



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard
Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of April 10, 2011
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THE PEOPLE SPOKE WHAT DID THEY SAY?

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

"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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LA Building Insp. arrested

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[Chicago Police Officers Face Civil Rights, Tax, and Murder-for-Hire Charges](#) One current and three former Chicago police officers who were members of the disbanded Special Operations Section, an elite city-wide unit, were charged with federal civil rights violations for allegedly presenting false information and testimony to conceal unlawful searches or arrests during which hordes of cash were often stolen between 2003 and 2006. Two of the former officers were also charged with federal tax offenses, and one of them is also facing a charge that was filed against him previously for allegedly planning the murder-for-hire of a former fellow officer who was a potential witness against him.

FBI ARRESTS TWO L.A. CITY BUILDING INSPECTORS ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF TAKING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN BRIBES *Inspectors Accused of 'Signing Off' on Documents without Conducting Inspections*

LOS ANGELES – Two inspectors with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety were arrested this morning on federal bribery charges for allegedly taking thousands of dollars in bribes to approve work done at residential construction sites in South Los Angeles, even though they had not inspected the work and, in some case, had never been to the job site.

Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation this morning arrested the two men who were charged in criminal complaints filed yesterday. The defendants taken into custody are:

Hugo Joel Gonzalez, 49, of Eagle Rock, who allegedly accepted \$9,000 in bribes from an informant and an undercover agent; and

Raoul Joseph Germain, 59, of Altadena, who allegedly accepted \$6,000 in bribes from the undercover agent.

Both men are expected to make their initial appearances this afternoon in United States District Court.

"Corruption by any official further corrodes public confidence," said United States Attorney André Birotte Jr. "In this case, two government employees directly threatened an important public safety mission by exploiting their positions to line their own pockets."

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. If you have given cash in excess of \$99, 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.

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



Indeed it was an honor and a privilege to attend the swearing in ceremony of the new City Council of the City of Bell where the residents using the few tools available to the people forced out the old council and management and took back their city.

It was also heartwarming to have the assistance of Vanguardians recognized and acknowledged. There were about ten of us present to join with an overflowing crowd supporting the new City Council who vowed to make Bell a model city for others to follow. The master of ceremonies was Assemblymember Ricardo Lara of the 50th District who agreed to meet with Vanguardians to discuss needed changes in the Sunshine Laws.



Lara was responsible for writing the legislation that made the swearing in possible as there was no longer a legislative body to transfer power as the former Council either resigned or were under indictment awaiting trial.

"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

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

THE ELECTION RESULTS IN TEN EASY PIECES



The voters in Glendale have voted. But what exactly did they vote for? And how much of what information upon which they voted was relevant, or accurate? What did we learn? The answer may serve as Poli-Sci 101.

1. Ethnicity trumps political affiliation in Anglo enclaves

For the farthest north precinct above Foothill blvd

Drayman beat Manoukian 149 to 42
Weaver beat Keuroghelian 134 to 18
Boger beat Nahabedian 118 to 54
Tartaglia beat Peroomian 157 to 83

2. Ethnicity trumps political affiliation in Armenian neighborhoods

For the Maple park neighborhood
Manoukian Beat Drayman 88 to 24
Keuroghelian beat Weaver 86 to 31
Nahabedian beat Boger 81 to 29
Peroomian beat Tartaglia 73 to 35

