



"Accountability"  
The Government Watchdog

# Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI  
Week of June 12, 2011

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[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

818 243 1502

## TROIKA CONTROLLED BY CITY MANAGER

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

### Vanguardians Weekly Glendale Meeting

June 16 -- Do you live in Glenoaks Canyon? Is your neighbor a sexual predator?

June 23 -- The real case of the new, recommended fire department changes.

June 30 -- It's all about Utility Rate increases and Props 218 & 26

Reservations are a must. Make them by calling or emailing Barry Allen 818 243 1502. Separate checks will be provided. Minimum \$5 donations are encouraged.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 8AM – Foxy's on Colorado across from Americana

### HELP WANTED

The Glendale Select Committee is looking for successful entrepreneurs who have reached the pinnacle of their career and are ready to serve their community. People who agree that:

- the community comes first,
- technology is embraced,
- integrity is maintained and
- vision for the future of Glendale is foremost.

### Apply to Select Committee c/o Vanguard

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"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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### STOP THE PRESSES

### Drayman singlehandedly brands Glendale giving it worldwide recognition

[Man claims company diverted LA housing money](#) San Jose Mercury News ... at the suburban Glendale home of **John Drayman**. Chamberlain's allegation is the most recent in a scandal surrounding Advanced Development & Investment. ...

[Man claims company diverted LA housing money](#) Modesto Bee ... told the Los Angeles Times he worked on both projects and the FBI confiscated his records about work at the suburban Glendale home of **John Drayman**. ...

[John Drayman, Former Glendale City Councilman, Under Investigation](#) By The Huffington Post News Editors Money intended for the construction of a Los Angeles affordable-housing project instead was diverted to pay for a high-end renovation of a Glendale city councilman's condominium, according to a subcontractor who worked

on both jobs. [The Huffington Post | Full News Feed](#)

[John Drayman Involved in Los Angeles Area Housing Scandal - Los ...](#) Glendale, the tony suburb of Los Angeles is trying to deflect unwanted attention . Maywood, Vernon, Riverside, Bell, etc. It seems like every week there is a ... [www.examiner.com/.../los-angeles-area-housing-scandal-being...](#)

[Contractor: FBI investigating Drayman remodel - Glendale News Press](#)

There is a bright horizon for Glendale's political future in the investigation of **John Drayman**. The ADI contracts from 2005 through 2009 could not have been ... [www.glendalenewspress.com/.../tn-gnp-0610-subcontractors,0...](#)

[Drayman](#) outgoing councilman **john drayman** 3rd thursday of controversy surrounding Inc. intermodal drayman inn definition and definition najarian and ... [mietkaufimmo.com/sqzqgp.php?q=drayman](#)

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Bankruptcy is still an option  
Maricopa is testing the water  
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Starbird is the puppet master

A front page article in the Pasadena Star News today regarding the runaway pension costs states, "A \$100,000-a-year pension for a public employee used to be a benefit enjoyed by only a few top officials; now it is collected by one of every 50 pensioners. The number of public employees who have retired to collect pensions of more than \$100,000 a year has QUADRUPLED since 2005, according to the California Public Employees Retirement System". As these huge actuarial numbers continue to accumulate, cities will be required to make up the billions of dollars that are deficient now. It will not be too long before retirees with \$100,000 or more will represent 25% of the pensioners and 80% of them will be from public safety jobs. That is the major reason CalPERS recently notified all local governments that their contributions to employee pensions will increase by 50% over the next three years.



[Let local governments make own decisions](#) San Diego Union Tribune

By Union-Tribune Editorial Board Up and down California, ... other local governments will be forced to consider bankruptcy as a last-ditch effort to get out ...

[Grand jury: Maricopa should disincorporate](#) KGET 17

It is bound by **California** Government Code regarding "General Law **Cities**" to ... be voluntary or involuntary just as **bankruptcy** can be voluntary or forced. ...

[Glendale – Looks like it's all over for x-council member Drayman.](#) As predicted the Feds are smelling blood.

### Civic Watchdog Training

Vanguardians received a grant to provide training and educational materials for 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](mailto: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 and are the opinions of the writer.*

## **FROM THE PUBLISHER... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT**



Hiring defense attorneys is expensive unless you have a 'Sugar Daddy'. X-Glendale City Council member John Drayman is running out of time and excuses now that he is the main cast member in, "To Catch a Thief". He has the embezzlement charge of skimming money from the MSPA that used City funds to alleviate the deficit.

