



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of May 1, 2011

info@vanguardians.org
www.vanguardians.org

818 243 1502

COUNCIL: A FRESH BREATH OF AIR

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

Weekly Glendale Vanguardians Meetings are coming back

However, we need your help. Please send the following information to info@vanguardians.org or call 818 243 1502.

What day of the week would you prefer?

What time of day?

What location?

Other comments:

"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.

Late Breaking News: Advanced Development and Investment – While the divorce case has been settled a new judge has decided to keep David Pasternak on as the receiver due to a number of issues. A well known California politician Richard Alatorre has had his name connected with the ADI scandal.

[Alatorre has been accused of illegal lobbying activities.](#)

Meanwhile, according to informed sources, ADI go-between Khachik Zargarian has been high-fiving sub-contractors, working on former Glendale City Council member John Drayman's Stancrest condominium, telling them they everything is OK with the principals back in charge and they will get their money. He is distraught. Quite a letdown.

CONTENTS:

News:

Study
Ron Kaye gets it
Bell CAO Gets a Free Makeover
Texas Rep Extortion
ADI Update

1) [Commentary](#)

[Barry Allen:](#)

Who will speak up now?

[Herbert Molano:](#)

The blind spot of democracy

2) [Shout Box](#)

*A Readers Question Statement and Vanguard's Reply
GNP Attack letters*

3) [Public Records](#)

No Extortion Complaint – Another Lie

4) [Vanguardians Watchdog Training](#)

5) [The Insider](#)

More Managers

6) [The Denizens on the Dais](#)

How they did A-F

7) [In Passing](#)

Rich McKee



Vanguard was selected to participate in a study of towed and impounded vehicles. If your vehicle was towed and impounded since January 2011 please call or email Vanguard. info@vanguardians.org or 818 243 1502

[Ron Kaye in the GNP](#): Public employees have become a privileged class, their pensions and benefits protected by law, while private-sector workers have seen pensions eliminated entirely, even as their share of health-care costs rise.

Bell, CA – [LA Times](#): Some of the bond money went to two companies connected with Rizzo. Both firms appeared to get the work without contracts, according to a review of records. More than \$1.36 million was paid to McCullah Fence Co., based in Bell Gardens, mostly for installing, reinstalling and removing fences at four small to medium-size parks in the city. **During part of that time, the company was remodeling Rizzo's Huntington Beach home.** Sounds familiar

[Former Texas Representative Admits to Role in Extortion Scheme](#) Former Texas representative Jose Santiago “Jim” Solis has been convicted of aiding and abetting the extortion by former state district judge Abel Corral Limas. Solis admitted his part in former Judge Limas’ use of the office of judge of the 404th District Court as a criminal enterprise to enrich himself and others, including Solis, through extortion. Limas accepted money and other consideration from attorneys in civil cases pending in his court, including Solis, in return for favorable pre-trial rulings in certain cases, including a case involving a helicopter crash at South Padre Island in February 2008. Solis specifically admitted to paying Limas \$8,000 in May 2008, a payment they described as eight “golf balls,” for favorable rulings.

[The affordable housing scandal](#) created by Advanced Development and Investment, Inc. (ADI) will continue as both the City of Los Angeles and Glendale have filed lawsuits (BC 460 044). The divorce, suit that required a court appointed receiver whose takeover discovered wrongdoing that cost taxpayers millions, is over as the combatants have reconciled. Rumors around the company speculate that the construction arm will close while the company sorts through \$3,000,000 a month in rental income from the 3000 units in its control. [CHARLES E. SLYNGSTAD is the contract Attorney listed as representing the City.](#) of Glendale.

Civic Watchdog Training

Vanguardians has received a grant for materials and facilities to provide training and educational materials for training in the Sunshine Laws to prepare watchdogs for public advocacy in California local government. Contact Barry Allen at 818 243 1502 or email him at info@vanguardians.org for more information.

