



"Accountability"  
The Government Watchdog

**Vanguard**  
Los Angeles CA Vol VI  
Week of June 19, 2011  
[info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org)  
[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

## ATTEND THE GLENDALE BUDGET HEARING TUESDAY JUNE 21

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

### Vanguardians Town Hall

#### June 23 – The truth and cost of fire department changes.

Fool me once it's your fault, fool me twice it's mine.

Chief Hinz was going to bring millions into the city coffers by doing away with the private ambulance service. We were fooled.

Chief Scoggins said the old model didn't work. By going to basic life support driven by cheap labor will do us better...when you see the real numbers, you will ask for his resignation along with the council members supporting him.

The first time you were fooled, you can be forgiven as it being unexpected.  
The second time you are fooled means you are foolish for falling for it AGAIN!

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

#### July 7 – Smart Meters – are they right for you?

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 23, 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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**Crescenta Valley Water District, 2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA 91214, Board of Directors meeting June 21, 2011 at 7pm in Board Room. Public meeting to offer an overview of 2011-2012 budget and discussion regarding recommending a pay-as-you-go method or bond to meet the budget.**

##

[Alatorre asked to explain payments from developer now under scrutiny in fraud case](#) Los Angeles Times The politically connected firm at the heart of the scandal, Los Angeles-based **Advanced Development and Investment**, is under scrutiny from the FBI, the IRS and the US attorney's office. ADI also has been sued by the cities of Los Angeles and Glendale, ...

##

[The fourth estate is vanishing ...](#) Coverage of state governments and municipalities has receded at such an alarming pace that it has left government with more power than ever to set the agenda and have assertions unchallenged, concluded the study, which is to be released on Thursday.

“In many communities, we now face a shortage of local, professional, accountability reporting,” said the study, which was ordered by the Federal Communications Commission and written by Steven Waldman, a former journalist for Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report. “The independent watchdog function that the Founding Fathers envisioned for journalism — going so far as to call it crucial to a healthy democracy — is in some cases at risk at the local level.”

##

[Oxnard has a troubling relationship](#) with a waste management company, BLT with a contract to run and maintain the city's Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Facility valued at upward of \$50 million based on current expenses, but exact terms and its value have yet to be worked out.

BLT, which has offices in Oxnard and Sacramento, last year ranked highest among several companies, including runner-up Waste Management Inc., the largest recycler in North America. The city used a selection process based on qualifications, rather than competitive bids.

But that was before the Ventura County District Attorney's Office served search warrants to investigate possible malfeasance, misuse of public funds and contract irregularities at Oxnard City Hall. The ongoing investigation included a search last August at BLT's Oxnard headquarters.

In addition to repeated searches at City Hall, most recently on May 17, the District Attorney has searched the homes of Mayor Tom Holden, former Councilman [Andres Herrera](#), City Manager [Ed Sotelo](#), Assistant City Manager [Karen](#)

[Burnham](#), former Public Works Director [Ken Ortega](#) and former Public Works employee Juan Moreno, as well as four companies, according to a registry of search warrants.

##

Vanguard of Davis [How the City Drastically Reduced Overtime](#)

##

Vanguard of Davis [Vanguard Analysis: Throw Out Budget, Re-Write It](#) The Vanguard's analysis of the budget suggests that while Interim City Manager Paul Navazio has attempted to tweak the budget, what is really needed is for the council to throw out the budget, stop the attempts to balance a current year budget with rosy assumptions and nickel and diming tiered approaches, and work on critical structural change. Our examination suggests that are six critical flaws in the current budget, perhaps a seventh. We made seven short term suggestions for immediate savings and five suggestions for savings down the line.

