on the lack of financial acumen of City Council. The City Council authorized payment of \$20,000,000 for a lawsuit judgment and land two non-elected City officials. We are in the midst depression that could be worse than the 1929 2002 through 2007 has spent a cumulative only 800 electric customers! (See 7 Jump for a expenses were \$322M a loss of \$54M. Expenses grew only 23%. City Management has added many the work and we the people sit idly by and wonder more police and fire, more trash collection and that the City buy more open space and cut down the elected officials accountable and to ante up just aren't there. In the six year period the cost of public safety almost doubled, yet the traffic problems are the same. Per employee, the Fire Department is the most expensive and their growth has not been from increased personnel although it appears that Mayor Najarian wants to increase those numbers without any productivity measurements.

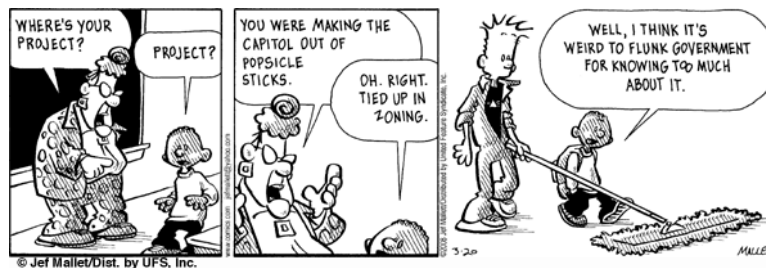


of acquisition of Rockhaven based on direction from of a recession that some say will result in a depression. Our City Council in the period from \$196,000,000 more than it took in with a growth of chart). In 2007 the revenue was \$268M and during that 6 year period grew 34% while revenue more employees and hired more consultants to do where the infrastructure has gone. We demand street cleaning and more activities. We demand traffic congestion but when it comes time to make some extra dough to cover those expenses, we

The City sponsored an "Invest in Glendale" program to bring in more development. The reason for that is....the City needs the revenue. With payroll growing and no move by the Council to renegotiate union contracts and benefits or lay off people or do more in-house, the City is financially doomed without more development. There are two ways to become financially healthy. 1- Cut expenses, especially payroll and the pension burden and a more solicitous use of consultants and 2 – increase revenue. We can't keep borrowing from the reserves, selling bonds, raising utility rates or waiting for the Fed or the State to bail us out. The Council will be forced to take some drastic action as there will be a reduction on property taxes (LA Assessor says assessment will reduce taxes an average of \$660 per home) and the Utility Users Tax when that is adjudicated.

[See 5 Insider.]

Next time you see a say, "Thank you." Next time member or prepare to select for, find out his or her money...everything else is a



developer, smile and you see a Council the candidate you vote financial IQ. IT'S only distraction

Frazz decided not to invest in Glendale

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with. [ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT International Fieldworks welcomes Glendale's Margaret Shepherd back for "An Evening of Vision Building for Panoramic Success" Tuesday April 8th at the Westside Pavilion and Wednesday April 9th at Glendale YWCA. [Details](#) or call 818 243 4864



WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.

Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.

In reference to the "letter to the editor" from GK in the current week's Vanguard, he probably was seeing the students at GCC's fire academy running up a hill. These are prospective firefighters, not the problematic existing firefighters in Glendale. AM

What difference does it make if Councilmember Weaver has a non-profit organization where he can hide money? KL [ED The IRS that grants non-profit tax exempt organization status requires those non-profits to provide information to the public upon their request. We have asked Michael Stafford listed as the Dreaming of Roses Inc. (2005) for the IRS Determination Letter, the 990 informational returns for 2005 and 2006 (2007 does not need to be filed until May 15th 2008), the IRS completed application 1023 or 1024, the corporate bylaws and list of Board members. Stafford indicated all that is under the control of Mr. Weaver. The failure to provide that information can cause Weaver to lose the non-profit determination if such determination exists. Vanguardians has filed a FOIA request for those documents. Vanguardians has posted its documents on its website.]

