



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of May 8, 2011

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GNP – INTEGRITY QUESTIONED

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.

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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

[Former Temple City mayor convicted in bribery case](#) A former Temple City mayor was convicted Monday of bribery and perjury, the second former high-level city official to be found guilty of taking bribes in the San Gabriel Valley city. Cathie Wilson, 78, was convicted of demanding cash bribes from a local developer and lying to a grand jury, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. The charges stem from allegations that Wilson, former Mayor Judy Wong and former Councilman David Capra — all council members in 2007 — demanded and received cash bribes from developer Randy Wang for his Temple City Piazza mall. Wong was sentenced in September to 16 months in state prison, and Capra pleaded guilty in 2009 to one misdemeanor count of failure to report a campaign contribution. Wilson is scheduled for sentencing June 2 and faces up to nine years in prison, authorities said.

Van Nuys CA – Lydia Drew Mather chose to resign as the Chair of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council following her refusal to follow the Brown Open Meetings act and the public records act. Vanguardians volunteers were instrumental in

bringing those charges to the attention of the Los Angeles City Attorney and the LA Ethics Commission. Mather was controlling the agenda, deciding who could speak and who would be allowed to run for her Chair.

Glendale CA – According to US Census and the California Department of Finance the population in the City of Glendale dropped from the 2000 census count of 194,973 to the 2010 census count of 191,719. This drop comes as the city expands its work force. There may be other consequences in the pay of the Redevelopment Agency members.

[Judge tosses California's civil suit against ex-Bell leaders](#) L.A. County Superior Court Judge Ralph W. Dau rules that legislators cannot be sued for passing ordinances that award themselves high salaries. Last year, then-Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown sued to recover funds from Bell officials whose salaries were among the highest in the nation.

Developer indicted in connection with alleged illegal campaign contributions to Villaraigosa, ex-councilman
[Read more...](#)

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



There are some prominent members of the Glendale community who are commissioners or board members on the various Boards and Commissions that are nominated by one Councilmember and confirmed by the Council as a whole. Several of these have spoken regularly at various city legislative and advisory meetings. Occasionally they may even mention that they are speaking on their own behalf and not as a member of a particular board or commission so that the public can understand.

Some of the more notable are Rodney Khan, John Gantus, Bill Weisman, Richard Bennett and Michael Morgan. I would think the people deserve notice as to the role of the speaker. For instance:

My name is _____. I am a member of the _____ Board or Commission. I was appointed by _____. I am speaking today on behalf of (myself, my board or commission or).

I was planning on asking Steve Stoner to do the follow up on the 'letter-gate' but decided I should write about it myself. You will find more of the technical details in the Denizens on the Dais.

Over last weekend, coincidentally our anniversary, I received numerous forwarded emails and calls about the letter. The emails were addressed to The City Editor and the Editor in Chief of the Glendale News-Press along with most senior city management and the Glendale City Council along with numerous others. The letter chided City Council member Rafi Manoukian for making his nominations to Boards and Commissions for people that the writer, Mark Lassiter, didn't like.

He piled numerous unsubstantiated accusations atop other unsubstantiated accusations and then called on the City Council to get a spine and do the right thing.

Now 'Mark Lassiter' did the right thing. He added his phone number per the GNP policy. The phone number belongs to Cathy and Jack Harwood in Far North Glendale. Mark Lassiter wrote the letter as a voter. He is not registered to vote and didn't vote in the April 5th Glendale municipal election according to public records. Apparently this cipher thinks that the City Council will acquiesce to the diatribe of his early lobbying.

As I understand it, the GNP will publish letters when it can verify the authenticity of both the facts and the writer; that it will edit for length and clarity. Unfortunately that didn't happen in this case.

As the City Editor, an intimate of former Council member Drayman, Jason Wells is responsible for the publication of the letters to the editor. Those that followed the election forums clearly saw the favoritism of Welles as a forum moderator to Drayman. Those that get the GNP noted on December 29th that the GNP eliminated any mention of Drayman's involvement in the ADI scandal noting that for the rest of the article buy and read the LA Times.

Let's take a look at the letter that was published in the GNP and compare with the letter that was sent to them. The published letter is in bold and the original letter is in regular text:

The first two paragraphs of the original letter were deleted as were the words with a strike through them. Added words are in brackets.

Published by GNP

Councilman Rafi Manoukian's nomination of Richard Espiritu to the Traffic and Parking Commission is perhaps the most illustrative example of the new [and improved] Manoukian.