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



Remember the 2004 movie, “A Day Without a Mexican”? (One day California wakes up and not a single Latino is left in the state. They have all inexplicably disappeared; chaos, tragedy, and comedy quickly ensue). It started me thinking about a year without community accountability advocates especially after reading about the attacks on accountability advocates by the Draymanites. Who would be there to question the budget or the CAFR? Who would stand up about the illegal transfers of water revenues? Who would be there to provide requests for public documents? Who would be there to demand accountability? Certainly not the aforementioned Draymanites.

Last week at the budget study sessions only Herbert Molano and Nick Friesen spoke asking questions relevant to the issues. On Tuesday night Barry Allen and Harry Zavos spoke to the campaign finance issues. Where are the others that speak sharply against those that represent the people?

Councilmember Quintero kept asking for information on how many managers were counted in the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employees. The answers were, "I don't know", "I am not sure", "we'll get back with you", "this is just an overview."

The department head was a recent Jim Starbird appointment that created Starbird's disappointment in his personnel choice. But when you are giving away taxpayer money, who cares. Under Starbird's watch so many new managerial positions have been created that HR can't keep track of them.

The firmer Council under the guidance, direction and control of John Drayman decided and ordained that no city employee would be let go or furloughed. They would get their raises and overtime supported by pay cuts to the lowest paid workers - the ones that do the work.

The Confidential report that Councilman Weaver was afraid of contains the following type information:

Confidential		Department Program List FY 2011-12			Draft		
Department	Type	Program	FTE's	Budgeted Amount	Recovery via Cost Allocation	Revenue Offset	Net Cost
Fire	Essential	Ops (101-403)	154.00	\$ 34,926,261	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,926,261
		Admin (101-402)	7.50	\$ 1,710,592	\$ (648,172)	\$ -	\$ 1,062,420
		Fire Communication (101-415)	0.00	\$ 914,317	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 914,317
		Fire Prevention (101-411)	5.50	\$ 990,365	\$ -	\$ (243,225)	\$ 747,140
		Mechanical Maint. (101-404)	0.00	\$ 453,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 453,539
		Emergency Services (101-425)	0.50	\$ 184,441	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 184,441
Essential Total				\$ 39,179,515	\$ (648,172)	\$ (243,225)	\$ 38,288,118
	Priority	Fire Prevention (101-411)	1.00	\$ 209,729	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 209,729
Priority Total				\$ 209,729	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 209,729
	Discretionary	Fire Prevention (101-411)	1.75	\$ 216,770	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 216,770
Discretionary Total				\$ 216,770	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 216,770

The GFD shows there are 154 people assigned to Ops (operations) or a budgeted expense of over \$226,000 per person while fire dispatch has no one assigned at a cost of \$914,317. By including people expenses with program expenses provides meaningless information. The GFD operates with a public information officer, school programs and pancake breakfasts. Those are not showing on this chart.

Compare the level of detail of a \$40,000,000 department with that of a \$13,000,000 department. The Council is being made to make cuts with totally irrelevant data. How many people were served by Parks? How many working structure fires were there? Why does Fire run its own Public Information Officer? Why do they have their own HR department? Where is the cost of the leased apparatus?

When the firefighters' union supports certain councilmembers they feel they don't have to be accountable. On a vote last Tuesday to hire a former fire chief officer, formerly one of the highest paid persons and now collecting an extremely high pension, only CCM Manoukian voted against bringing him back as a paid consultant. Just weeks before Manoukian was elected to office the former Council appointed a new Deputy Fire Chief with no support for the added expense.

Now the public knows why Starbird waited until after the election to determine how to present the budget. It looks to me like Frank Quintero found his voice regarding the fiscal disaster that will cut programs instead of people and Rafi Manoukian's CPA experience is well supportive of that voice. Friedman knows little of finance as she has stated her husband handles them and Weaver and Najarian are in line at Starbird's office door waiting for their marching orders.

Who will be the third vote for fiscal accountability and responsibility?