##

Vanguard of Davis [Is the Time Right to Move From 4 to 3 Person Firefighter Crews?](#) Announced at the last city council meeting was that the city will have a report from [CityGate](#) by June which will be ready for the public by August on fire staffing issues. The Vanguard has been told that the four person fire engine crew is very much on the table. Previous research has shown Davis is one of the few cities that has kept the four person team. The city could save more than one million per year moving from four to three-fighter crews. But times are changing, and the fire fighters union no longer control council like they did in 2009 when the first [CityGate](#) report came... [ ]

##

[Mayor's Task Force Explores Making Santa Rosa Competitive](#) Fees are too high, the bureaucracy too convoluted, and the regulations too stiff for prolonged business growth. A Task Force is addressing those and other ways to improve Santa Rosa's business environment, [Read more.](#)

##

"If you kill a man like me, you will injure yourselves more than you will injure me," Socrates declared in arguing that his role as a gadfly was "to sting people and whip them into a fury, all in the service of truth."...But if you're sitting on the sidelines and hardly paying attention while services are being cut and fees are rising in these hard times, know you have left your city in the hands of people elected by a few thousand votes and to a handful of "little guys" to hold them accountable.' For the entire column click [Ron Kaye in the GNP](#)

##

On 6-12-2011, Steve Lopez, Columnist for the LA Times wrote, "Yes, I appreciate what police and fire do. But being able to retire with a 90% pension at age 50, as many do, is nuts".

#### 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.**

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**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.

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## 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



**Let us count the ways...Conspiracy to commit a criminal act. All parties are named as co-conspirators. Aiding and abetting a criminal act. Accessory before or after the fact. Obstructing justice or simply lying to a Federal Agent such as an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Let's examine these crimes more closely:**

There are principles of criminal liability that apply to people other than the person who actually committed a crime. For example, under [federal law](#) there is a crime called "**misprision**" of a felony, which applies to a person who has actual knowledge of the commission of a felony and doesn't report it to the authorities. That may well apply to some Council persons who have knowledge of criminal acts and chose not to report them.

Also, under [federal](#) and most [state](#) laws, a person can be held criminally liable as an "**accessory after the fact**" if she has knowledge that a crime was committed and assists the offender to hinder his apprehension, trial or punishment. You can also be guilty of [aiding and abetting](#) a crime if you help another person in committing the crime, with knowledge of the criminal nature of the act they're committing. As an example, you can be guilty of a crime either as a principal perpetrator - the "main" actor - or as an aider and abettor.

Aiding and abetting applies to someone who assists or helps one or more other people commit a crime. To be held accountable as an aider and abettor, you must know of the criminal objective and do something to make it succeed. For example, if you drive your friend to a meeting where you know your friend is going to buy drugs, you may be an aider and abettor in the drug transaction.

Additionally, a person who agrees with another person to commit a crime, after which the other person commits a criminal act to further their agreement, may be guilty of [conspiracy](#).

The crime of **obstruction of justice**, in United States [jurisdictions](#), refers to the [crime](#) of interfering with the work of [police](#), [investigators](#), regulatory agencies, [prosecutors](#), or other (usually government) officials.

Generally, obstruction charges are laid when it is discovered that a person questioned in an investigation, other than a [suspect](#), has lied to the investigating officers. However, in most common law jurisdictions, the [right to remain silent](#) allows any person questioned by police merely to refuse to answer questions posed by an investigator without giving any reason for doing so. (In such a case, the investigators may [subpoena](#) the witness to give [testimony](#) under [oath](#) in court, though the witness may then exercise their [Fifth Amendment](#) rights if they believe their answer may serve to incriminate themselves). If the person lied to protect a suspect (such as by providing a false [alibi](#), even if the suspect is in fact innocent) or to hide from investigation their own activities (such as to hide his involvement in another crime), this may leave them liable to prosecution.

Obstruction charges can also be laid if a person alters or destroys physical evidence, even if he was under no compulsion at any time to produce such evidence. Often, no actual investigation or substantiated [suspicion](#) of a specific incident need exist to support a charge of obstruction of justice.

### **Answer the following questions:**

**If you were the head of Planning along with the head of Code Enforcement and if a stakeholder questioned you about a closed business establishment in a commercial zone where the property was used as a storage facility in violation of the zoning code what would you do?**

**If an elected official, a colleague of yours told you that he was the subject of multiple criminal investigations and he told you that you had to protect him and that he had damning evidence of your corruption, what would you do?**

**How about this one. You are an elected official and a constituent invites you and a colleague to a meeting where he explains to you that he has photographic evidence of an attempted rape by another of your colleagues and makes the statement that he paid that person just under \$20,000 for his vote, what would you do?**

As numerous city employees read this, no doubt some are conflicted because they have been told to do things that would put them in the awkward position of being law breakers and, upon conviction, losing the employer paid portion of their pensions. Give me a confidential call and I will give you the contact number for the Federal Agents in town to ferret out corruption at all levels. Give it some thought. A conviction for a crime involving your government job could cost you the employer paid portion of your pension obligation. Ask John Orr.