In a 2008 Glendale News-Press article: "Court records show that Espiritu has been convicted twice for driving on a suspended license in Glendale and, in 2001, for the 'unauthorized entry of a dwelling' — a conviction that led to three years of probation and restitution fines."

[It went on to state,] "Even in terms of his advocacy for disabled access, Espiritu appears to have misrepresented himself as a doctor at dozens of City Council meetings over the past two years."

Colleges grant degrees – not the State. Espiritu is in reality a humanitarian based on the people he has helped and helps. He doesn't hide like the writer of this letter

Manoukian's nomination of Vartan Gharpetian to the parks [commission] is interesting too. Parks commissioners represent the interests of Glendale residents with regard to recreational facilities and our open spaces. Yet, [while serving] as chairman of a Design Review Board — tasked with protecting residential and neighborhood integrity issues — [Gharpetian did just the opposite, creating a private advocacy group] about which then [-fellow commissioner John] Cianfrini stated [in a] 2007 Glendale News-Press article "the group was organized to counteract the influence of the city's 19 homeowners associations." The conflict of interest led to Gharpetian being unseated.

Gharpetian as a private person was involved in 'creating' another special interest group, like the homeowners associations that would represent property owners. Where is the conflict?

Sent to GNP

Manoukian's nomination of Richard Espiritu for a seat on the Traffic and Parking Commission is perhaps the most illustrative example of the new Manoukian. In ~~Jason Wells' August 26, 2008 Glendale News-Press article "Doubts Cast Over Activist,"~~ the following information came to light: "Court records show that Espiritu has been convicted twice for driving on a suspended license in Glendale and, in 2001, for the 'unauthorized entry of a dwelling' — a conviction that led to three years of probation and restitution fines."

~~The article also includes the following: "Even in terms of his advocacy for disabled access, Espiritu appears to have misrepresented himself as a doctor at dozens of City Council meetings over the past two years. He has said publicly that his use of the title 'doctor' is in reference to his chiropractic license, but he is not registered with the state Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the profession's governing board. Holding himself out as a doctor when he's not registered is illegal and could put Espiritu at risk of being fined, said Brian Stiger, executive director for the state board."~~

Manoukian's nomination of Vartan Gharpetian to the City's Parks Department is interesting too. As Parks Commissioners, ~~these board members~~ represent the interests of Glendale residents with regard to recreational facilities and our open spaces. Yet, as a Chairman of Glendale's Design Review Board, Gharpetian was embroiled in a conflict of interest issue for acting in precise opposition to looking out for Glendale residents. Again, from a November 28, 2007 Glendale News-Press article by Jason Wells, the following report was made: "Gharpetian — whose term officially ended Oct. 23 — loses his seat after weeks of public criticism over a perceived conflict of interest for his simultaneous management of a private association that advocates on the behalf of property owners."

~~The issue was pretty clear. Gharpetian was Chairing a City Design Review Board tasked with, among other things, protecting the interests of Glendale residents and neighborhood integrity issues, while at the same time, he created an organization he called "GPOA" (Glendale Property Owners Association) about which, then DRB member Cianfrini, in the same Glendale News-Press article, stated that "the group was organized to counteract the influence of the city's 19 homeowners associations." This conflict of interest led to Gharpetian being unseated.~~

The new and improved Manoukian also nominated Aram Kazazian for Glendale Water & Power Commission, but in a 1997 News-Press article chronicling Kazazian's circumventing of city ordinances to build a 13,750-square-foot house, "El Tovar" — some 6,000 square feet in excess of the legal limit — the article states: "The City Council referred the mystery to a San Diego law firm, which detailed its investigation in a 36-page report delivered last week. The report assigns much of the blame for the situation to Kazazian, who allegedly used his position on two city building commissions to manipulate normal land-use procedures to his advantage."

In the El Tovar case the only ones that were found to be at fault were city employees. The name of Greg Astorian was added to the original letter, the questions are, by whom and for what reason? What is the perceived conflict of interest?

I could go on about Manoukian's nomination of Brian Ellis, a Bob Yousefian retreat to the Design Review Board, [or] Razmik Grigorian to the Arts & Culture Commission, who previously pushed for the creation of a new arts department, [or Greg Astorian to the Planning Commission who, as a prominent Realtor and consultant, would be the very perception of conflict of interest, but why continue?]

The big question is will Council members Frank Quintero, Dave Weaver, Ara Najarian and Mayor Laura Friedman demonstrate any evidence of having spines and express objections to these nominations by voting "no"?