Department	Type	Program	FTE's	Budgeted Amount	Recovery via Cost Allocation	Revenue Offset	Net Cost		
Community Services &	Essential	Tree and Plant Maintenance	8.39	\$ 727,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 727,846		
		Restroom and Janitorial Maintenance	7.71	\$ 592,669	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 592,669		
		Graffiti and Vandalism	6.07	\$ 520,192	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 520,192		
		Pacific - Facility Operations	5.79	\$ 495,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 495,202		
		Sport Field Maintenance	3.65	\$ 417,134	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 417,134		
		Parks - Contract Administration	0.94	\$ 408,306	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 408,306		
		Maple Facility Operations	3.45	\$ 362,559	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 362,559		
		Youth & Family Services	3.66	\$ 327,219	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 327,219		
		City-Wide Sports	2.73	\$ 302,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 302,865		
		GYA Admin 101-824-0000	2.05	\$ 262,627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262,627		
		Administration Support to CIP	2.18	\$ 252,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 252,288		
		Sparr Facility Operations	3.05	\$ 242,407	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242,407		
		Skate Park	3.50	\$ 173,178	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 173,178		
		Administration & Rec. Admin. Support I	1.21	\$ 165,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,274		
		Grant Development & Management	1.00	\$ 127,193	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127,193		
		Brand Facility Operations	1.79	\$ 95,214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,214		
		Art & Culture	1.10	\$ 86,513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,513		
		Administration & Rec. Admin. Support	1.53	\$ 74,531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,531		
		Pest Control	0.45	\$ 70,047	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,047		
		Special Events - Leisure Guide (Essen)	0.53	\$ 68,522	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,522		
		Club Maple Program	1.01	\$ 67,892	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,892		
		Pacific - Park N Play	1.68	\$ 66,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,197		
		Admin Cost from Discretionary	0.00	\$ 59,541	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,541		
		Administration Support to CDBG	0.43	\$ 50,458	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,458		
		Administration Support to Workforce	0.43	\$ 50,458	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,458		
		Adult Sports	1.00	\$ 48,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,615		
		Pacific - Drop-In Gym	0.51	\$ 19,328	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,328		
		Pond Maintenance	0.18	\$ 12,958	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,958		
		Aquatics (5 Wading Pools)	1.14	\$ 12,897	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,897		
		Arbor Day Tree Planting	0.16	\$ 12,498	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,498		
		Glendale Beautiful Events	0.13	\$ 12,046	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,046		
		Holiday Lights and Decorations	0.13	\$ 97,806	\$ -	\$ (95,228)	\$ 2,578		
		Pacific Community Pool	9.42	\$ 368,114	\$ -	\$ (368,114)	\$ -		
		Essential Total				\$ 11,864,588	\$ -	\$ (463,342)	\$ 11,401,246
		Priority							
				Aquatics (3 High School Pools)	6.12	\$ 117,342	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,342
				Parks CIP and Misc. Support	1.01	\$ 98,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98,555
				Therapeutic Get Fit & Hikes	0.52	\$ 30,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,211
				Therapeutic Fundraising Softball Tour	0.15	\$ 8,076	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,076
		Priority Total				\$ 262,184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262,184
		Discretionary							
		Open Space & Trails (101-602-5160)	2.60	\$ 202,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202,846		
		Aquatics (3 High School Pools)	6.12	\$ 130,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130,000		
		Special Events (Winter Wonderland -C)	1.03	\$ 117,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,530		
		Special Events - Rose Float	0.34	\$ 140,390	\$ -	\$ (50,000)	\$ 90,390		
		Admin Support to Day Laborer Program	0.00	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,000		
		Day Camp (501)	1.18	\$ 86,695	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,695		
		Contract Classes - Brand, Sparr, Pacif	1.18	\$ 61,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,753		
		Facility Rentals - Pacific & Maple (501)	0.70	\$ 61,643	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,643		
		Youth Programs - Teen Programs	0.49	\$ 49,934	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,934		
		Steam Cleaning / Pressure Washing	0.54	\$ 46,731	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,731		
		LLL Movies, Music & More	0.23	\$ 42,921	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,921		
		Special Events - Leisure Guide (Discre)	0.00	\$ 32,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,000		
		Adult Sports	1.00	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000		
		Special Events - Leisure Guide (Essen)	0.53	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000		
		Tournaments at Pacific & Maple Comrr	0.35	\$ 27,111	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,111		
		Therapeutic - Excursions/Field Trips	0.36	\$ 26,654	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,654		
		Youth & Family Non-Profit Capacity Bu	0.22	\$ 25,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,348		
		Clean-Up Citywide Events	0.29	\$ 23,749	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,749		
		ARC - Senior Field Trips	0.14	\$ 23,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,523		
		Halloween at Pacific, Maple and Sparr	0.21	\$ 19,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,562		
		Maple - Penny Carnivals	0.18	\$ 17,267	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,267		
		Maple - Santa In the Park	0.12	\$ 11,759	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,759		
		Youth Workshops	0.08	\$ 10,579	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,579		
		Admin Support to Montrose Christmas	0.00	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000		
		Aquatic - Contract Classes (501)	0.10	\$ 8,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,553		
		Pacific Family Nights	0.03	\$ 8,072	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,072		
		Trail Maintenance	0.12	\$ 4,973	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,973		
		Club Maple Anniversary Celebration	0.07	\$ 4,803	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,803		
		Sparr - Parent Nite Out (501)	0.08	\$ 4,675	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,675		
		Parks Creating Future	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Discretionary Total				\$ 1,349,071	\$ -	\$ (50,000)	\$ 1,299,071		