The recent Supreme Court decision, [Ethics vs. Carrington](#) will become another linchpin in maintaining transparency.

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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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## **CITY PUBLIC UNIONS FACING PRISONERS' DILEMMA**



The city employee unions will face a classic problem of collaboration versus selfish self-interest that will drive the remaining labor negotiations. It may not matter much that the city's budget may implode in the process as these labor negotiators may face the Prisoners' Dilemma.

In that early 50's game-theory social experiment two suspects are apprehended and put in separate rooms where authorities offered each of them the same deal. Each could either remain silent or rat on their conspirator. There is a payoff for betrayal where the defector gets off without a sentence and the silent accomplice gets the full punishment. The alternative is where both remain silent, and both get a light sentence.

Two years ago, while the city council and management started to acknowledge publicly that their pay and pension largesse of the past ten years was starting to sink the budget, they went to the respective unions for accommodation. It appears that the GCEA – the union of the rank and file employees was cooperative, while unbeknown to them, the GPOA – the police officer's union opted for betrayal. They negotiated year-over-year pay increases of 11%. It is not surprising that GCEA members must have been furious.

The GCEA members have seen the GPOA and the GFFA getting the bulk of the pay and benefits handed out by the city council and managers. In gross pay alone Safety Employees salaries went from \$52 million in fiscal year 2000 to \$122.6 million in 2010. So without knowing what the other city employee organizations were negotiating, the GCEA opted to be cooperative. Wham! They got shafted by the GPOA, management, and the city council members. But the GCEA was not betrayed by Quintero, Drayman, Friedman, Najarian and Weaver. They have acted-like and behaved-like representatives of the Safety unions for years. The GCEA, rate-payers, and tax-payers have had not had real representation at the city council, except perhaps now with Manoukian . That is why Najarian and Friedman were adamant about keeping the negotiations behind closed doors. In this nasty business, secret is king.

Each employee negotiating entity negotiates separately behind closed doors and is unaware of the deals struck by the others. If negotiations were in the open, as I and others have suggested, the union negotiators won't face such a dilemma or face getting the short-end of the stick. As in the Prisoners' dilemma, it is more rational to betray in such circumstances. To offer to accommodate to the realities of a constrained budget while not knowing what the other unions have negotiated is a fools' errand.

Offering to be civil, considerate, or accommodating is a losing proposition when the others have demonstrated a ruthless disposition to keep as much of the money and benefits for themselves even if they bankrupt the city. Police, Fire and management unions have demonstrated that they live in a narcissistic world all their own, and we are all their prisoners.

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

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## **NOTE TO SELF: LOOK UP LYRICS TO "AND THEY CALLED IT PUPPY LOVE"**

It was a win-win session if ever there was one at the city council last Tuesday. On the night's agenda was a resolution to ban the sale of puppies raised in "puppy mill" or industrial-type circumstances. Glendale animal lovers came to plead for a renewed sense of conscientiousness from the city council. They would not leave disappointed.

That was a real "tear jerker" agenda item if ever there was one scheduled by the city manager where there are other controversial items up for discussion. These are timed to allow the councilmen to be their unctuous best while portraying themselves as the benign and considerate people's representatives. It's great before an audience of activist voters. Council members ham it up and how! But a careful peek at the notes they were writing, may reveal more about what they were thinking.

**Najarian:** "Note to self: Great time to rent or borrow a Dalmatian puppy and take it for a walk near the farmer's market in Montrose. Ask fire chief Scoggins for the toy fire-fighter hats to give away to kids. Look for fine-looking single moms. No sense in wasting all my time with some snooty kids."

**Weaver:** "Note to self: Time to put in the garage that cookbook on the cocktail table in case some puppy-lover stops by to visit. Keeping the humor book "How to wok your dog – 101 easy recipes" not too smart. What was I thinking!"