3. Ethnicity trumps ethics – “Yes, he is a crook, but he is our crook”
Despite all the campaign contributions by ADI to councilmen and the federal fraud investigation, Anglo voters chose to ignore the apparent corruption when the alternative was an Armenian candidate.
4. The Glendale News-Press coverage demonstrated their bias toward Drayman or more precisely toward the potential loss of city-influenced ad revenue.
When the ADI scandal first broke Drayman’s name was not found in the GNP article. For the first time since I started reading the GNP, I’ve never seen a story half-completed and then directing the readership to finish the story by going to the Los Angeles Times. The sub-headlines never included Drayman’s name until late into the campaign well after the absentee ballots had been sent to the voters. The involvement of both Jason Wells, the city editor in blasting Drayman’s main nemesis at the Verdugo Woodlands forum, was followed by a similar approach by Dan Evans, the GNP editor at the Larry Zarian televised show on Charter cable.
5. Outright lies and misleading statements by the incumbents were rarely challenged by any of the moderators (including the GNP duo)
Drayman and Weaver: “The average pension is only \$27,000 dollars” leaving out the fact that in the last ten years the pension liability doubled in size or the rapidly growing list of 65 recent retirees who get over \$100,000 dollars per year. Using an average is misleading because many employees may work for the city ten years or less, or that many who retired ten or twenty years ago may be receiving much smaller pensions, or the hundreds of low ranking employees who are getting very low pensions push the average down significantly. The deception is a clear indicator that these two incumbents, like the rest of the city council members, are totally beholden to the city unions.
6. Lying about the budget to a largely unaware voter. What does a balanced budget really mean? That there is enough cash to pay for the expected expenditures? The GNP, as the leading source of information to Glendale voters failed their readership in a big way. The city council has not challenged the city manager in the practice of raising rates on utility customers and raising fees on other city services, then transferring the money to the General Fund to the tune of nearly 30 million dollars this past fiscal year. The city transferred money from the Capital Improvement funds to the General Fund putting more of the infrastructure in jeopardy. The city then borrowed the money to fund the urgent infrastructure needs the staff was desperate to correct.
7. The impact of the future pension hit on the city was watered down continually. According to the last Comprehensive Annual Financial Report the city can expect an annual obligation of around \$42 million dollars in payments to CalPERS in three years up from 24 million now. It used to average around 6 million per year in the 1990s.
8. That anyone can manipulate the election process by entering a stealth candidate. Placing Mailyan, a totally unknown resident with zero involvement in city affairs was a classic way of diluting the Armenian vote. That this man is an employee of the Americana at Brand and works as a security guard can’t be ignored as mere coincidence.
9. That the city needs a primary in traditional or instant format to rid the election process of faux candidates on the ballot that dilute the opposition vote.
10. That the city unions are willing to flaunt California election law by conducting expansive mail outreach to voters, then failing to report it as required by law. That the city Police Union is willing to flaunt the law does not bode well for the future of the city. If they failed to report it on grounds of ignorance or complexity, it depicts them as Keystone cops. If they failed by design, then we can’t trust their ethics. Either way, they appear to have a strangle hold on the incumbents and the election process.

Brace yourselves. The elections serve as a barometer on the level of awareness of the major budget shortfall that is crushing the city’s finances while the huge pay increases and outrageous public pension obligations continue largely unabated. We’ve had ten years of nearly total stealth control of the city’s finances by the GPOA, the GFFA and the GMA. Wake up and smell the incumbents. They won’t smell like roses. The voters of the city of Bell finally did. We can do likewise.

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.

The GNP ran a [photo of John Drayman and Glendale fire union president, Chris Stavros](#) at Drayman's election party. Both, who were getting electronic updates on the election results, looked displeased. They appeared troubled and unhappy. Both have their own reasons. Drayman was seeing his reelection possibilities dwindling. Stavros threw a lot of fire union money into Drayman's unsuccessful campaign. Stavros now knows the reason why his 'pony' didn't win the race; the voters were aware of the stigma of corruption that hung over his candidate's head.

But Stavros could care less about the ethics and character of his selected candidate. As a quid pro quo to infusing large sums of money into the campaign, Stavros wants to be assured Drayman will support favorable salaries and benefits for fire union members. To morally challenged John Drayman, even during this budget crisis, that would be no problem. But John will no longer be there for Stavros. I am starting to feel tears welling up in my eyes. Glendale firefighters will have to be content with their entry-level base pay of \$101,000 for now. That is unless Weaver, Friedman and Quintero are reminded of their pledges to keep the fire rank and file happy for their endorsement and financial support in their last elections. JL

Please delete me from your mailing list. Your relentless campaign to discredit John Drayman brings more discredit to your weekly news. You raised the questions once, which was reasonable, and then chose to keep it up ad nauseum. I would admit that John's response left a little to be desired, but many of us up here in the foothills take the full measure of the man and all that he has done. Your attack had all the appearances of being a personal vendetta--not worthy of a reputable organization. Dan Kimber

Reply to Mr. Kimber: Thanks for writing. Your address has been deleted. I am quite surprised about your request. Educators know that repetition is the best way to get the message across. To use as a defense that you are willing to overlook the bad because of his full measure and all that he has done is certainly honorable but is not a justification for using his political office requiring trust and integrity for private gain. I will not insult you by listing the number of felons that have used that same argument not the attorney instructions to the defendant on getting letters from friends and family to be delivered to the judge to reduce the sentence upon conviction. Nor will I mention the number of people that call their local paper and ask to have their subscription canceled because they didn't like the content. Or as we call it, kill the messenger who is the bearer of bad news.

From an advisor: It's always unfortunate when someone blames the messenger whenever a favorite ox is being gored, especially if that person is a respected local newspaper columnist. Dan Kimber is a smart, talented and decent man who mostly gets it right and we are glad to have his voice in our community. Asking to be removed from Vanguard's distribution list, however, is an unfortunate reaction to the likely election defeat of a favorite son who is seen as 'our guy' no matter what he does. Think Daly in Chicago--the loyalty runs deep.