Mark Lassiter Glendale

~~Continuing with the nominations made by the new and improved Manoukian is Aram Kazazian for GWP Commission. As if Council Member Najarian's many on-the-record admissions about Kazazian weren't enough, from the pages of the Glendale News-Press from March 16, 1997, comes the headline "Case of Favoritism Points to Bigger Problems in Glendale." This article chronicles Kazazian's circumventing of City ordinances to build a house, "El Tovar," which was 6,000 square feet in excess of the legal limit for that property.~~

~~The 13,750 square foot home brought a firestorm of criticism from local homeowners groups. According to the Glendale News-Press in the same article, "The City Council referred the mystery to a San Diego law firm, which detailed its investigation in a 36-page report delivered last week. The report assigns much of the blame for the situation to Kazazian, who allegedly used his position on two city building commissions to manipulate normal land-use procedures to his advantage." Surprise! Another conflict of interest.~~

~~I could go on about Manoukian's nomination of Brian Ellis, a Bob Yousefian retreat to the DRB and Razmik Grigorian's re-nomination to the Arts & Culture Commission, a fellow who almost single-handedly ended the Commission's existence while demanding that the City create a new Department of the Arts to be headed by himself, but why go on?~~

~~Paragraph deleted~~

~~The big question is will Council Members Quintero, Weaver, Najarian and Mayor Friedman demonstrate any evidence of having a spine and express objections to these nominations by voting no?~~

~~Mark Lassiter Glendale (818) 254-1224~~

Under the guidance and direction of John Drayman, perception became more important than reality. The Draymanites thought the [perception](#) of wrongdoing was more to be believed than the pictures of the real construction in his condo.

Three commissioners spoke regarding 'perception', instead of reality -- Bennett, Weisman and Morgan.

No one questioned Rodney Khan, a member of the Parks Commission who represented Advanced Development and Investment (ADI).

Or Civil Service Commissioner John Gantus who represents Modern Parking that has a contract granted under special circumstances.

'Mark Lassiter' didn't write a letter about those people. Can you fathom why?

We must also look at the unholy alliance with the GNP as to their changing a letter of a cipher. Their integrity is gone; their trust is gone. The people have seen how a local newspaper on the city's vendor list can be compromised.

I wonder if the city checks their invoices. I know I will.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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

AN UNBALANCED MEAL



Five council members sat down to dinner not really knowing what was going to be on their plate. The chef had prepared a five-course meal and the guests were to get only the portions laid out in advance. Before the meal started, the waiters gave a full rendition on their recommendations. It was to be a meal of great budgetary proportions and presented with long-winded introductions spoken with an air of pompous authority. Four of the guests seemed impressed if not intimidated.

The foie gras would be the recommendation du jour. The kitchen had ducked the core issues and introduced an aperitif to set the mood. They would discuss the general fund first in their aim to cut city services and keep their desserts.

The general fund, to most people, including some members of the city council, seems to be the only portion of the city's overall expenditures that get the focus of their attention. But anyone familiar with the city's budget process knows that it can be cut, shaped, and prepared to give just the right impression. It was no different as our head chef Jim Starbird and his staff of cooks laid out the menu.

The city council would be given the opportunity to consider only about only 20% of the 800 million budget. They won't get to evaluate each department in full. It was a gorgeously prepared delicacy. All the charts and graphs were there to highlight the message they wanted the city council and the general public to appreciate. When councilman Manoukian asked why they were not seeing the full picture with all the departmental funds being presented, Starbird insinuated that he did not want to make it too complicated for them. Never mind that Weaver touted his long experience with budgets his whole life and that, except for Friedman, all of them had been through this experience for at least six years.

So the head chef and his staff put up a graph showing a flattened property tax history. It showed up as 26 million dollars for 2011 but the overall property tax revenue is over 80 million dollars. By giving the public the introduction that the General Fund is the fund associated with public services, it conveniently leaves out the fact that huge chunks of the city's revenues are drained through non-public self-serving transactions directed to benefit the city's three main public unions: GMA, GFFA, and GPOA

Tucked away in the internal service funds are all the rich employee benefit funds like the Medical Insurance fund, Compensation Insurance fund, Retiree Health Savings plan, Employee Benefits fund and all the delicacies that fatten the employees while ducking the responsibility to control those costs. Those benefits have been so generous and their share of the burden so shallow that the combination of these funds are tens of millions of dollars underfunded. Last year \$16 million dollars in employee compensation claims and settlements slammed the overall budget. The medical insurance expenditures were a whopping 21.5 million dollars, doubling in just a few years.