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 BLIND SPOT OF DEMOCRACY



This nation has survived and thrived despite determined opposition to a more enlightened or progressive mindset. In reverse order, we've had Dixiecrats who opposed democratic values for non-whites, those who opposed the women's suffragist movement, those who opposed the abolition of slavery, and we had

many loyalists who opposed revolutionary war. So, similarly, an entrenched mindset in opposition to finding out about the real John Drayman will be difficult to budge.

At the heart of my opposition of John Drayman was his reckless disregard for the city's finances. Though Drayman was not alone, and his co-running mate David Weaver, a Republican, was even more reckless with the city's treasury, he is the focus of this essay.

A strong anti-Armenian sentiment combined with the favorite-son/local hero image allowed Drayman to cultivate a fanatic core of loyalists opposed to seeing any data on the real performance of the city. I can put forth as much data to debunk the myth, but these are summarily dismissed no matter how reasoned or documented the presentation.

But Drayman's role in trashing the city's finances was, in my opinion, directly tied to a self-serving objective to enrich himself. The Drayman people know and with whom they have very limited experience is not the same man who uncovered his true personality at the city council as a vindictive, immature, and manipulative councilman.

There is a lure in politics that attracts men of many dispositions. After all, there are over eight hundred million dollars of money to control in any given year, and over three billion to dispose of in a four-year term. The opportunities for malfeasance are too numerous to list in a short essay.

But, three groups have quietly set for themselves an enrichment agenda of hundreds of millions of dollars in additional pay and pensions in the last ten years. Leading the pack is the Glendale Fire Fighters Association who've taken the bulk of the benefits for themselves. Second in line is the Police Officers' Association who felt that they were playing second fiddle for many years to the GFFA while producing more real work. Third in line, and the latest to organize, is the city management association. In 2001 the GPOA and GFFA managed to take the taxpayers to the cleaners with a surreal pension facilitated by a city manager's presentation to a city council clueless on how the pension calculation was derived. In 2005 the GMA led the effort to get everybody else endowed with a hefty pension increase.

The tagline from the city manager, "It will cost the city nothing."

But these three insider groups are not the only ones looking to the council candidates to extract their pound of flesh from taxpayers. Developers are continually on the lookout for Redevelopment Agency money and low-income Housing Authority money. The lesser players are the city suppliers, consultants, and outside attorneys looking out for their opportunity to leverage their influence for a piece of the budget pie. Just follow the money.

Combine them and they all become a powerful financial motivator to entice many a sociopath to run for office. All you need is a gift of gab and the ability to fool an uninformed electorate. Weaver has done it in a vulgar and pedantic way. Drayman performed it as a polished actor. Politics is, in effect, the perfect vehicle for liars, scoundrels, and charlatans. These two are not the only ones.

Those who know how major projects are funded want a chance at making decisions with taxpayer money.

