



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Wednesday at 11 AM & 7 PM
Call 1-270-696-1555
Access code 521782#
Hot Topics:
Major Attack on
Transparency

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol IV
Week of April 19, 2009
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
818 745 6770

Najarian Top Vote Getter

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



2600 provisional ballots were counted on Friday and the top vote getter is....Ara Najarian!
[Click here for final results](#)

It is more evident that the ballot was structured to have voters miss turning over their ballots to vote for the City Clerk and on the Ballot Measure U.

Perspective on the vote for City of Glendale offices – not the College District or the GUSD

Vote Totals: (Absentee + Polls as of Tuesday **April 7**)

Type of vote	# of Voters	Possible highest Number of votes	Actual Votes + uncounted	Highest of any candidate	Uncast votes
Absentee	11,029	33,087	28,365	4,774	4,722
Poll	10,607	31,821	27,479	3,723	4,342
Total	21,636	64,908	55,844	8,497	9,064

On the backside of the first ballot card resided the vote for the City Clerk and Vote on the UUT. Previously Vanguard had received calls from the PAV saying the UUT was not on their ballot. Simple solution..."did you turn it over?" They hadn't. There were a total of blank voted ballots for City Clerk in the amount of 8871 and a total for the UUT in the amount of 5595 ballots not voted.

General Growth filed for bankruptcy that included the [Glendale Galleria](#) among the 158 properties in the filing.

[LA Times editorial calls](#) for strict enforcement and punishment for officials that break the law. DA Steve 'Cooley's office still hasn't prosecuted anyone for these violations, and we hope he'll consider that route, especially in jurisdictions where multiple offenses would bolster the case that the act is being systematically and deliberately circumvented. Until then, the words of Susan Chasworth, a prosecutor who chastised El Segundo officials for cutting off a contentious public speaker, are worth savoring: "El Segundo public officials are servants of the people - all of the people -- whether they hold conflicting opinions or not." Hear, hear.' [ED – Emphasis added.]

Glendale Family Jewels wrote about the election and others wrote back. [Click here to read.](#)

Vanguardians is preparing to host a series of televised debates on topics such as: Public Safety, Budget, Bonds, Open Government. Look for us on Charter Channel 284

- Join the FREE Vanguardians Conference call every Wednesday at 11 AM and at 7PM. A discussion of the previous City Council meeting, upcoming events and more. Learn how to participate in Glendale government. Call 1-270-696-1555 Access code 521782# to ask questions and get answers.
- The Vanguardians Weekly breakfast meeting included a report from the investigator of the political rumor started by a retired firefighter and propelled by a candidates' family.
- Donate your running car or truck to Vanguardians for a great tax deduction

- **Saturday April 18th check out GiGi's Farmers Market from 10AM – 2PM at the Americana**

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

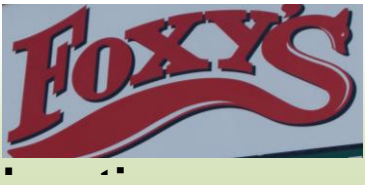
EVERY FRIDAY from 7-9AM -- Everyone is Welcome



Vanguardians Weekly City Business and Networking Breakfast

A Gift for 1st time attendees and returning 'veteran's'

- Meet Friends, Colleagues, Customers, Clients and Service providers.
- Have time to engage them.
- Learn about serious issues facing Glendale
- Bring your issues.
- Learn to be a part of the solution instead of the problem
- Meeting cost is a minimum donation of **\$12**. And includes
- A sumptuous breakfast, of eggs, potatoes and toast, is served.



206 W Colorado
Glendale 91201

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

- 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.

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Money Line Capital Inc. offers innovative financing for your business – Contact Arie Shen at (949) 265-2928 or arie@mlinecap.com with any questions you have about getting the money necessary for your business.



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

City Council report card

Council	4-14	Contact info
Drayman		jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Najarian		anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Quintero		fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Weaver		dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Yousefian		byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;

Meeting was very brief and insufficient to grade



Laurel is off on a field assignment for her network

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....



You get a sense of reality when CNN sends a breaking news story that said “Ashton Kutcher is first to reach 1 million followers in Twitter contest with CNN.” Maybe that is what we need, a break from the economic chaos that has befallen us and gleefully going about and playing with the toys that keep our senses occupied with the important stuff...how many people are following a leader?

There are 34,000,000 followers in California including the 207,000 right here in Glendale save a few that are the government, the city employees and the few advocates the government attempts to squash. The worldwide economic meltdown provides a smokescreen covering up the local economic conditions that prevailed years before the current recession.