Then there is the well reported investigation by the FBI into his relationship with Advanced Development and Investment (ADI), the affordable housing developer that is accused of bilking the City of Glendale out of millions. The investigation, according to reliable sources, centers on bribery and selling his vote on several projects, two of which have been cancelled, the Salem Street and the Montrose project at Broadview and Market. That is a federal case.

Then there is the case against him to conspire to circumvent the building codes and the property tax laws. Couple that with the unreported income from ADI, National Fire, Mr. K., and the Harvest Festival, Drayman will spend considerable time with his tax attorney.

Just wait until the FPPC audits Mr. Drayman and gets a search warrant via the DA to look into his storage facilities. You are looking to at least \$100,000 in retainers. That is a lot of money when the money tree is dead.

He could try to extort money from several developers that he helped cut through the red tape but they would be fools to even talk to him. Of course there are his cohorts that covered up for him and may well be charged with aiding and abetting or possibly obstruction of justice maybe even lying to an FBI agent. Bottom line is that if these are municipal employees that are complicit and convicted they lose the taxpayer paid portion of their retirement...like fireman John Orr.

Give me a call if you want to set up a meeting with those in charge of plea bargains. No obligation.

Let's move on to the Mayor. She joined the Starbird groupies. She is foundering and uses the MWD as an excuse to come in late and be treated like a Prima Dona. Her failure to take responsibility for the contributions to her campaign and yet claims to be capable of representing the public on an \$800 million budget.

This past week she sided with, can you believe, the dunce of them all, Dave (Jack Daniels) Weaver in his wanting to change the Charter to make the Clerk and the Treasurer appointed positions. I guess he found out he is not supposed to wander about the Clerk's domain without a watchdog. Then she said ok to looking at the method of agendaing items for the Council and how to make sure the staff isn't 'overburdened' with work.

Soon the public will be asking questions about how quickly her husband's landscape maintenance business is growing behest of some well-placed friends. Will she remember to report that on her 700 form and recuse herself from voting on those who are passing out contracts?

Just one more quickie...the complaint filed about Friedman with the FPPC for another violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 as amended.

Several (actually a lot more) people have been asking whether Mr. Najarian moved to La Canada as a result of his pending results. I asked Mr. Najarian about where he lived and he told me at California and Lexington. I explained to him that they were parallel streets. Meanwhile there are affidavits from neighbors of his parents that state he had been living there. Does that mean he abdicated the throne?

Then you have to consider his arrogance at blowing off Harry Zavos' nomination to the GWP Commission. If I was Jim Starbird, Glenn Steiger or Ara Najarian I would say Zavos would be a problem asking too many questions that the best and most highly paid staff couldn't answer.

Actually I am waiting to see a claim filed against the City for the 2011-2012 illegal water transfer to the General Fund.

I have to mention the Weekly Vanguardians Meeting at Foxy's last Thursday. About 30 people were there. The Drayman saga was the highlight of the meeting with the latest information shared.

Our newest Council member Rafi Manoukian joined us as he had even before returning to the dais. Let me tell you, this was not the place for the weak of heart official. The questions were unrestricted and he answered them all.

Thursday I'll be talking about another favorite son and a surveillance 'tape' showing him almost in flagrante delicto.

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***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***

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### **A SCHLEMIEL WITH YOUR MONEY, TOO SAD FOR LAUGHS**



An old [schlemiel](#) offers to park the car of a newly minted Asian driver too afraid to park herself. He proceeds to bang up the cars on the left and the right of the parking space. He extricates himself from the drivers' seat walks over to the dismayed owner of the car and sheepishly hands back the keys of what just a minute ago was a pristine automobile. He says nonchalantly, "Here you go."

That, to me, is funny.

But take that schlemiel, make it a woman, younger, but just as clueless, have her put on dress pants, take the car keys, then drive over a puppy, and you have a tragic scene. It's not funny anymore.

That in essence is my take of Mayor Laura Friedman's handling of the city's budget study sessions. Funny in that she offered to drive the comedic farce the city manager delivers as a study session. Tragic in that it resulted in her running over a whole bunch of seniors, children, students, youth and families in dire financial conditions. The tragic comedy is made more bizarre in that she calls herself a Democrat.