**Friedman:** “Note to self: Jeez, should’ve gotten a dog, maybe a French poodle, that’s an easy 1000 votes at the next election. Oooh, maybe I could put a tiny French beret on him. Oh! I know. Get a booth at the Montrose Farmers market on Sundays, call it “Meet the mayor” and have a fund-raiser for the humane society. Sell the video of movie “Cat Woman” with the proceeds going for the care of feral kittens. I am getting good at this.”

**Friedman:** “Note to self: Don’t let Drayman collect the proceeds.”

**Quintero:** “Note to self: Get a picture among kids at the petting zoo. Bring along a dog, maybe a Cocker Spaniard” (check spelling) it would make for a great mailer at the 2013 campaign. Need to practice kissing dogs on the snout a la Weaver. Don’t understand how he can kiss dogs so often.”

**Manoukian:** “Note to self: Really got caught off-guard by all these theatrics. Should’ve have taken acting classes to match these hamsters. Don’t forget to get a picture op with the Police Canine Unit before Weaver thinks of it.”

**Weaver:** “Note to self: bring up a change to the puppy ordinance. This should apply to American beagles, German Shepherds, even Scottish Terriers. Not too keen on having it apply to Pomeranian or Dalmatian breeds, may lose too many votes. Think Quintero and Friedman will go for it.”

**Najarian:** “Note to self: Send Kudos email to Starbird and staff. This was a win-winner! Remind the “bird” to put on the agenda the Catholicos for the invocation blessing of the budget a week from Tuesday. This is easy money. We are on a roll!”

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

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## **ZAVOS, STAVROS, AND ALL THINGS GREEK IN GLENDALE**

Think that Greece is the only government in dire financial straits? Think again. A government too much in love with itself and a population too enamored with the Aegean sea, lovely islands, and a heroic history long-gone may not be a suitable candidate for comparison to Glendale. But, financially, it is too close for comfort.

For too long, a mindset of letting someone else pay the bills, has forced the Greek government to face the harsh reality of being too close to bankruptcy, unless someone else bails them out. I am sure that responsible Greeks have sounded the alarm, but too many of them are enjoying the sun, warm breezes and the rich vacationers. They thought the good times would last forever. It’s similar to Glendale.

We know now that the decade-long party the city employee unions have had with Quintero and Weaver leading the band, has now come to a dire financial crash. The warnings have not been heeded. Two Greeks stand at the center of this epic moment. Chris Stavros the head of the Fire Fighter’s Union and Harry Zavos, retired professor emeritus from Loyola Marymount University.

Stavros has been driven to get for his union the most he can extricate from the city council. That is his role and Fire Fighters could not have found a more dogged leader. They got themselves a huge pension change in 2001, got to run the city paramedic system, got loads and loads of overtime, and pretty much rigged their working conditions to extricate every manner of pay for themselves.

On the other hand, Harry Zavos has been watching as the city of Glendale’s councilmen first swore to uphold the California constitution and just as easily proceeded to circumvent it. All the city council members under the tutelage of the city manager have tried to do an end-run around Proposition 13 and then later proposition 218, to figure out how to pull more fees and charges and help Fire Fighters, Police, and management employees pocket as much money for themselves before anyone takes them on in a court of law. Their motto, raid and plunder, then let the taxpayers pay for the legal defense.

Through professor Zavos we confirmed our suspicions that the city has been running a hidden tax con game on the Glendale taxpayers and rate payers. With that money, they have been giving themselves incredible salary increases, and benefit galore worthy of multi-millionaires. Through Stavros, the fire fighters’ union has been keen on either finding or inviting future political candidates to help them get an assured seat on the city council in exchange for raiding the city’s coffers on their behalf.

Without the transfers of money from the Glendale Water and Power, it is highly likely that the pay and pension gift would not have been possible. The city council has taken two of the most basic services – water and electricity, and loaded them

up with unnecessary charges so as to make Stavros and his fellow safety brothers multi-millionaires during their careers and in their retirements.

But the city has accomplished this by violating and laughing at the state constitution. That's where Zavos comes in. There are men throughout history who bring the highest ethics and principles to the fore and help bring a population out of the quagmire. We are a democracy. We are a nation of laws. It has taken a professor of law to come out of retirement to help support the rule of law and affirm the public good. The demos have a defender of integrity. It's an ancient Greek legacy that we can all stand behind, and professor Zavos is leading the way.