Our duty is to perpetuate a serious interest in government and governance. Throughout time man has relied on watch dogs, each generation being trained by the next. That is what we need to do. We need to teach our young about government issues, then engage and involve them in the government and the political process.

Vanguardians reaches out to the community by demonstrating the information available and then interpret it so others can be knowledgeable. Friday we taught the people about the California Public Records Act (PRA) and how to use it. The PRA is a tool that gave the community a look at the actual wages paid to City employees, not just a salary guide.

On Tuesday I will be a guest of Glendale Police Lieut. Gary Montecuello at his Glendale Community College class on Community Relations. Soon his class will go to a City Council meeting and observe first hand the machinations of the Council.

I urge each of us to take a greater interest in Government and Politics besides bashing the past and present Presidents and engage young people to understand and get involved.

This is the reality, the reality that gives a small group of people to control your life and give your money to others.
BARRY ALLEN

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

“When you earn it and spend it you do know the difference between three dollars and a million dollars, but when you say it and vote it, it all sounds the same.” Gertrude Stein

Commentary: A GOVERNMENT FOR THE EMPLOYEE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH



While the GNP worries about creating a back-and-forth discussion of public opinion vs. a city union’s stance on the issues, a significant demonstration of public concern was taking place just outside city hall. It was not a back and forth, it was a back and front.

On the tax filing deadline dozens of demonstrators showed up in front of city hall to voice their anger at the waste of taxpayer’s money by the national government. It was exactly a month before that local taxpayers were demonstrating a similar issue in the back of city hall at Parcher

Plaza.

The financial debacle at the national level, I believe, has its roots in campaign contribution aimed at policy-makers to reduce oversight of the banking sector. The city's financial woes have its origins in campaign contributions aimed at councilmen to reduce oversight of city management performance and compensation.

The source of the local influence are the three main city negotiating entities or employee unions. They've been hell-bent in getting their candidate elected – the one who will guarantee an employee contract that will result in major payroll increases with substantial benefits.

Take a tally of the city council's significant actions and you see the councilmen acquiesce to nearly all their demands for salary and benefit increases plus a significant lack of oversight. By contrast, take just two issues of resident concerns and you see that the public is often on the losing side.

When a Glendale resident was fined over \$300,000 for trimming an Oak tree after demands to do so by the fire department, she was held languishing for weeks as the councilmen pondered what to do. When Glendale rate payers complained vigorously about one of the highest electric utility rates in California, there was not one councilman who voiced concerned about their plight. But, during the city elections, as challengers raised the issue of city employee pay, you could not find one councilman who voiced concerns, let alone create the conditions for a reasoned discussion of the topic.

It has taken this election and awful economic conditions to demonstrate to many residents whom Glendale's councilmen really serve. Bring up the needs for sidewalk repair and the public can wait up-to twelve years. Bring up the need for a neighborhood park and the public can wait from twelve to seventeen years. But bring up an issue of employee pay raises and it becomes an urgency ordinance.

If you are doubtful of this interpretation, just wait for the next scheduled pay raise this July as one of our premier city employee associations seeks its 6% scheduled increase. It won't matter that the city has a deficit. It won't matter that we are in the throes of deflation. It won't matter that property taxes can only go up by 2%. It won't matter that revenues from sales taxes are down.

Maybe the words on our founding documents should be changed just for the city of Glendale: "A government of the employee, for the employee and by the employee shall not perish from the earth."

Commentary 2: A Free Press?

A couple of weeks ago Captain Chris Stavros wrote a commentary to the Glendale News-Press that challenged my presentations to the city council about the comparative growth of salaries for some city departments since 2000. My rebuttal, included here, was declined for publication by the new GNP editor. The Value of Vanguard, this local electronic publication, becomes an even more important element to transparency and the democratic values of open debate than most people appreciate at first glance. Here is my formal reply to Chris Stavros president of the Glendale Fire Fighters' Association.

Few issues about politics have the emotional overtones as those dealing with fire and police. Hence the nearly standard campaign mailer with a candidate's support by fire-fighters and police associations. But, few voters ever ask if the candidate without the endorsement would ever propose measures to reduce the safety of his own home or family. A careful evaluation of what those endorsements truly cost society is often lost to the voting public. From time to time, though, the misdeeds of some members of these departments open a window that permits the public to engage in justified scrutiny. Last year, in Los Angeles, we had the dog-food incident with fire-fighters that cost that city millions of dollars in litigation from charges of racism, and countercharges by those who perpetrated the unsavory practical joke. Once in a while, we get to see a videotape of a policeman overstepping the bounds of proper professional conduct for all the public to see.