This is where the budget discussions should have started. The post-employment unfunded obligations stood at 103 million dollars as of June 30, 2010. But instead of addressing that problem, the city staff was concerned about how to cut a couple of hundred thousand dollars from the senior meals program paid through the general fund.

The city council must cut down on the fat in the pensions and benefits, and it can't shirk its responsibility to direct the city manager and his staff to put on the menu a discussion on the ingredients in the budget that are giving taxpayers and rate-payers a bad case of indigestion – public pensions and employee benefits.

The fat ducks in the city management staff, police and fire have been fattened fat far too long. It is time for the city council to tell the cooks that our fiscal health calls for a lean menu and that means cutting out the extra fat that they are hiding from these budgetary discussions.

Foie gras can be on the menu, but the council members should take up sharpened knives post haste.

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

BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

No, this is not a topic about the Price is Right. It is about the up-coming discussions on the city's salary and benefit negotiations that currently are held behind closed doors.

This nefarious topic is about the city's long-running pornography movie where those who are continually screwed are the city's taxpayers. The play acting that takes place prior to the negotiations are so hammed up that it would be an embarrassment even for a low budget porn movie. The excuses that the city staff prepared as the introduction to next Tuesday's agenda item for maintaining the negotiations secret are about as lame as the scripts written for a different kind of adult entertainment.

The door should be green in honor of the loads of cash that have been transferred to the city's four unions. Leading the city's negotiating charade is a hired negotiator along with the city's personnel director confronting their respective negotiators for the city's employee unions.

Apparently the city manager no longer participates. The city council members are kept away from the negotiations by their own ordinance. They don't participate. The city assigns designated studs to have their way with the city's union. The problem is that the city unions always get their way every time. It seems to me that these negotiations are more suitable for a bondage movie. As there is no live recording of these sessions we must guess at what attire they are wearing or how they are being tied up.

In this movie the city unions hold the whip and the city's representatives are the ones crying out for more punishment. Year after year, or in some cases every four years, the unions come away with bigger and bigger benefits that would be the pleasure of any smug porn movie producer. No matter how much punishment the taxpayers and ratepayers get, the script for this continual plot is always the same. The city councilmen are told that they can't participate and the city unions always seem to screw the public.

In years past the city approved increasing the pay of the GFFA, the GPOA and the GMA by an amount equivalent to employees' share of their pension contribution. That means that they don't pay it. We do. But then the city must pay additionally when CalPERS' investments don't measure up to their claims or when their financial screw ups go awry.

For the 2013-2014 fiscal year the city is expected to pay 36.4% of the wages of Police and Fire personnel in pension contributions (Page 76 of the 2010 CAFR.) Add that percentage to the money the city added to their pay so that they can claim that they contribute to their pension and you wind up with a 45% pension contribution, and that's not counting the huge list of benefits. The rest of the employees now bask on a city contribution of more than 20% of their pay expected for 2014.

Today the taxpayers are paying \$20 million more per year on pension payments that it did in the 1990's. In less than three years the city must add another \$22 million for a dizzying \$42 million annually to that pension pot. Budget shortfall be damned.

In their usual porno script, the managers and department heads claim that the economy is the cause of their diminished capacity. Though we can agree that the economy went limp for too long, we can make the strong case that it has been their overindulgence of the city's unions that created our inability to sustain a prolonged balanced budget.

We, the public, should have a full inspection of the process for which we are paying. If porn producers must have their stars go through regular checkups before they play it up for the cameras, so too should our salary and benefit negotiations be subjected to a full frontal scrutiny.

If porn stars can have intercourse legally before movie cameras, the public should have a full live-video feed to the process by which we are getting screwed.

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

TILL DEATH DO US PART

Recent email exchanges with fervent Drayman supporters highlight, to me, their inability to question or second guess any of Drayman's policies or initiatives during his four –years at the city council.

Unfair distribution of parkland investments? Not true.

Reckless overspending of the city's budget? No way.

Dismissive of critics pointing city's deficiencies? Not him.

Absurd expenditures on personal pet projects? Not likely.

Controlling and overbearing with city staff? Unlikely.

Duplicitous and condescending with the public? Can't be.

Unwilling to produce meaningful reductions in employee pay and benefits? Incredible.

Yet, if we would ask any of his supporters if they ever divorced, they would probably admit that they swore or felt totally assured that their marriage was for life. That is until the reality of daily life intruded.