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

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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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**TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED – SHARE VANGUARD – VOLUNTEER**

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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.

[From the Desk of James Corcoran](#)

30th of May, 2011 Memorial Day, Mr. Barry Allen Vanguardians Glendale, California

The term, 'vanguard', from which you have aptly named your weekly journal, derives from Medieval French ("avant-guard"); this, as you know, is a military term designating frontal soldiers, those who risk all, but, consequently, achieve a higher degree of battle-honor. Again, I use the term "aptly," for you and your staff have *earned* that name, that honor.

This Memorial Day is a fitting time to recognize and thank you for your actions during the past eighteen months, specifically, for your efforts in the city of Bell.

You and your staff joined forces with a very small group of Bell residents and stakeholders long before the *Los Angeles Times* "broke" (to borrow a journalism term) the first of many stories. You were, at that time, with us in the trenches, and, most importantly, you *stayed* in the trenches. Of particular note were the works of Herbert Molano, especially his pieces on the disgraced Randy G. Adams.

Again, Mr. Allen, for those of us who endured this long ordeal, I personally thank you. Neither you nor your staff received tangible benefits from your efforts, yet, I dare say, you received far more meaningful benefits, those of a job well done.

Please sir, accept this note of gratitude, not as a final "thank you," but one of lasting endeavors; the job in Bell is far from over.

By the way, I have followed from afar some of the recent Glendale political events. Bravo there for some first-class journalism.

Your paper quotes our third President with happy frequency. If I may, in this spirit, borrow his words to end this letter. "In matters of style, swim with the current. In matters of principle, *stand like a rock.*"

Most respectfully,

*James Corcoran*

James Corcoran, Sergeant, Bell Police Department (Ret.)

##

**Editor: This letter was received on June 13, 2011. Unfortunately it got caught in the email room maelstrom. Staff and volunteers are very appreciative of Sgt. Corcoran's words. As a note, Sgt. Corcoran stood tall before Randy Adams when he went to a higher authority about the corruption in Bell. When threatened by Adams, Jim took early retirement and is still active teaching law enforcement officers.**

By the way, the next bug that needs to be put under the muckraking microscope is our old friend Dave Weaver. I seem to recall that the bombastic buffoon had done some remodeling at his residence not that long ago. Since he also voted "Aye" on every ADI project it might be time to give some attention to any projects he has been involved with. He's a proven liar (remember his NO vote on Montrose sidewalk repairs) and capitalized on the Rose Float name for his own personal FOR

PROFIT entity before he was exposed and changed it to a NON PROFIT. Not to mention the \$9,000 FPPC fine he was assessed for playing fast and loose with his political campaign funds. A 10-gallon bucket of hand sanitizer wouldn't be enough to clean this guy up and it's high time his feet are held to the fire. May I suggest a records request is in order for this old buzzard who has circled Glendale's political garbage dump for far too long. KBG  
##

**IT'S RAINING SHOES IN THE JEWEL CITY:** The latest revelation to rock Glendale's political establishment in the ADI housing construction scandal is confirmation that a Federal grand jury is investigating the whole mess and paying particular attention to former Councilman John Drayman's condominium remodel.

The most recent shoe to drop after disclosure of the lack of required permits for the residential construction is the apparent \$4,000 payment from ADI to a sub-contractor for work done on Drayman's condo makeover. Payment that was made from an account intended for a City of Los Angeles low-income housing project.

These developments closely followed questions raised by the Montrose Shopping Park Association about Drayman's involvement with collections and cash handling at the weekly Montrose Harvest Market which had been running in the red since its inception.

While Drayman has yet to be charged in connection with any of these matters it seems to many observers and critics that the beleaguered politician must be waiting for that shoe to drop.

While it is true that under our legal system the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty we can fairly question the wisdom of some of the former Councilman's actions and decisions made while serving as an elected and appointed official.

Can anyone forget Drayman's teary-eyed and impassioned farewell speech as he exited the dais after his defeat in the April election? It is clear now that what we saw then may have been crocodile tears in advance of what he knew were more shoes getting ready to drop.

In any case these events are a reminder to a Glendale electorate who almost made the same mistake twice. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."