The Redevelopment Agency is just one such vehicle. When the city formally declares an area as blighted for a redevelopment zone, it is allowed to keep the gain in the property tax as a result of new construction. That money is plowed back into more development by giving away that money to commercial developers in the form of subsidies or participation agreements. Low income housing subsidies is another enrichment vehicle for residential housing developers. As such, councilmen are in a position to direct millions of dollars of taxpayer funds as flat-out gifts to their preferred insiders. The opportunities for elected officials are in the form of hefty kickbacks hidden effectively unless uncovered by a thorough investigation. That, in-effect, is their reason for running for office and their hidden worry.

When candidates get mad at their campaign staff for not working hard enough, it is not that they are fighting to create policy for a more just society. It is not that they want to improve the health and wellness of their community. It is that they are desperate to control the city funds directly.

If three like-minded candidates get elected, then they can run roughshod over the city management to insure that pet projects get a smooth approval and a favorable analysis. When the city staff can't stomach writing the lies and misdirection that the city council wants on their reports, they hire consultants. If the consultants dare to provide an honest analysis, they are summarily dismissed and a new consultant is then selected.

But to get elected, you need a gimmick. It can be assured if you appeal to the anti-ethnic sentiment of those who feel invaded by foreigners or are fearful of the new culture sprouting in their neighborhood. You arrange with the fire department employee association to pay for an endorsement mail-out while you promise to deliver more pay and

extended benefits to them. You convince future city contractors that it is in their best interest to lend you a hand especially if it holds a wad of cash for your campaign. Reciprocity is essential in politics.

If you still believe that our men in uniform support candidates because they are concerned about the public welfare, then you must believe that men in uniform supporting their despotic leaders in the Middle-East and Africa want to maintain a benevolent ruler in office.

Democracy is a messy vehicle for justice, and until someone comes up with something better, we must fight the sociopaths who want to take advantage of it.

HERBERT MOLANO [Click here FOR Glendale Today](#) New content

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

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.

Dear Barry: I caught a presentation by you at Glendale College. I thought you seemed like a nice man, and I'm glad you watchdog the city government.

One weakness in your presentation, I thought, is you might not make a clear enough distinction between acts that are corrupt, and acts where someone makes a mistake, or does something dumb. I would say both things are bad, but an act of corruption seems more evil to me, and maybe reflects more on the government as a whole. For example, the cop's joyriding to Vegas just seems dumb, but possibly not quite as evil as, say, someone peddling influence. I think your presentation would be stronger if you'd make this clear.

You asked why they always send a fire truck with an ambulance. I asked a fireman this same question. He said the firemen are there to help carry a person in a stretcher if need be. They found that the ambulance workers were sometimes having to carry obese or very obese people to the ambulance, sometimes from the second floor or higher, and they were injuring their backs. So they added the firemen to assist with the load.

Best to you, Mr. Allen.--Greg Dahlen, Glendale, California

Greg – Thanks for your note.

One of the problems is that many people don't understand the protections in the system for government employees. With regard to the cop's joyriding, the decision was that of the Chief. I am unaware if the issue went to civil service or not. In a debate I could take either side. However, if those three officers decided to do something foolish then what would prevent them from doing something foolish in a more important situation? In the military they probably would have been shot for leaving their post.

With fire the Vanguardians team has done considerable research. When the call comes in for the injured party the RA can roll while dispatch asks some relevant questions like what floor or some stats on the victim. If the RA crew gets to the scene and while they stabilize the PT they can call for help if it is needed. Firefighters are well aware that most people don't understand the methodology used and will believe almost anything. At night while firefighters are sleeping in their private rooms statistics show that it takes longer to get 4 up and out than it does 2.

Reading those letters in the GNP and the comments following them attacking Barry Allen, Herbert Molano and Mike Mohill show me that the GNP will do anything to keep their hero's name in the news. Your Guy Lost. Accept it. Your Guy Lost. Writers want to make him a victim because of the 'gadflies'. Your Guy never answered legitimate questions. Your Guy fleeced the taxpayers and you refuse to look at the unrefuted facts. Your Guy is a victim of his own doing. KBG.