She is gonna claim that the council spent 54 hours of diligent study of every conceivable city expenditure line by line. It would best be described as dancing the night away at the old Studio 54 in New York, where decadence and excess ruled the night. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lavished on the city managers, police and fire fighters in the last ten years, and now that reality has set in, she'll be the first to lead the cut to youth programs, meals to seniors shut in, and hike up the electricity rates to families barely able to meet their grocery shopping bill.

There is usually a [nebech](#) cleaning up after the schlemiel. Some fools need to clean up after the mishaps and excesses of this ten-year-long party. Wool Hoodoo! Yippee! It might as well the poor sucker taxpayers and [schlimazel](#) rate-payers that'll pay for the mess the city council and cohort top managers created. Let's count what is broken.

Look! There is the pay for the Fire Chief. It went up by 70% in nine years. Look over there! How about that pay for Fire Captain Robert Doyle going from \$125,000 to \$213,000 as battalion chief. Talk about hosing the taxpayers! And what about paying for all the managers' college tuitions while the city jacks up the electric rates to the GUSD. Ooooh! Watch as the GUSD lays off teachers that serve after-school programs. Whowee! That's a real Democrat for you.

Let's see what else we can pick up. Public pension, medical, and worker's compensation claims up by \$33 million more per year and salaries up by \$52million dollars more annually. It's a pension bonanza!

Hey! We can see Battalion Chief Donald Wright making \$119,262 dollars in 2001; Now that he is retired he made \$149,546 last year.

But wait. There is relief! The city will shut off one swimming pool this summer and cut off the operating hours by a few weeks to save money. Maybe we can send the kids over to the Fire Fighter's homes to splash in their swimming pools. Look over there. The mayor is claiming that the economy is at fault, but it doesn't jibe. Property tax revenue went from \$31 million in 2000 to \$80 million in 2010. Where did the money go?

What's this? The city manager added another ninety (90) middle managers in his first ten years in office while the city's population declined? (According to the U.S. Census.) Are they helping to do or helping themselves to? Maybe they are helping to arrange for a little last-year payroll spiking? Could that be?

Oh, yes! Look at that! There is Fire Chief Christopher Gray making \$124,007 in 2001, but now raking in \$185,489 [in retirement pay](#). But not to worry, CalPERS makes such wise investments that the city council agreed to guarantee it.

Taxpayers now guarantee CalPERS investments to return 7.75% annually. The city believes in them so much that we now guarantee an additional \$600 million dollars more in pension assets than we did in 2000.

What's this? The California Attorney General is suing two former top CalPERS officials and charging them with [fraudulent activities](#). What the....Are you kidding me? Not to worry. We can fix that.

Let's see... Laura Friedman is fully supportive of cutting all the \$200,000 support from the senior's meal program. It's all right. The old folk can take their walkers and oxygen tanks over broken sidewalks to fork over their wealth.

What? We have a twelve-year backlog in sidewalk repair? Is that good? Not to worry, we have paramedics who'll happily pick up the frail and elderly when they fall and break their hips. It's another incident call to their bulging résumés. But wait. What's that you say?

The costs to run the Fire Department paramedic system is so high that will all the money Medical, Medicare and private insurance pay we still run short by several million dollars each year? Whatever happened to the \$500,000 annual support we used to give the private ambulance service?

Not to worry. The GFD paramedics have a plan to charge each home-owner with an additional fee to support their exceptional service. What? The GFD doesn't report on results? You mean that we don't know what percentage of heart attack patients arrive alive at the hospital? They refuse to tell us? Are you kidding me?

Shhhh! Quiet. The mayor and the councilmen are walking over to the close-door labor negotiation session. What? They are laughing and joking and slapping each other on the back!?

Oy vey! Ohhh schlemiel! Call a nebech! **HERBERT MOLANO** [Click here FOR Glendale Today New content](#)

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## **NICKEL AND DIMED INTO BANKRUPTCY**

This coming week the city council meets to instruct its labor negotiators on how to address the budget shortfall with the police and fire associations. This is the time to clean up the dozens of perks and insufferable long list of expenses that Police and Fire employees claim from the Payroll department as stipulated on their MOUs.