At least we don't have to affirm another old truism, "Fool me once shame on you. Fool me twice shame on me." It was close, but from all appearances it looks as if we dodged a bullet on that one. NAJ  
##

**DEMOCRACY TAKES A STEP BACKWARD IN GLENDALE:** Last Tuesday night, recently re-elected for the fourth time, Councilman Dave Weaver made three suggestions that, in my opinion, were nothing less than short-changing democracy.

Suggestion #1. A Special Tax on the libraries because according to Councilman Weaver, the city needs to raise \$18 million to cover the budget deficit, to which he contributed every time he agreed to a salary and benefit increase for city workers. But, why stop at libraries, Councilman Weaver, why not have pay toilets throughout the city too?

Suggestion #2. Require two council members to agree to a request for information by a councilmember. Presently, any council person can request public records without seeking a second council member's approval. Mr. Weaver states city staff is over burdened and has limited resources. This action by Mr. Weaver is an affront to Councilman Rafi Manoukian's requests for records and his fiduciary responsibility to the public.

Suggestion #3. Glendale is a big city and therefore, according to Mr. Weaver, the position of City Clerk and City Treasurer should be appointed by council members and no longer elected by the voters. Let's change the city charter, says Mr. Weaver, so the legislative body (city council) can also control the executive body (City Clerk and City Treasurer). But, on the contrary, big cities often have their City Attorney elected by the voters. Presently, our City Attorney is beholden to the city council and not the public. The handling of ADI (Advanced Development and Investment Company) and former Councilman John Drayman's condo inquiries have made the City Attorney today an unwilling co-conspirator.

Councilman Weaver continues to be the champion of the city unions. In the last election Councilman Dave Weaver stated the amount of money he had received from the unions was very little, but in the last election the Glendale Police Officers Association Political Action Committee, PAC, spent \$8,612 on a mailer for Mr. Weaver and an additional \$3,000 on political polling. (Campaign form 460).

Additionally, Mr. Weaver is on record to limit Oral Communications to two – three minutes and not the present five minutes, if he is chosen Mayor by the other council members. Just another attempt by Mr. Weaver to silence the city watchdogs and protect the city unions.

The question the public should be asking, “is Mr. Weaver working for the stakeholders of the city or the unions who want to control the influence of council critics’ demands for transparency and accountability of its public employees and council members?” **Mike Mohill**

##

Can you help my friend who is divorcing Ara Najarian a City Council member in Glendale CA? After 20 years of marriage it seems as if he has hidden assets, investments and other community property and refuses to be honest about that. His future ex-wife wants a just and equitable division of property and really doesn’t want to make waves with the Internal Revenue Service or the California Bar. Can you ask people to share their information about his assets? JT.

[ED – Each elected official must submit an annual Statement of Economic Interest. His current SEI shows the following:

Dell Computer stock	FMV between \$10K and \$100K
MGM Casino	same as above
Intel	same as above
Forest Laboratories	same as above
Apple	\$100K and \$1,000,000
Brocade Communications	\$2K and \$10K
General Electric	same as above
Amgen	same as above
Daimler AG	same as above

Commercial Real Estate 1141 N Brand valued in excess of \$1,000,000 with an annual income between \$10K & \$100K

Najarian Family Partnership (RE investment) same as above

2333 Mira Vista; 1000 E Acacia Multi unit res valued over \$1,000,000

Law office FMV \$10K-\$100K, income over \$100K, leasehold interest FMV \$10K-\$100K]

##

I just went back to look at the archived city council meetings and realized that the people speaking during oral communications and on other items knew what they were talking about. It is really too bad that we all believed what we were hearing from the last city council putting down those people while applauding the Draymanites. From Barry Allen to Harry Zavos – A – Z – and those in between. Allen spoke to corruption and fiscal accountability; Zavos spoke to the illegality of transfers of water revenue. Bruce Philpott on the waste in the fire department. Herbert Molano on the budget and the CAFR, Christian Arbid on the cost of housing, Richard Espiritu on ADA and the broken down Beeline. Aram Kazazian on the behalf of GWP rate payers and the greater use of reclaimed water. Even Mike Mohill did his part to enlighten the City Council.

There was a concerted effort on the part of management and council to diminish the efforts of Bob Yousefian [former council member replaced by Laura Friedman] by censoring him for standing up for the stakeholders in the community. Glendale needs Yousefian back to help Manoukian who apparently has had an epiphany in that his direction comes from the voters not management and the unions.