Today, it has become more difficult to raise issues of performance or pay for management employees let alone about firemen and policemen. It is even more so since 9/11/2001, as images of the bravery and sacrifice of New York's finest, has permeated the consciousness of the public at large. Today, you can't separate bravery, heroism and a blow to the nation's psyche from the uniforms of policemen and firemen.

The concerns that Glendale Firefighters' Association president, Captain Stavros, brings in his essay are legitimate. Does the public have sufficient appreciation or understanding of the complexity, inconvenience, and danger of their job? Are these men and women compensated enough?

Ask anyone whose life has been saved, or whose close relative has been rescued from eminent harm, or their home saved from assured destruction, and the responsive appreciation is effusive. I too have benefited from a system that is continually improving and personnel that are committed to their delicate and urgent task. The question I've posed, though, is one that is relevant to city finances and the sustainability of the public's quality of life. What is the right compensation for policemen and firefighters? Can we sustain the trends in salary and benefit increases that started in 2001? Can we hold a meaningful public discussion?

Should fire and policemen get equivalent pay? Is \$100,000 per year adequate compensation? Are \$200,000 per year salaries justified? Is a \$5,000,000 lifetime pension justifiable for someone retiring at age 51? To these questions we also need to ask if the trends in pay and benefits since 2001 can continue. Can we afford safety personnel when those services make up nearly 70% of Glendale's general fund and keeps on growing?

Captain Stavros is correct in that I've challenged the city council to ask questions about the trends of pay and compensation of fire department personnel. He is factually incorrect in his declaration that the data I gathered from the city's own financial and demographic trends are either erroneous or misleading.

For some time now, several years before other residents brought their own version of their concerns about pay and benefits, I've been asking for a public performance evaluation of all city departments. I've posed questions similar to this one: What is the likelihood that a heart attack victim will arrive with a pulse at an emergency hospital, if the emergency occurred in Glendale? Other cities such as Seattle and San Francisco measure that performance regularly. In Glendale we don't. Why not?

Given the exponential trends in salary, benefits and pension obligations that we must pay directly in the form of taxation and indirectly in the form of high utility rates, do we have a justification to ask for a proper evaluation of police and fire budgets? From my observations these past few years, we can expect neither Ara Najarian nor Frank Quintero to lead such an inquiry – they are, in my opinion, too beholden to the city unions as a result of the financial contributions they've received or the endorsements they've displayed during their campaigns for public office.

Let's acknowledge that Stavros and the city unions helped win the election for Najarian and Quintero. But, such an electoral victory does not diminish the need for Glendale's government to evaluate the financial burden these employee associations demand or the need to evaluate the taxes and fees that local taxpayers must now pay to sustain them.

Glendale is a safe city as a result of many factors of which fire and police are an integral part. The real question is: Are we mature enough politically to evaluate both the performance and benefits of these two departments without a heart-wrenching anecdote coming from some members of the public, some councilmen or these city employees themselves?

During hard economic times, when taxpayers are bearing a heavy burden with unemployment, lost health insurance and lost pensions, such a public discussion is both relevant and necessary. No public department should be immune from evaluation or accountability, especially now. **Herbert Molano**

Commentary: Davis Mayor's Proposals Threaten Principles of Open Government



Residents of Davis may rightfully rejoice at the news that Davis will house the Bicycle Hall of Fame--an honor announced this week. However, it obscures the more sinister and ominous developments of the week that will cast dark shadows over the governance of this city.

Mayor Asmundson's second tenure as Mayor has been somewhat less eventful than her first tenure that saw open civil unrest befall the city. However, more quietly she has effectively moved to stifle debate and dissent at least within official city hall.

Early on the Mayor moved to shorten meetings at the expense of public comment and council discussion. The move to limit public comment to just 15 minutes has for the most part been a non-issue and the one time that extended time was needed, she was overruled by the rest of council.

On the other hand, the Mayor consistently works to shut down Sue Greenwald, her most outspoken colleague on the minority side of the aisle. Continually trying to limit questions and comments from her duly elected colleagues is distasteful. However, this week, we see a more sinister development under the guise of budgetary savings.

Let's be honest, the amount of money the council itself consumes is drops in the bucket compared to the millions that go out for salary, benefits, pensions, and retirement health care. No one wants to deprive city employees of a decent wage and benefits, however, people enriching themselves at the expense of the taxpayer, and we're not talking about councilmembers, has no place in government service and public employment.

The solution that Mayor Asmundson suggests is closing down access to government. It is abridging open discourse and free speech. It threatens the very tenets of democracy and civil society. Her disdain for transparency and accountability of public officials is even more so.

But her rank hypocrisy is something else. There she was stammering away incoherently admonishing her colleagues for wasting time as she spent a lengthy period of time after 11 pm doing exactly what she admonished her colleagues for doing.