[ED – Mr. Drayman made several statements about Barry Allen that Drayman knew to be untrue, false and lies. Drayman in the month of March did the same with regard to a claim of extortion which was yet another lie from the Dais in an apparent violation of 42 USC 1983, the deprivation of Civil Rights under the color of law. On the first issue the City of Glendale has determined that Allen has the right to sue for the egregious behavior of Mr. Drayman. Mr. Allen has indicated that he will sue only if the Court agrees that the City of Glendale, the Taxpayers, will not be stuck with the legal bills and the settlement or judgment.]

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

This is in response to your request dated April 21, 2011. Your request seeks: “During a Glendale City Council meeting during the month of March 2011, then City Councilmember John Drayman made an accusation that Barry Allen and Vahik Marcarian were attempting to extort money from Drayman and the pictures of the renovation of his Stancrest Condominium were the medium. Please provide any police report filed by Drayman regarding the issue above or any related issue.”

Please be advised no responsive documents were located. **Carmen O. Merino. General Counsel - Police**

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, May 2

- Water & Power Commission – 4:00 pm, CH 548-2107

Tuesday, May 3

- Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, 548-2005
- **Joint Meeting –RE:** Proposed Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) Programs for FY 2011-2012 – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844

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

Wednesday, May 4

- Planning Hearing Officer -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
- Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

Thursday, May 5

- Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:30 am, PB548-3700
- Jewels of Glendale Luncheon – 11:30 am, Oakmont Country Club, (818) 548-4844

Friday, May 6

- **Special Meeting** – Glendale’s Participation in the nationwide “100,000 Home” Campaign –1:00 pm, 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

More about **VANGUARDIANS**

Your tax-deductible contributions support the **mission** to:

- ❖ Provide, without bias, the timely dissemination of information and knowledge of government activities to the community and elected officials
- ❖ Build, train and empower a knowledgeable, aware and involved community-wide group to monitor the integrity, performance and responsiveness of elected officials and government operations
- ❖ Encourage, by example, a community free to exchange facts and opinions on public issues by facilitating open debate and discussion on the issues
- ❖ Seek accountability, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government to insure integrity, efficiency and cost effectiveness
- ❖ Make government acutely aware there is a community watching, monitoring and measuring their activities

We, the people, have spoken...

We want to be connected to the Government

We want to be an integral part of the government process – not just a deep pocket

We want to be aware of the crucial developments facing government that directly impact on our 'quality of life'


We want to know that our money is being spent wisely and prudently

We want to leave a prospering community for our children and grandchildren

Comments from the Community

[From The Glendale News Press 12-29-2003](#) The beginning of Accountability in Glendale. Claiming that the city needs better oversight to monitor its finances and actions, [Barry Allen] is calling on city residents to form a watchdog group to look into everything, "I think an outside, independent agency that isn't funded by the city; that's funded by a grass-roots initiative, is what we really need."

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](#)

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.

Instead of raises for favored employees, management is on a schedule to promote those favored ones to higher paying positions. Pay attention to the recruitments on the Civil Service Commission agendas and you will see a trend. Promotions in Public Works, management level plan checkers in Planning, Lins in GWP, new deputy in Fire. The internal games being played by managers and staff are crazy. You've made the case for reducing managers, but it has gone unheard to Starbird and his boys.



Besides the Lins case, take the position of public works administrator was fashioned after the old deputy director of public works position. Zurn testified that it was not supposed to be that high of a position, yet the salary was set higher than the deputy director position. Not only that, but the position was given a raise only 2 months after it was created? Does that make sense?

Also, very soon the majority of the plan check positions in building and safety will be mid management position. Why? Just to build the numbers of managers?

Why does the Fire department need another level to it, just to make it top heavy?

It seems that despite to current fiscal situation, the managers don't get the reality of the situation and are still practicing the cronyism that led up to the mess we find ourselves in today!

Vanguard question: How does everyone feel about Drayman and Manoukian?

Employees looked at Drayman as more of a special project / interest type of person where Rafi is more of a global issues type. Each has very a different base of support, with Drayman focused on the North end of town and Rafi focused downtown.