CALLS: We get numerous calls – here are some ...

It certainly appears that Mr. Weaver doesn't like you. [ED – Weaver's comments about being followed by Vanguardians agents and spies is really unfounded. We spoke with various agencies that have those capabilities and were told that the only ones following him around are his guardian angels. Most people with an FPPC investigation, 2 District Attorney investigations and the IRS snooping would really be paranoid. And with an alleged sexual harassment charge hanging over him, it's understandable he would be a bit edgy.]

Articles

San Francisco Bay Guardian [Sunshine experiment in Palo Alto](#)

The Palo Alto City Council is conducting a unique experiment in its efforts to comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act, which requires government bodies to conduct business in a public way. Palo Alto now posts e-mails from council members on the city's Web site (www.cityofpaloalto.org/council), providing easy access to all with Internet capabilities. The e-mails were first posted online following a 2003 settlement of a Brown Act lawsuit against the city of Palo Alto by two local newspapers — *Palo Alto Weekly* and *The San Jose Mercury News*.

Modesto Bee [Democracy depends on open government](#)

Openness in government is and always has been a cornerstone of America's democracy. Our country's founders understood that when they chose to set up our representative system of government. In doing so, they understood that such a system required full participation by an informed citizenry. And they understood the need for the government to be as open and accessible to its citizens as possible.

[Ordinary Citizens Are Slaves to Their Public Masters](#)

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) www.vanguardians.org [Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) for a free copy of waste of taxpayer money, read [Piglet Book 2007](#) . -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#) [The Glendale California 100K Club](#) See who makes how much in Glendale [Videos by Glendale Citizens](#)

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

Tuesday, April 1

2:30 PM Housing Authority , Development, Joint Council-- City Council Chambers, City Hall 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2060

Special Meeting – Glendale City Council RE: Discussion of Free Trade Agreement –**Korea**

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

Many 'interesting' items for the Council on APRIL FOOLS DAY!

Wednesday, April 2

Zoning Administrator's Hearing – 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Thursday, April 3

Committee for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:15 am, Perkins Community Room, 141 N. Glendale Ave, Glendale. 548-2060

Mayor's State of the City Address – 11:30 am, Hilton Hotel, Glendale. 240-7870

Design Review Board #1 -- 5:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

3 Open Government

Need local parking restrictions such as 'No Parking'? Just call the nearest Glendale Police Department 'COPS' representative. A service request to Public Works and up goes the signs. Simple!

A request from a respected member of the public for the 'Policies and Procedures' on how certain reports were handled was met with, "Those procedures are not for public scrutiny."

The Transportation Department wants secrecy when the Beeline bids are opened. This is absolutely wrong and will lead to charges of collusion and bid fixing. The proper way to open RFPs is to do it publicly. Open the bid, read the proposers name and then the amount for each of the bids. Then indicate if the proposal is attached. It isn't necessary to let the public read the proposal. In this case with some proposers having relationships with employees that will be opening the bids in secret there is a question. Culver City has followed this template and it works for them. We changed the absentee ballot application request not for the reason that it was corrupt but that it gave the illusion or perception of corruption.

4 Vanguardians

Vanguardians has a Speakers Bureau providing speakers that are not restricted, restrained nor prohibited from speaking candidly on their topics -- there is no approval required from the City Officials.

1. Bruce Philpott on a new model for the Glendale Fire Department that would give the public better service for less cost
2. Dr. Richard Espiritu on ADA compliance. 90% of our population is affected by disability
3. Barry Allen – How accountability through advocacy helps bridge the gap between the public and government; the California Sunshine Laws – Open Meetings, Public Records and Public Officials' Financial and Conflict of Interest reporting requirements

These knowledgeable presenters are available for your organization, service club, homeowners or neighborhood associations. Call Vanguardians 818 243 1502 or email us at info@vanguardians.org

**We really need your financial help to do our best for Glendale
Rides needed for seniors to attend City Council Meetings**

VANGUARDIANS

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

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

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5



the Insider The insider is a digest of information from several city employees that care about the way the City is run. They are concerned about retaliation. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. Their identities are kept confidential. The comments are their own.