The cost of maintaining the record keeping for all the re-imbursements and the computer program modifications, must be huge. I would not be surprised if those costs far exceed the cost of many of the perks that these employee representatives have extricated from the city council, many of them utterly absurd.

Police and police managers want to be paid for qualifying with a gun. As if they did not have enough incentive to learn to shoot straight when confronted with a gunman. What is next? Pay them extra for qualifying with the calculator as they tally their expenses? The U.S. Marines don't get a penny extra for an Expert qualifying score and neither should these prima donnas who should be going to the firing range on their own dime with their own guns and their own bullets. Here is an alternative: Unpaid leave until they qualify.

Ride on the helicopter and get an extra few bucks? Why? They should be paying the city for the joy-ride they are getting as the hourly cost of flying a helicopter is very expensive proposition. Here is an alternative: If arrests and convictions don't increase 50% as a result of using a helicopter, shut the unit down.

Extra pay for not working overtime? Another gimmick by the GFD and GPD managers who cringe when a subordinate takes home a bigger paycheck for working loads of overtime. These managers are in line for some very cushy promotions that pay huge sums. Here is an alternative: Reduce overtime to less than 5% of base pay.

They want to get paid hundreds if not thousands of dollars for dry cleaning, uniforms, shoes and other required gear. Are these pretty babies or what? Just about every police and sworn fire fighter is getting tens of thousands of dollars more per

year in salary than they did just a few years ago. Let them pay for those uniforms themselves. Since most of them have a mortgage and very likely file schedule "A" on their income tax, they can take the deduction for those expenses on their own.

Pay for going to college to get a degree and extra pay once they get the Bachelor's or Masters. The city has raised the utility rate on the school district so much in the last few years that they've had to cut off teachers for after school programs. There is no room for this kind of unfair nonsense. Screw the children out of education and pamper men in uniform? Why does this sound like Libya?

In my opinion, if these council members had any integrity left, and for that matter, if the respective employee associations had any public conscience or concern, they should remove at least 2/3 of the claptrap that fills the MOU. Here is a rule of thumb I'd recommend. Compare the salaries of any employee that has been on the force at least five years. If they got gross pay increases exceeding the CPI, then they get no perks other than pension and medical. The pension costs increases are already costing the public tens of millions of dollars more than ten years ago.

Health club. What the hell are were they thinking? I've seen so many overweight members of the Fire and Police departments that I doubt that these perks are making any difference. Those who need to be in shape, should sign on to 24-hour fitness treadmill on their own coin or run three laps around Verdugo Park three times per week. Stop the pampering. If any able member with a badge can't run three miles in thirty minutes, lay them off until they can come back in shape. No sloths at these departments, please!

Medical costs. Offer to pay 50% of the lowest cost HMO. If the employee wants a PPO or a luxury health plan, let them pay the difference. If they smoke, let them pay 100% of their medical cost. The city's premiums have increased nearly 500% in the last ten years. Stop the insanity. The health of the child of a manager or the health of the child of a salaried gardener should be equally valuable and it's folly to differentiate. I could probably find thousands of residents in Glendale without any insurance. Time to restore fairness to this process.

Now that these policemen are retiring at age 52 (on average) taxpayers are on the hook for the liability of their post-employment medical insurance. The sick leave accumulation is not enough to cover the unfunded liability (Now at over \$100 million). Time to pay the piper and increase the fees these employees must put away. Fifty percent of them don't pay their fair share of taxes when they retire on a secret disability and can now retire 20 years earlier than people on Social Security will be expected to do. The abuse is an affront to any concept of decency.

Apply a lower CPI calculation for the COLA. The CPI includes medical, education, transportation and housing for which the taxpayers are footing the bill. These guys have been given luxury medical plans, college education re-imbursements, city-owned vehicles and unsupervised gas pumps. Since most of them bought their houses long ago their housing costs must also be lower than most city renters. Cut any COLA adjustments to 1/2 of the CPI. They've had enough abuse at taxpayer expense.

Stop circumventing the salary freeze with the layers and layers of pay steps. A hiring freeze or a pay freeze without a pay-step freeze is outright deception. Council members, stop lying to the public. A freeze is a freeze. Ever heard of a budget crisis? Well, we got one. Stop the distortion.

Oh, yes...About that little game of adding 9% to the employee's paycheck so that they can then pay "their" share of CalPERS? Take that back, pay it directly, and tell the city manager to stop misleading the public.