Folks, democracy is time consuming. It is rarely pretty. And it forces us to spend time on procedural things that maybe are not the best use of time and energy. But we have put these policies and procedures into place for a fundamental reason that transcends ideology and policy goals.

- We sacrifice expediency in the name of liberty, equality, and overall fairness.
- We sacrifice our time and energy at the altar of democratic governance.
- We listen to those spending an inordinate amount of time defending that which we find most apprehensive and distasteful, knowing full well that to do so defends our right to do the same.

It is unfortunate however that the Mayor of our great city, our bastion of liberalism, a community inhabited by among the most educated populace in the country, does not share these principles and values.

She would rather sacrifice deliberation and debate for the sake of brevity. She would sacrifice our rights to speak for her own comfort.

Franklin once said that he who would sacrifice essential liberty for the sake of temporary security deserves neither liberty nor security. Our Mayor sacrifices essential liberty and open government for the sake of expediency and brevity, and she deserves neither liberty nor expediency.

This has nothing to do with policy areas. This has to do with core beliefs. This community deserves the right to know whether agree or disagree, the council has heard all sides on issue, debated the merits and downsides of the issue fully, considered fully the input of the stakeholders and citizens of this community, and reached the best conclusion that it can under those imperfect circumstances.

The second that we cut short council discussion or public input is the second that we have violated something far more important than simply making bad policy. Rather we have violated public trust and the spirit of open government or democracy.

Sunshine week was two weeks ago around this great nation, celebrating the principles of open government. This week in Davis, we are threatening a full eclipse of democratic policy for no good or essential reason. We must all rise up and collectively say no. For next time, it will be your issue at stake and you will have your voice silenced. Let us prevent that from ever happening in this great community. ---David M. Greenwald

651 last week 661 this week Glendale Foreclosures



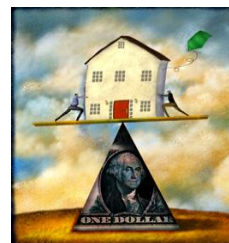
Reader's Question: I wanted to ask you for an update on loan modifications but specifically the bankruptcy "Cram Down" measure that you have written about many times in Vanguard. I noticed in one of your past articles, you mentioned that we would know more in April so, I figured now might be a good time to ask you for an update! Thanks for all that you do. Linda A. 91208.

Christian's Response: Linda, this has been quite a controversial topic and truthfully said, we have not moved in any real direction since my last "Cram Down" posting in March's Vanguard. I can share with you this much:

I have personally reviewed the proposed measure. Although the measure currently has a lot of opposition, I believe that this proposal should be enacted pursuant to the current demeanor and manner the banks are treating homeowners today. Many lenders today operate with a lack of common courtesy. Many are rude and flat out inconsiderate. Their actions today could very well be considered irresponsible and reckless, that's on a good day. Homeowners are finding themselves spending countless hours on the phone just to find themselves speaking to a computer voicemail system with a message that leads you to believe you will receive a call back within 24-72 hours months go by without a response. Homeowners that are extra diligent go into a letter writing campaign. Many of those letters go unread and unaccounted for. If they do acknowledge receipt, don't be surprised if they lose that letter a few weeks later. Might as well draft a letter and leave it with a kindergartner, you'd have better chances that a 5 yr old would be more responsible. Those actions leave very little to be desired. Hence a call for a Cram Down that would force the lender into a call for action.

Here's the skinny so far and what you can expect in the current proposed measure, if it succeeds:

Under the proposal, judges would be able to reduce mortgage principal to a "fair market rate" and limit interest payments to a conventional rate plus a "reasonable" risk premium. If the principal is reduced by a judge, the possible compromise would allow the lender and borrower to evenly split any profit up to the original amount of the loan if it is sold while the home is still in bankruptcy. Low-income borrowers and those who pay less than 31 percent of their income for mortgage payments would be ineligible for a principal reduction, but they could have their rates reduced or their loans amortized over a longer time. If a homeowner opted for a modification under the Obama plan and wound up paying a quarter of income or less for the mortgage, he or she would be ineligible for any bankruptcy modification. Only loans made **before 2009** and less than **\$729,750** would be eligible. The program would end in 2014. President Obama unveiled measures earlier this year to support the housing market; he signaled that he supported judicial modifications as a last-resort option. The Senate stated that they would not be taking up the bill next week. Hang on.... I'll keep you up to date, if and when it gets approved. **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.

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 Shout Box 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: First of all I would like to heartily congratulate Laura Friedman on her victory, which was fairly and handsomely won. As I got to know her and her husband during the campaign, I can say that Glendale has made a very good choice.