For a spouse married to someone who pretended to be prudent, energetic, affectionate, hard-working before marriage, but turned out to be deficient in those qualities after marriage, the reality would be inescapable. As such, 50% of marriages wind up in divorce. The daily confirmation of the discrepancy is too much for the pretense to be ignored and for the denial to continue forever.

When I asked Drayman's troops for any dissenting opinions on Drayman's record, they can't find a single instance. Selective memories and blind spots for those enamored with Drayman are still continually denied by those not yet fully exposed to Drayman's deeds. It's like trying to dissuade a bride on her wedding day of the mistake she's making in marrying a cad. Not likely to happen.

If we point to the spouse's drained bank account and changes in the insurance making himself the beneficiary without her consent, she will find a rationalization for his actions, if the marriage is still young and the pretense of the spouse has not had a full-blown long-term unmasking.

Our frame of reference defines what we see until we personally suffer the misfortune for our selective perspective.

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

2Shout 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.

In February, after exactly five years of managing Luna Playhouse, our Non-Profit organization CAPS (Community & Arts Projects & Services), relinquished the ownership and management of Luna Playhouse to Mr. Jack Hovsepian. He will keep and manage the property as a performance space and art gallery (the renovated lobby is now a very good arts exhibition space). Together with his producer/partner Gayane Shakhian they have embarked on a whole program of renovations and refurbishments, to make Luna a very modern arts center, capable of hosting theatre projects, music concerts, meetings, film showings and, as already mentioned, fine art exhibitions.

They invited me to continue as an Associate Director to stage theatre plays and other events at Luna.

I will be staging theatre productions from time to time at Luna, or elsewhere (depending on the project). I will be working the publication of a series of books containing Armenian plays in English translation and adaptation. In recent years Armenian theatre literature has been enriched with a great number of very good plays and it will give me great pleasure and make me very proud to introduce the best of these works to the theater-going public at large.

I thank you for your past support and patronage of the theatre and hope to see you again at the lobby and the auditorium of a theatre somewhere. For inquiries about Luna Playhouse please contact Jack Hovsepian (818) 645-7717
Aramazd Stepanian

It would appear that you are saying the GNP revised a letter to the editor (albeit fictitious) and published the revised letter. If this is true, it needs to go on "60 Minutes. Jeff Stadnick - Advisor"

Those of us who know Vanguardians' perspective were not fooled by the blogger trying to cash in on your name. Which like Obama's birth certificate seems to be endless fodder for gadfly haters, some closed-minded city council members and their political appointees and fellow-travelers.

To those who would object to Rafi Manoukian's nominees for the various city boards and commissions--get over it, these guys have paid their dues and know their way around town. He is tasked with submitting names for these positions and to his credit he has shown some vision in his choices. He was the people's choice so let's give him a chance to make his imprint on city hall by letting the new group get to work. NAJ – Advisor

I just received my GWP bill with the new smart meter. Wow! It seems to me like they are overcharging. How do I know if these meters are accurate? WM [ED – Actually you won't know if the meters are accurate. You can't go to the county weights and measures or to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) because municipal utilities are exempt from oversight. The taxpayers pay to keep them exempt through their cities municipal utility membership in the California Municipal Utility Association (CMUA) that lobbies the state legislature to prevent oversight. This is the time to demand that your tax dollars are no longer to be used against you. Conversations with the CPUC chair and with the CMUA provided this response.]

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

Request: Provide the calendars for Laura Friedman and John Drayman for the period December 1, 2010 through and including April 12, 2011.

Response: Please be advised that the records you seek are protected by the deliberative process privilege, and thus fall within the catchall exemption to disclosure under the California Public Records Act, in that the public interest in nondisclosure, as reflected by the deliberative process privilege outweighs the private interest in disclosure. (See Times Mirror Co. v. Superior Court (1991) 53 C.3d 1325 and also Rogers v. City of Burbank (1993) 19 Cal. App. 4th 469.)

Lucy Varpetian Senior Assistant City Attorney

Reply: We won't know if the deliberative process was invoked if we can't view the records. For instance the calendar may show that there were meetings with campaign contributors or people connected with lobbying efforts. Former Governor Schwarzenegger opened his calendar to public scrutiny. There is no showing other than a 'catchall' phrase. I insist that full disclosure is in the public interest.