Let's fix this pension abuse. Stop supporting the fraud and mismanagement at CalPERS. Just provide up to 10% of base salaries as a guaranteed pension contribution. Stop the defined benefit plan that is sinking the city into bankruptcy.

Here is my point of view. If these overly pampered badge-wearing prima-donnas feel that they can get a better deal elsewhere, show them the door and give them a firm handshake for their service. What the city needs is to replace its current negotiators with someone wearing a couple of steel balls that will sit across the negotiating table. The alternative? The sheriff, the County fire department, and the private ambulance service.

Oh, I forgot. Get a city manager with some experience with cost controls and performance measures. Soaking the taxpayers after being reckless with expenditures is not management, it's outright incompetence.

**HERBERT MOLANO**

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

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## 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.

With UFCW Local 770 taking a strike authorization vote, will Glendale's union firefighters cross the picket line to shop at Vons while on duty? MD

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In Oxnard cell phones and credit cards are issued to public officials. *Martin D. Jones*

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**Mayor Laura Friedman uses the Metropolitan Water Department as an excuse to show up late to council meetings or not show at all. The MWD has 1 board meeting and two committee meetings a month. Friedman is on, can you believe, the audit committee and the ethics committee, something she is clueless on. DJ**

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From - California Police Chiefs Association SUBJECT: Proposed Caps on Retirement Pensions  
A number of retired members have expressed concern about the often rumored legislative or ballot measure effort to cap retirement benefits for public safety employees at a certain dollar amount. The dollar cap discussed has been somewhere between \$100,000.00 and \$106,000.00.

This question did arise during the Retired Members workshop at the California Police Chiefs Conference earlier this year, when we had a guest speaker from the Public Employees Retirement System.

The information provided by that PERS representative then, and now reaffirmed by legal counsel for our Association is that if a cap on retirement compensation is enacted either by the legislature or by a ballot measure, it cannot be applied retroactively to public safety employee's who have already retired, and whose pension exceeds any cap established.

Sal Rosano, Chair, Retired Members Committee, California Police Chiefs Association

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Thanks Vanguard. It looks like the Draymanites have been shut up. No more of their rude and ignorant comments in the GNP, the CVWeekly and the Montrose Patch. I am waiting for them to eat crow and apologize to you. You have been right on everything. Thanks again. DN

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## 3



### Public Information



“Just the facts”

Councilman Manoukian has a webpage where readers can get data that is not easily obtained [www.manoukian.us](http://www.manoukian.us)

A review of several contracts and proposals between the City of Glendale and outside contractors revealed a clause that tells contractors they will be notified if anyone seeks that information via a public records request. If such a request is made then they City will notify the contractor for their approval of submitting the documents. That is just another way to hide transparency.

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“All truths are easy to understand once they have been discovered; the point is to discover them.”- Galileo Galilei.

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### City Meeting Calendar 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, June 13

Special Meeting – Budget Study Session – 3:30 pm, CH  
Commission on the Status of Women – 5:30 pm, CH 548-4844  
Please note: the start time of the Commission may be delayed due to the Budget Study Session.

#### Tuesday, June 14

Housing Authority -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060  
Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005

**Joint Meeting** –RE: Agreement with the DreamWorks Animation Campus – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844  
City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

West Command Town Hall Meeting conducted by Glendale Police Department –6:30 pm, Environmental Management Center, 780 Flower Street. (818) 548-4818

**Wednesday, June 15**

Planning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140  
Community Police-Partnership Advisory Committee – 12:00 pm, Police Community Room, 131 N. Isabel St., Glendale. 548-4818  
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

**Thursday, June 16**

Design Review Board #1 -- 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

**Friday, June 17** No Meetings Scheduled

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## 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](http://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

[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](#)

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## 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.



Managers are scurrying all around. Starbird and Howard are concerned about the Engel letter and the leak about the Drayman investigation. They are worried about who Drayman will give up to save his hide. Looks like Vanguard has been right all the time about the investigation.

Engel used that phony letter to cover his ass because of the co-conspirator status. There is a lot of sweating among the troops in planning.

PD is worried about the Drayman embezzlement investigation biting them.

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**"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**

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# 6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

City Manager Jim Starbird has replaced John Drayman as the Master Manipulator. Starbird has Weaver under his control for pulling his fat out of the fire numerous times. Najarian and Friedman If he can be tied into the corruption investigation, that could be the needed impetus to say, 'Goodbye!'