As for Mr. Yousefian, the News-press editorial says: "Yousefian has been a polarizing figure at times, having a number of public spats with fellow councilmen and sometimes taking unpopular stances on the dais." But if, as some say, the majority of the council members, the city manager and staff, the firefighters and employees union's AND Glendale News-press are not acting in the best interests of the city and the general population, surely Mr. Yousefian's "bulldog nature" is the one we needed. Surely his "spats" and disagreements would have made him the one that had to be retained. Of course only IF all the above mentioned people are not doing right by the people. Time would tell. Aramazd Stepanian

I often disagree with Herbert Molano on specific issues, but I respect the way his mind works. His "Analyze This!" comment in the post-election issue points out a problem with the voting system in Glendale. There may be many candidates that voters feel represent fiscal responsibility (or any other cause you care to mention), but since each voter can only choose 3 candidates, support for the cause is splintered.

So a lot of candidates supporting a given cause can actually make it so that none of them get elected under the current system with artificially limited numbers of votes. It's hard for voters with a common cause to coordinate on favorite candidates that appear most viable, say, since there are no reliable polls released to the public during Glendale's campaign season. In fact the incumbents on the city council love the current system, as one of the perennial common causes is "throw the bums out" and with only 3 votes to spread among a passel of challengers, it's once again difficult for anti-incumbent voters to coordinate.

A simple cure is to remove the limit on the number of candidates a voter can select. One could vote for every challenger, for example, vote for every fiscally responsible candidate -- whatever! No need to try and guess which candidates are viable and which aren't -- vote for all the ones you like and the candidates receiving the most votes win, just like now. Once we remove the cap on the number of candidates one can select, I predict the elected will often have a mandate of 50% approval or more, rather than "winning" the election with 15 or 20% of the vote. Wouldn't that be nice? MIKE ALLEN

[ED – The number of votes is set by the number of seats available.] MA response: Yes, the city system runs 2 or 3 "plurality" elections simultaneously, and voters can only select a single candidate in a plurality contest. The system that would improve this problem we have in Glendale is called "approval" voting and is used in various places around the world.

California's recurring budget problems call for serious reform. The recent budget deal in Sacramento



relies heavily on borrowing and increased taxes, including the highest state sales tax in the country, but fails to close the budget gap. The Legislative Analyst's Office is now projecting an \$8-billion budget gap for fiscal year 2009-10. Politicians are running out of options. High tax rates are moving jobs and spending out of the state. Borrowing will become increasingly expensive for the state, as California has been given the lowest rating on its general obligation debt of any state in the nation.

If California wants to be economically competitive, government spending must be brought under control. One solution is to establish an independent bipartisan commission to propose a package of budget cuts. To minimize the ability of special interests to secure favorable treatment, the Legislature and governor should be required to accept or reject the whole package, with no amendments allowed.

There are political advantages associated with forcing an up-or-down vote on an entire package of cuts. When a spending cut is directed at a specific program that benefits supporters of a particular legislator, it is political suicide for the legislator to support such an action. This problem repeatedly comes up in the budget process. In contrast, when a large group of programs faces funding cuts, the political impact hits a broad set of interest groups. Legislators are more likely to vote for the spending reductions because it's easier to justify them as beneficial to the

entire state. Because the financial impact to special-interest groups is less concentrated, the political damage to any one legislator is significantly reduced.

A California budget commission would evaluate the performance of all government programs: Has the program become outdated? Is the program or agency redundant? Does the program really deliver? Can the service be more efficiently provided by the private sector? Do the program's benefits outweigh the costs?

The commission would make spending-reduction recommendations to the Legislature. It could propose lower funding, outright elimination or privatization of state programs and agencies. As part of the budget resolution process, the Legislature would have to vote and the governor sign off on the commission's recommendations -- the entire package with no amendments.

This process could also provide state agencies clear performance standards. The possibility of program elimination or privatization would improve the quality of government services and lower costs.

If the Legislature does not see the wisdom in setting up an independent budget commission as a way to rein in out-of-control spending, proponents of responsible government could use the initiative process to force legislators' hands.

The writer, Robert Krol, is a professor of economics at Cal State Northridge. [Thanks to the LA Times](#)

I have been vigilant and watched the Council meetings the past two weeks only to find very little about which to be taking some action. I do read Vanguard on a regular basis and appreciate being kept in the loop.