I'd suggest a reply to include a reminder on the constitutional imperative of a free press and the difficulties you encounter as Publisher of Vanguard News Service an independent source providing coverage of all things political in Glendale. Open government depends on many voices being heard, many questions asked and here in Glendale and our surrounding foothill communities Vanguard performs a vital public service.

You may want to assure him that your persistent focus on Drayman's Condo-Gate affair has been driven by the mum's-the-word silence and obfuscation of the apparently defeated Councilman and is not a personal vendetta. As Kimber himself so correctly observed "John's response left a little to be desired."

Front page articles in the LA Times and Glendale News Press raised questions about the conduct of a popular local politician and your news organization investigated and reported. Last time I checked that is the American way.

For his sake and ours I hope the columnist reconsiders. NAJ

From an advisor: Two things: One is that it took repeated presentations from you for the public to understand the nature of Drayman's actions. Another is many voters were able to finally clarify the issue in their minds when they went to the

poles to cast their ballots. Many weighed his conduct as unbefitting a council member. But it took a concerted effort to get that message out. Also, I am a bit surprised that Kimber seems ready to dismiss Drayman's corruption of power and cover up for all of the good he has done on behalf of the residents of north Glendale.

Should we also dismiss the corrupt actions in the Watergate scandal of President Nixon and simply focus on his good works? Should we dismiss the criminal enterprise of Al Capone because he never missed his mother's birthday and gave large amounts of his ill gotten gain to charity? An important part of the foundation of our governmental system relies on the character and integrity of the people we elect to public office. When their actions begin to undermine public trust, the public needs to know and react accordingly.

The reason why Vanguard chose to present the same material several times over in both its weekly publication and presentation before the city council during oral communications was to remind voters of Drayman's actions and conduct as the facts reveal. It is the same reason why politicians send the same message over and over again to voters in the form of mailers. Their campaign managers know that the voter needs to hear the same message several times before it sinks in. Given the vote count as it now stands, it appears as though many voters got the message about Drayman's unethical and probable criminal conduct. Vanguard makes no apologies for trying to provide the truth about important issues for voter consideration, especially when the counter voice of the politician has so many more resources at his disposal. BP

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

In recognition of Sunshine Week, the Los Angeles Times has added documents obtained under the California Public Records Act. Vanguardians is a contributor and those checking the LA Times will find those documents here. <http://documents.latimes.com/sunshine/>

“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, April 11

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

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

Tuesday, April 12

Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060

Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005

Joint Meeting –RE: a Summary of Redevelopment and Housing Authority Accomplishments from April 2010 through March 2011 – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, April 13

Civil Service Commission -- 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

Thursday, April 14

Groundbreaking for LA Riverwalk Project – 12:00 pm, Corner of Paula and Garden Streets, 548-2000

4 Vanguardians

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.

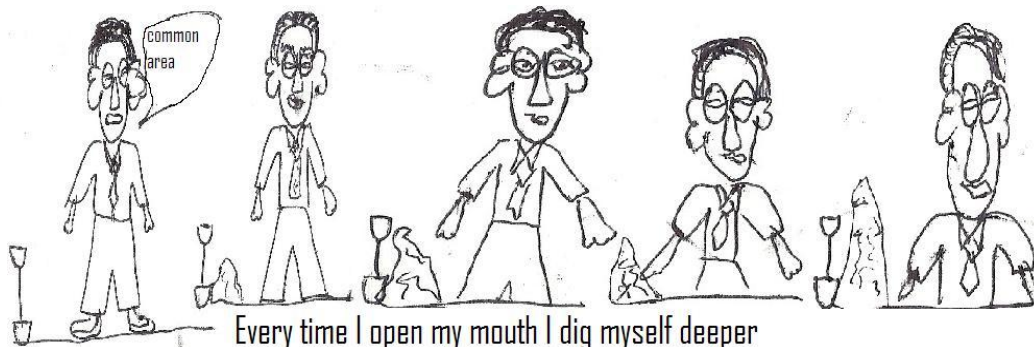


HR is busy relocating 60 RDA employees. Close an Authority and shuffle people.

6

THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

The important campaign disclosure 460s will not be out until July. The Form 700 is available now.



"You can't win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot" Kraft

Glendale voted on April 5, 2011

The posted figures are the unofficial results of the April 5, 2011 Glendale Municipal Election after the closing of polls. There remain 3153 ballots to be processed which include Vote by Mail (VBM) and provisional ballots. Processing these ballots includes verification of signatures with County Registrar/Recorder records, duplication, and the review of disqualifying requirements of a ballot per the California Elections Code. Following verification, the qualifying ballots will be counted subsequent to the reconciliation of the voting records for Election Day per the California Elections Code. All results are unofficial until they are certified by the City Clerk and presented to the City Council on April 18, 2011. For more information, visit GlendaleVotes.org

When it began?

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

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