### Overall rating for the week ending June 11, 2011:

Weaver	Quintero	Najarian	Friedman	Manoukian
F	ABS	F	F	A

Council member Manoukian submitted the following document as a public record for the benefit of the public to understand the issues with a new fire model:

I am submitting this document to the City of Glendale for the public record. It is my intention of creating a document that can be referenced by future leaders of the city if and when it might become useful. The following paragraphs were prepared to provide questions and comments that raise uncertainties about the efficacy of the fire chief's proposal to radically alter the EMS delivery system. To be clear, this proposal is driven by the economic necessity to cut \$2.5 million from the fire budget. The proposed changes are so profound and long lasting that I believe the city council should set this policy issue aside until we have had a chance to vet it properly. Members of this council do not understand the potential weaknesses inherent in the proposal. This single policy issue will have an enormous impact on the citizens of Glendale.

The history of adopting proposed changes in the EMS system by our fire chiefs has been a financial lesson of failure. A decade ago, this city council adopted the proposal recommended by the fire chief to create a paramedic ambulance component within the fire department and eliminate the private contract ambulance service. Fire Chief Hinz assured the council at the time that his proposal would save the city millions of dollars a year. He included graphs and charts in his written report as supportive evidence. Since the program was adopted, it has cost the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. This annual deficit now stands at \$4.6 million per year (source: Comprehensive User Fee Study, page 12). It has become the driving force to find a more cost-effective EMS delivery system. The current proposal is intended to save between \$2 and 2.5 million per year.

I would like to get Chief Scoggins analysis on the reasons why his predecessor's calculations were so flawed. What mistakes were made, and how has he corrected such errors with respect to his new proposal. I would like to have the chief's response in writing to the above question.

History tells us we should be skeptical. The fire department's consultant, Management Partners, Inc, on page 18 of his report, notes that the annual savings (of \$2.5 million) will disappear and a subsidy will be required by the end of fiscal year 2013 due to previously negotiated and deferred salary increases. He also warns on the same page that there will be an increase in overtime on engine companies.

In his PPT presentation on May 25, 2010, Chief Scoggins told us that 82% of its calls are medical. The Verdugo Dispatch Center reports that Glendale's medical calls are actually 89% of all emergency calls.

On page 10, the consultant states, "Calculating the potential overtime cost associated with recertification (of paramedics) should be conducted by the City before implementing paramedic engine companies". Has this been done? What are the added costs? According to the consultant's report, engine companies will be tied up on medical calls for significantly longer periods of time. Engines will follow the ambulance to the hospital and wait for the paramedic to clear before driving back to their fire district. They now average 16 minutes on these calls. Under the proposed model, engine companies would average 60 minutes on all ALS calls and 31 minutes on all BLS calls. That means that on 89% of their emergency responses engine companies will be less available by a factor of 280%. The consultant states on page 15, "training schedules for the busiest five engine companies may need to be changed to off-peak hours and the department may need to implement a formal 'move up and cover' dispatch protocol to ensure adequate coverage when engines are out of service to accommodate ambulance transports. In addition, there will be fewer sworn personnel on duty per shift to respond to large-scale events or multiple concurrent emergencies". This clearly means that there will be fewer emergency response resources in the areas of highest call demand. Consequently the fire districts vacated by the move up will go unprotected. And, there is an unknown expense associated with modifying the dispatch software.

Our city manager, Jim Starbird, has warned that once we decide to go forward with this proposal, it will be very difficult to turn back. Twenty-one sworn firefighter positions will be eliminated under the proposal. At a cost of over \$209,729 per FTE (source: GFD PPT Slide 27), those positions will be very difficult to reclaim.

Chief Scoggins told us that he would have to hire up to 60 part time EMTs to drive the ambulances. The consultant on page 10 says that it will actually take 75. Using simple math reveals another set of figures. If it takes 2 EMTs to staff each ambulance and there are five ambulances on-duty 24 hours each day, the total hours required for staffing is 87,600. Since no employee is allowed to work more than 1000 hours per year to avoid overtime and benefit issues, the minimum needed to staff the chief's proposed model is 88. Using the consultant's staffing analysis on page 10 of his report, a total of 106 part time EMTs will have to be hired. The facts reveal that we are not getting accurate information. The chief is off the mark by a factor of 43% and the consultant by 29%.