Of course the City election caught me a little off guard because I really thought Yousefian was going to beat even Mr. Quintero. What little time I spent speaking with Ms. Laura Friedman I found her to be very competent and capable of an intelligent conversation. I mean to say that she may very well be our last hope in establishing some sense of priority in the City's negotiations with the unions. I am convinced she is not willing to be grouped with the Armenian vote nor would she want to be paired with Weaver so if we work quickly to offer her our support separate from the GNP it could lead to a new alliance. Her plan for an "arts" district is nothing to do with my original conception. She has told me her connections with the studios and studio support sector of the industry could lead to a very strong interest in our San Fernando Road corridor from Western Ave south to the Seeley Building. She thinks there are hundreds of successful companies looking for locations closer to the very popular ABC and DreamWorks campuses located now in Glendale at the old Grand Central Air Fields.

I am a bit confused by the construction of the freeway overpass at SF Rd that looks like it will feed directly into the Glendale Power Plant.

I am sincerely offended by the preponderance of voters that appear to have voted without reading the simple UUT measure. What part of increasing taxes is popular today? I hope you and the Vanguard are now ready to take on a full fledged battle against the entire Utility Users Tax. There does not seem to be any further legal grounds to overturn the tax so it now has to be repealed by popular vote. In the spirit of proposition 13, 34 years ago, I suggest we ask for support from those who will be priced out of this community if we do not take control of our City finances NOW! Carl, the HubCap Kid



We get calls: So what did you think about the election? What do you think will happen next election? [ED – To the first, 8500 voters made a decision for 207,000 residents, a very poor voter turnout. To be sure there were only 21,636 voters, which is shameful not to those that voted but to those that didn't. Next election Drayman and Weaver are up. Weaver will encourage people to run letting them know he will be moving on to a job as a CEO of a record company then he will turn in his papers. Drayman will draw the most votes ever and 15 Armenian candidates will run. The only advantage this time is there are no Armenian positions to lose.]



The vision is before me...our next Mayor will be Frank Quintero, John Drayman to the GRA and Dave Weaver to the Airport Commission.



The Police and Fire union PACs advertised in the GNP to get voters to vote YES on the UUT. Did those PACs or the City pay for the ads and were they billed at the same rate as any other political advertising? [ED – Following Editor Dan Evans' welcome article in the GNP I asked him. He said talk to the ad manager. I did. He said he couldn't provide the answers.]

Why do you include material from Davis? [ED – First off, Vanguard of Davis is a part of our family, second the articles show that Glendale is not alone in looking for solutions.]



Imponderables: What was going on at City Hall with all the tents set up and the Isabel parking lot closed? [ED – A question easily answered. A health fair for our City employees that have the best health and medical insurance plans available. They also have an employee health service (EHS) that costs over a \$1M a year. The health fair allows some extra time off to find out how to be healthier and get massages to relieve the stress of working in a difficult environment. This serves to showcase the services available and will help keep the funding for the EHS rather than using the services of the hospitals and other medical providers in the City. There are no measurements available as to if there are positive results from this program. I sure would like a massage and a nutritional snack while I take a bit of time away from my desk, wouldn't you?]



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

Monday, April 20

Special Meeting – Glendale Water & Power Commission – 7:30 am, Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-2107

Reorganization of the City Council – 8:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-4844

Note: The previously announced Glendale Police Advisory Council Meeting has been rescheduled to a later date

Tuesday, April 21

2:30 pm Housing Authority Meeting and Reorganization - Redevelopment Agency Meeting and Reorganization

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

Wednesday, April 22

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, April 23

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

Friday, April 24

Armenian Genocide Commemoration – 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:15 pm), Alex Theatre, 216 N Brand Blvd., Glendale. 548-4844.

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Public Information

- It's only money. The City of Glendale paid 2447 employees (this includes all employees that worked for CoG in calendar year 2008) and they received compensation in the amount of \$143,007,405.26. Dependent care benefits were \$150,280 and deferred compensation was \$6,156,715.30. Information provided from public documents.

The chart below shows how the \$143,000,000 of 2008 payroll was doled out

EMPLOYEE GROUP	NUMBER	TOTAL WAGES	AVERAGE PER WORKER
EMPLOYEES \$100K	592	\$80,000,000	\$135,000
EMPLOYEES RANK & FILE	1314	\$63,000,000	\$47,945.
TOTAL	1906	\$143,000,000	\$75,026

A public records act request:

Prop 218 was passed in 1996. It required a vote of the people for any property related tax, assessment or fee. The California Supreme Court upheld Prop 218 in 2006, Bighorn - Desert View Water Agency vs. Verjil (S127535) as to respects of water, sewers and trash collection taxes fees or assessments. The LA Superior Court using that decision said that the LA DWP could only charge the costs of the water and not derive a surplus which would be transferred to the General Fund for use for items other than water. Based on that background, please

1. Provide documents, as defined below, identifying and evidencing all transfers to the General Fund from the GWP from Water, Sewer (and related) and trash collection since the effective date of Prop 218 to and including the most recent transfer of funds from the GWP to the General Fund.
2. Provide documents for the same period as noted in 1 above identifying and evidencing and that relate to the cost of providing those products and services and the revenue so derived.
3. Please provide documents identifying and evidencing the rates charged for those products and services for the same period.
4. Provide all documents identifying and evidencing, since the effective date of Prop 218, and that relate or demonstrate discussions and knowledge by the City of their potential liability.