"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

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

The pallor over the council chambers has lifted. Employees, save a few of the anointed, are able to leave their paranoia at home and get on with the business of the people. The three days of Council meetings was truly reflective of the new Dais Dynamic. Quintero found his voice as he challenged a department head during a budget session about the ratio of workers to managers. The Director said he would have to get back. When asked about the increase of his staff the Director was unable to come up with an answer leaving his boss, City Manager Starbird, to remind everyone that the increase was due to department consolidation. Manoukian kept hitting on the fiscal issues.

On Monday Najarian went into his comments about not allowing double dipping by former employees collecting their retirement. Tuesday night all was forgotten when he was acceptable to bringing back Steve Howard for a contract...even when Najarian was reminded of his earlier statement.

On Wednesday morning Mr. Weaver was concerned about a confidential document he received that CM Starbird indicated was no longer confidential. Weaver's concern was when people would fill the Council Chambers to complain about cancelled jobs and programs.

Mayor Friedman was very concerned about the money issues of campaign financing, her officeholder account so she could visit all the sister cities and of course maintaining a legal defense fund. She has been listening to Herbert Molano as she was asking for metrics to show the effectiveness of programs.

A very telling comment by City Manager Starbird...The budget study sessions couldn't start until they knew who was going to be elected. Did that mean if Drayman were re-elected it would mean some superficial stuff and a slam dunk for approval and if it were Rafi Manoukian he could expect some serious deliberation from the Dais? Regardless he and his staff were unprepared for the hard and heavy questions.

Overall rating for the week ending April 30:

Weaver	Quintero	Najarian	Friedman	Manoukian
F	A	C	D	A

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

7. IN PASSING

It is with deep regret and a very heavy heart that I must report that our dear friend and colleague, Rich McKee (read his biography [here](#)), suddenly passed away this past weekend. I have no further details at this time, but I will share what I can as it becomes known to me in the coming days and weeks.

Rich was one of our greatest champions throughout the years, and we truly could not have done any of this without him. I hope you will join me in sending support and prayers to his family and friends as they learn to cope with this incredible loss. Emily Francke Calaware

McKee had served on the La Verne Planning Commission from 2007 to 2010, but the retired Pasadena City College

chemistry professor was most widely known for his tireless fight to protect the public's right to access public records and promote openness for meetings involving government agencies.

Since 1993 McKee was a citizen activist for open local government, educating officials in more than 100 local agencies on the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act and California Public Records Act. The founding president of Californians Aware, he has also served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Press Club and as president of the California First Amendment Coalition. He lectured frequently on open government issues to community organizations, public officials, media groups, public agency attorneys, and college and university journalism classes, where the *Los Angeles Times* said he "gets as animated as Jack Nicholson at a Lakers game when he talks about the people's right to know."

While most of McKee's efforts were focused on open government education, to protect the public's rights, he also litigated 14 successful open government and First Amendment lawsuits, often representing himself. KPFK radio dubbed him "John Q. Citizen." KCET's "Life & Times Tonight" called him "the citizen who won't shut up and go away." The *Times* characterized him as "the scourge of public agencies across the eastern suburbs of Los Angeles County" who "walks softly and carries a big stick." The *Sacramento Bee* christened him "Mr. Sunshine," a man with "a head for the law, a heart for justice and a nose for government officials with secrets."

His crusade at time took great personal and financial toll. After suing the Orange Unified School District Board for alleged violations of the Brown Act in 2007, McKee as the losing plaintiff was responsible for paying thousands in attorney's fees and court costs, forcing McKee to take a lien on his home and suffer garnishment of his wages.

In 2010, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 786 by Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) limiting the ability of cities, counties and state agencies to collect attorney's fees under the anti Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) law.

The passing of this law may have been not only McKee's greatest victory, but also his greatest legacy.

In a March 8, 2011 opinion piece for CalCoastNews.com, McKee wrote "Whether you scan local news or statewide articles, almost daily there are stories of public corruption scandals, bribery, extortion, and nepotism committed by those we elect and appoint to do the people's business. But these outrages never could have happened if the electorate had known about these deals before they occurred. Public corruption is facilitated by secrecy; backroom deals with a quid pro quo."

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact you. **Vanguardians 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 educational 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, vanguardweekly@gmail.com 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. To unsubscribe -- reply with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.** Copyrighted materials used with permission. ISSN 2158-7280 ©2011