The City Budget has to be approved by Council by June 30th. The City Manager will make sure there is little time for study sessions and deliberation prior to being force fed to the Council to make them look stupid. City Manager is supporting Drayman for Mayor as his inexperience will play to the Manager. The public is so naïve. To let you know, there is an 'insider' hunt to find us. We are counting on you to keep our identity secret.

HARRY S TRUMAN Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.

6 Humor



Should we practice what we've learned?

7 Jump

Revenue	2007	2002	Increase	% Increase
Property Tax	\$67.4M	\$32.5M	\$34.9M	48%
Other Tax	\$71.4M	\$57.4M	\$14.0M	20%
Total All Revenue	\$268.1M	\$205.2M	\$62.9M	23%
Expense				
General Gov't	\$20.3M	\$13.9M	\$6.4M	32%
Public Safety	\$101.1M	\$58.8M	\$42.3M	42%
Public Works	\$29.8M	\$21.3M	\$8.5M	29%
Total All Expense	\$322.5M	\$211.6M	\$110.9M	34%
Loss for Year	\$54.3M	\$6.4M	\$47.9M	
Population	207,000	200,000	7,000	4%
Full Time City Employees	1885	1750	135	7%
Part Time	695	n/a		

Data in Columns 1 through 3 taken from Public Records

Double Click



JobMarket2009.wmv

FIRE Continued – LETTER: I felt the fire department did a nice job presenting their side of the story [Response to Bruce Philpott New Model] on Tuesday. It made me realize that their 24 hour shifts and 4 people on a fire engine aren't the big issue, it's the way they go about it. The expensive part of their business is the staffing for people that are not there. To let more than half of a scheduled workforce take a day off and have to backfill each and every one is absurd. Why are so many allowed to be gone the same day? At my place we don't allow more than just a few workers off on any one day. It would put me out of business to do otherwise. This Carte Blanche leave policy is terribly costly. And I guess these firemen don't even have to ask a supervisor when they want the time off, it's at each fireman's own whim and a computer automatically hires a buddy on overtime. What other business allows that?

To make this worse, the firemen get something like 270 hours of vacation. That's way more hours than any other position in the city if you look at their contracts (they're on the web site). And it's not just the firemen working 24 hours that get this generous gift of time; it's all of the fire staff people too. So, a fireman working a 40 hour office job gets 7 weeks of paid vacation on the public's dime, plus their holiday banks, plus other things like management days that add up to months of time away. I wish I was so lucky - my people get 3 weeks tops! And while these people are off vacationing, their positions are backfilled on overtime, elevating yet another dedicated civil servant on the \$100 thousand list (or is that \$200 thousand now?).

Oh, and not only do the office workers get all that vacation, they get that bonus percentage (I've heard 10%, 11% and 13% mentioned) for having to suffer through a work week that is far shorter than the average working stiff. No wonder you have worker bee fire managers making over \$200 thousand if you're paying them overtime and bonus percentages like this! To pay someone a premium to have them work a "normal" work week allowing them to be with their families at night sounds crazy to me.

I still like your idea of staffing the fire stations with fewer people at night when they don't need so many people getting paid to sleep. That would really cut down on their overtime. And why can't a fireman of some type be an acting boss when their supervisor takes a day off? Instead they hire back managers and supervisors on overtime. I use senior employees in my business. It develops them and doesn't waste money on high wage earners who shouldn't get overtime in the first place.

There are lots of people out there who would love to have these benefit riddled police and fire jobs and do them for a lot less money I am sure. Didn't they all sign up to help people? As a businessman who is frustrated with government cost overruns and whose business is suffering badly in this economy, these overly generous perks make me ill. The tail is wagging the Dalmatian here folks. FF

8 Next Week

Media Responsibility + Statements of Economic Interest