Barry Allen -- Executive Director Vanguardians -- 501(c)3 Publisher of Vanguard News Service

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 9

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

Tuesday, May 10

Budget Study Session – 9:00 am, CH 548-4844

Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060

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

City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, May 11

Budget Study Session – 9:00 am, CH) 548-4844 (*Will break for lunch and resume in the afternoon*)

Planning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140

Note: Due to the Budget Study Session to be aired live on GTV6, this meeting will be taped for airing at a later time.

Thursday, May 12

Design Review Board #2, 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

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.

We as employees (City of Glendale) were recently shocked (again) last Thursday in an internal CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) budget meeting. In which Finance claims the \$32M CIP program has been OVERSTATED for years (and not discovered until now) to the tune of \$16M! They will cut the CIP project by 50% to make up for this.



The shock to us is that revenue (not projected or not yet collected) over the years was supposed to be transferred and appropriated to special, separate accounts 5xxxx (read cash bank accounts). Apparently they are only numbers on spreadsheets and at least half of the funds really aren't there. Very confusing for us as some of these projects are years old.

There is a whole budget section of people that missed this shortfall. We are dumbfounded about this huge error. We would go to IA [Internal Audit]. It is not objective and it does seem to be controlled. And their investigator is not impartial - IMHO. I have no idea what happened with the CIPs. I hear revenue was over-estimated, but that doesn't make sense as many CIPs are old and had no revenue for years.

Well you would see that in the transactions for each CIP. [ED – Documents were provided] Those transactions did not occur. I can't explain or imagine what happened to \$16M. JS was VERY shocked.

Twenty cops will retire in 2011 and at least one of them will be coming back as a consultant double dipping the taxpayer. Think Ovasapyan and a court ordered punitive damage judgment.

Dave Ahearn left the building...permanently.

"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

Friday afternoon (April 29, 2011 @ 2:48 PM) members of the City Council and top staff along with the GNP received an email that was calling to task nominations to boards and commissions. The communication was sent by Mark Lassiter which is a pseudonym or nom de plume of an unknown person that is not a registered voter, owns no property and did not vote in the last city election. His communications stated: **"Unfortunately, for this voter, my sense of..."**

However this cipher has written letters to the GNP that have been published apparently avoiding their policy of verifying the identity of letter writers.

The style of writing is reminiscent of a former elected official and the content of not only this document but of the others noted below has always been pro John Drayman.

At the City Council meeting of May 3, 2011 a sycophant of Mr. Drayman spoke at Oral Communications using the contents of that letter to disparage the nominator and the people that were nominated, some of whom I spoke with that disputed the 'facts' as provided. One of the problems about reading another's writings is that you have to take credit for all the errors in your speech. The sycophant contributed \$500 to Drayman's campaign and will probably contribute ten times more for his legal fund. The tragedy is that the letter she is passing as her own work shows a phone number of Cathy and James Harwood of Brookhill, not Mark Lassiter.

Mr. Drayman should take the next few years and fade from the limelight as did Mr. Yousefian and Judge Gomez before him. Drayman should do community service like cleaning the trash from the freeways and maybe getting a column in the GNP where, for sure, his confidante Jason Wells would welcome him.

For your edification here are links to some letters from Mark Lassiter, cipher, that were published:

[Mailbag: Think outside the box to fight drug use - Page 2 ...](#)

Apr 21, 2010 Sounds like the police chief agrees with the councilman. **MARK LASSITER**. Glendale.

[articles.glendalenewspress.com/2010-04-21/features/gnp...1.../2 -](#)

[Mailbag: Heavy fines do more than bunny costumes - Page 2...](#)

Aug 11, 2010 ... These should be carried out as plain clothes actions. **Mark ...**

[articles.glendalenewspress.com/2010-08-11/news/tn-gnp.../2 -](#)

[Mark Lassiter - Montrose, CA Patch](#)

Mark Lassiter commented on: **Glendale News-Press Writer Quits Over Alleged 'Bias'** by Editor. [montrose.patch.com/users/mark-lassiter](#)

[Glendale News-Press Writer Quits Over Alleged 'Bias' by Editor...](#)

Mar 30, 2011 ... In yet another twist, the 2011 **Glendale** City Council ...

[montrose.patch.com/.../glendale-news-press-staffer-quits-over-alleged-bias-within -](#)

It really is time for Drayman and the Draymanites to fold their tents and let the elected city council do their work without complaining of victimhood show the maturity of Bob Yousefian and step out of the limelight, even that of the 'Take Back the Night Rally' that you attempted to politicize.

Overall rating for the week ending May 7,2011:

Weaver	Quintero	Najarian	Friedman	Manoukian
Left early			Absent	

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

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