5. Provide documents identifying and evidencing the plan to deal with, mitigate or otherwise manage the potential liability.

6. Provide documents identifying and evidencing the potential liability should CofG be required to return General Fund transfer from the GWP to the GWP.

The City exercises its right to extend the time within which to respond by an additional 14 days pursuant to Government Code section 6253(c). The additional time is necessary to confer with multiple departments.

Lucy Varpetian Senior Assistant City Attorney

A public records act request:

Provide documents and writings evidencing the costs involved in the litigation of the following case:

Case Number: EC042453 -- CONNECT TO COMMUNICATIONS, INC. VS. CITY OF GLENDALE including, but not limited to, inside and outside counsel, expert witnesses, depositions, consultants and judgments through and including the cost of appealing to the California Supreme Court

Thanks to Marlene Walker for supplying the following two articles.

Sacramento Bee: The salaries, gleaned from city files obtained through a Public Records Act request, were calculated using the employees' hourly wage to come up with their base pay. That amount was then added to the amount of overtime they worked last year.

The good news for those who like to see their local governments lean toward fiscal frugality is that the city slashed its overtime use by 32 percent in 2008 over the previous year. That's especially good news for a city that filled a \$58 million budget gap for the current fiscal year and is projecting a \$50 million deficit for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

Generous sick-leave cashouts for retirees cost San Jose Millions City officials say the benefit exceeds what government officials get elsewhere, not to mention private-sector employees where such large cash-outs are unheard of.

"We are among most generous in sick-leave payouts among cities," said Employee Relations Director Alex Gurza. Employee compensation — which makes up three-fourths of the city's operating expenses — has become a top concern as expenses outpace revenue for an eighth consecutive year. Mayor Chuck Reed last week said even the pay freezes, management salary cuts and other concessions employees have agreed to so far won't be enough to avoid "major layoffs."

4 *Vanguardians*

- Vanguard Friday Breakfast Club had a powerful, energetic group at Foxy's. We had a presentation on the California Public Records Act and lots of City based discussion. There was an excellent opportunity to share opinions while networking. We are looking forward to seeing you at FOXY'S, 206 W Colorado, every Friday.
- Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at www.vanguardians.org.
- You can suggest web links and events for 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.
- Great opportunity for you to put your ad or link on www.vanguardians.org

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

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

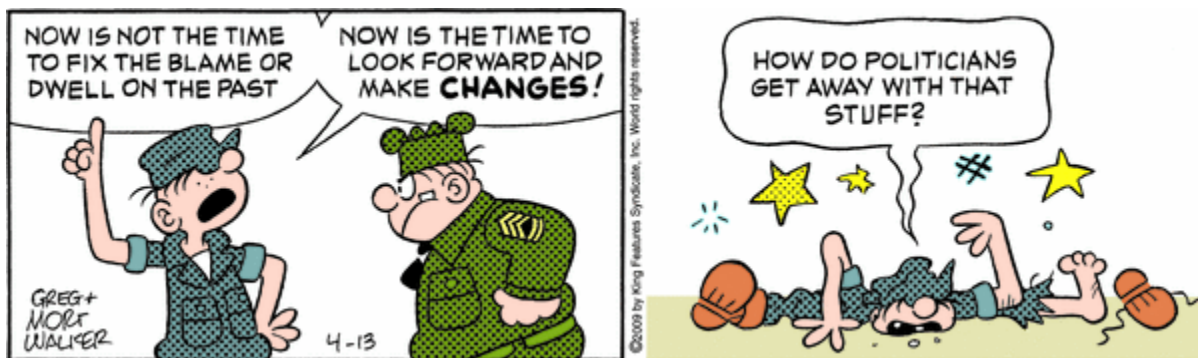
is a digest of information from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



The election is over and the results tell us not that things are working well in the City, but that voters do not want to hear about the bad stuff. With the economy in such bad shape, we don't want to listen to more bad news, so we vote for those who tell us it will be ok. After all, that's what we want to hear. It was nice to see that a non-incumbent was the high vote getter, but disappointing to see that in a city of over 200,000 residence it took less than 9,000 votes to be elected.