In order help the process of information gathering, I would like to ask the fire chief some questions regarding his proposal and emergency responses. I would also like to have a written response from the fire chief or consultant to all of the questions and comments contained in this document.

1. Why are Burbank and Pasadena emergency medical and fire responses quicker than Glendale's? Pasadena has one less engine company and one less truck company yet responds to more emergency calls per year (Pasadena: 14,914 versus Glendale: 14,665). Why have our response times increased by over 30 seconds in the last couple of years? (source: Verdugo dispatch Center, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Response Data).

2. Under the proposed EMS model, you require a perfectly able 3 person engine to remain out-of-service while it follows the ambulance to the hospital. Why don't you allow the engine to return to its district station with the three firefighters while the paramedic is tied up on the transport ambulance? The 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter can be driven back to the station by the EMTs when they clear from the hospital. It would keep engine companies available for other emergency calls and keep response times down. There is still one paramedic aboard the engine making it an assessment engine. It can begin ALS procedures prior to the arrival of a second paramedic. You operate your engines with 3 firefighters every day for prolonged periods of time now. Why would you eliminate that policy? It creates more personnel and equipment resources at any given time to serve the public.

3. Another model that would be even more cost effective is to staff engine companies with three firefighters and retain the current staffing of ALS and BLS ambulances. We would retain the four rescue ambulances that are staffed with two firefighter/paramedics and you would not have to hire 106 part time EMTs. The engines would still average 16 minutes per call and be more available than under the proposed plan. The city would also save \$5.4 million which is \$3 million more than you have proposed. There would be enough money left over to reinstate the fifth ALS rescue ambulance.

Has the Cal OSHA violation of 2 in, 2 out safety rule at the Chilton fire changed your policy that allows a single 4 person engine company to make an interior attack on a working structure fire without assistance? One of our brave firefighters nearly died during that incident. Do you feel that it is safe for your firefighters to make an interior attack on a working structure fire without a two person rescue team or an NFPA required hydrant supplied water source and the structure ventilated before sending a team of two into the structure to extinguish the fire? Aren't those safety procedures required by the National Fire Protection Association before a ground attack can be initiated? Had those procedures been incorporated into the plan of attack at the Chilton fire, do you agree that the near fatality would have been avoided? Cal OSHA's investigation found that your policy violated basic standards for firefighter safety. One of our firefighters ended up in the Sherman Oaks Burn Ward for three months.

There are many inaccuracies found in both the consultant's report and the PPT presentation given by the GFD. I will cite a few below. The consultant's report uses three different figures for annual call volume that differ as much as 2,500 incidents (source: Table 2, 4, & 6). He states in Table 3 that there are 0.89 paramedics per fire district for a total of 8 on duty each day under the present EMS model. He is off by 50%. GFD staffs 12 paramedics daily with an average of 1.3 paramedics per fire district. The proposed model would have 2 paramedics for each fire district but they would be far less available than the 1.3 are today because they would be 280% less available to respond to calls.

In the PPT presentation regarding 3 versus 4 staffing on engines, the fire chief omitted the fact that the NIST study on the efficiency of engine companies at residential structure fires states that 3 person engines are 13 seconds or 2% slower in the time it takes to put water on the fire as compared to 4 person engines (source: page 11 of the NIST study). It also states that the time it takes to rescue someone with a 3 person engine is 7 seconds slower or 1% slower than a 4 person engine company (source: NIST study page 48). Given these comparative performance standards and the fact that the second engine's arrival on structure fire calls is less than one minute in Glendale, there appears to be very little differences in the two staffing models as they relate to deployment on working structure fires. Do you think that the \$5.4 million annual savings with the 3 person staffing should have any weight or bearing on the issue?

There is critical information the city council has not considered. It is premature to launch a major revision of our EMS delivery system until we have had more time to investigate all factors, including cost and quality of the proposed system and other alternatives. I urge the city council to set aside this item in the fire department budget and address it in the coming weeks. The budget process should not constrain our ability to deliberate matters of such importance. As a reminder, the city manager warned that once we go down this road, it will be very difficult to reverse it. We must take the time to give this issue the attention it deserves. Millions of dollars and lives are riding on it.

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

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