It's interesting that this is the year on the 40th anniversary of the Peter Principal, which says that every employee will rise to their level of incompetence. It says that once that is achieved, they rely on deception to create an illusion of progress. Keep this in mind as we watch this Council and management in the next few months. But, bear in mind that the public really isn't listening right now, there is too much other stuff going on.

6 Humor



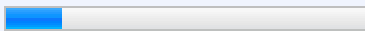

7 Legislation

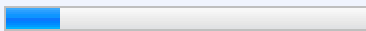

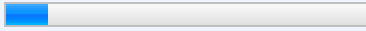
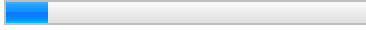
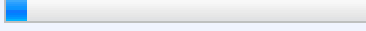
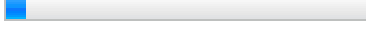
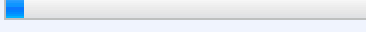
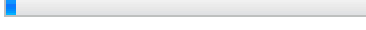
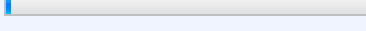
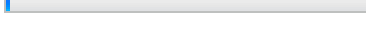
Sen. Mark Leno Introduced SB 711 to address changes in the Brown Act requiring more information to be provided to the public during the ongoing employment compensation contract negotiations:

- This bill would require a local agency, before holding a closed session regarding employee compensation, to identify the employee or class of employees that are the subject of the negotiations, the representatives of the employees, and all known matters within the scope of the negotiations, and to also make available to the public certain written proposals.
- The bill would require the legislative body, before commencing negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement or initial proposal for an unrepresented employee, to present, in an open and public session, the new collective bargaining agreement or an initial proposal.
- The bill would additionally require any vote of the legislative body on the collective bargaining agreement or initial proposal to be taken at an open and public session.
- The bill would revise the prohibition against a closed session including a final action on the proposed compensation of unrepresented employees to instead prohibit the closed session from including any final vote.
- The bill would require a final vote on any action taken pursuant to a closed session to be conducted during an open and public regular meeting of the legislative body, and only after disclosure of certain writings, cost projections, and methodology.
- The bill would also make several conforming changes

Final Vote Results

City Council 100% of precincts reporting 61213 votes cast

ARA NAJARIAN		9,473
LAURA FRIEDMAN		9,237

FRANK QUINTERO		8,857
BOB YOUSEFIAN		7,427
BRUCE PHILPOTT		6,996
CHAHE KEUROGHELIAN		6,836
VARTAN GHARPETIAN		3,603
LENORE SOLIS		3,091
ARAM KAZAZIAN		2,795
MICHAEL TEAHAN		1,562
EDWARD LAFIAN		780
ARAMAZD STEPANIAN		556

8 ARTS

These are the events at Luna Playhouse in April and May

- 1- POE-ZEST - A play about Edgar Allan Poe. April 16,17, 18 at 7 pm
- 2- COMEDY VARIETY SHOW- The Travel Diaries of a (former) Council Member April 17&18 at about 9 pm (After Poe-Zest)
- 3- Public Meeting (Conducted in Armenian) to examine the recent City of Glendale Elections Sunday April 19th 4 pm.
- 4- GOURGEN YANIKIAN: IN MY DEFENSE - April 24th Commemorative Program April 23, 24 & 25 at 8 pm
- 5- LOVELY DAY by Leslie Ayvazian --- Please Click on www.ArmenianTheatre.org for further details

The Latest About Luna Playhouse

After withdrawing our request for funds from the City of Glendale (fully realizing their complete disinterest and even contempt for the arts), we offered to sign a new lease with the landlord if he reduces the rent by at least 30%, or we'll quit and (when A Noise Within leaves) let Glendale once again be the only city in the Western World without a proper theatre doing plays (as opposed to one theatre doing old musicals only).

The landlord agreed to reduce the rent by about 15%. We said we cannot sign a lease in good conscience, as we cannot guarantee to honor it. He reluctantly agreed to a Month-to-Month agreement, which he had previously rejected as an option. So now we will continue as long as we can afford to pay the rent or until such time the landlord finds another tenant who can pay more.

The Metamorphosis Theatre Company has taken up residence at Luna. They will be participating in the administrative work of the theatre, as well as producing and contracting plays and other presentations. This may prove to be a most useful cooperation.

Aramazd A-S Stepanian Artistic Director (818) 545-4005

LUNA PLAYHOUSE (818) 500-7200 3706 San Fernando Road Glendale, CA 91204

Email info@vanguardians.org 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 advocacy, involvement and engagement with government. Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 charitable non-profit corporation Contributions are tax deductible.** Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. **To ensure you receive Vanguard, please add our email addresses info@vanguardians.org, and ba@fieldworks.net - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue** Copyrighted materials used with permission. ©2009