We need to honor those who have worked so hard. They are the Patriots of Glendale. KGB

##

I was downtown today and went through the Chess Park to get to the GNP. On my way from the alley into the entrance to the pass-through to Brand Blvd. I noticed two empty planters that literally form a gauntlet at the West entrance to the Chess Park. Each of these sunken planters is about 3’x3’ and 4” deep with nothing to warn pedestrians of the hazard.

I’m not sure which City department is charged with maintaining this area, but would appreciate you passing on this information to the appropriate person as something should be done to correct this situation before someone breaks a leg or worse. I know there isn’t much budget money left over for infrastructure repairs after fat cat pensions, employee bonuses and new management positions, but this area is an accident waiting to happen.

Thankfully no job is too big or small for Glendale’s favorite watchdog and people’s advocate so I know you will know where to go on this one. Until this is fixed watch your step if you pass through the Chess Park. Did this tacky spot really cost half a million taxpayer dollars? If so it must have been built by ADI as its falling apart and very neglected with lots of graffiti and cheap looking building materials. By the way, as I walked through I saw only a couple of street people passed out on benches and no one playing chess! Thanks for being our go-to guy on all things Glendale. JAN

[ED – Vanguard sent this request to Jim Starbird, Steve Zurn, Jess Duran and Scott Howard upon receipt. Within an hour Vanguard received this: [We're sending a Park Maintenance Manager out today to assess and address the hazard. We picked up new trees today and they are scheduled to be planted tomorrow afternoon. Thanks. \(That is great service from Jess Duran the new Parks Director!\) The trees look great.](#)]

##

**Now that the Courts have found Prop 8 [Same sex marriage ban] to be unconstitutional, will John Drayman get married so his partner can't be forced to testify against him? FL**

##

**Where is the outrage amongst Friedman, Quintero, Najarian and Weaver over the conduct of their former colleague John Drayman? Hey all heard him say he had to move out of his condo because of flood damage when he bashed actress Eva LaRue. Haghani, Starbird and Howard listened to him. Weren't they even curious as to whether he took out building permits or how an unemployed person with no known source of income could afford to renovate his condo? Maybe they knew about it and how he planned to have it paid for through the overbillings of ADI. Maybe, as they had guilty knowledge they decided it was best to clam up.**

**Even today they haven't said a thing unlike when Yousefian complained about how the city was using an old mailing list and failed to let homeowners know what was happening in their neighborhood.**

**The LA County Police Chief's Association likewise said not a peep about Randy Adams.**

**These thieves just circle the wagons and hope no group like Vanguardians is in the neighborhood. Thanks for standing up for us. Retired Investigator**

##

["City Gadfly Getting More Attention: What Do You Think?"](#) Patch.com

Do groups like the **Vanguardians** play an important role in keeping the city government in check? By Cassandra Morris | Email the author | June 15, 2011 Tell us where you stand in the comments. Patch Barry Allen, who publishes a weekly newsletter and..."

Great marketing for Barry and Vanguard. Just think, Drayman has become your greatest marketing agent and you don't have to pay him. GPD

##

The recent budget meetings for the Glendale City Council are a result of issues that have been developing over years. It's not something that's happened over night. The easiest way to try and direct attention away from the actual problem is try and divert the attention away from the real problem and make it appear that the issue lies somewhere else. Currently, one of the biggest subjects to divert attention has to do with medical insurance and pension reform. The costs related to employee benefits pale in comparison to the careless, reckless spending of the city council. This is a classic example of misdirection.

This is a time when employee contracts are expiring and having to be renewed. City employees will be asked to bear a significant cost of eliminating the deficit created by the city council. Having the employees bear some of the cost is not unfair given the state of the economy. However, there is one thing that seems glaring when reviewing the information from the State Controller's Office.

The following is from the [California State Controller's Office](#) Website:

Glendale City Council member salary: \$13,200  
Actual wages paid (Average of 3 incumbent members): \$40,896  
Retirement formula: 2.5% @ 55  
Medical insurance (Average of 3 incumbent members): \$14,247

I don't understand how the council members can receive over 200% above their salary, especially when they are part time employees. I know they'll try to hide behind receiving compensation for sitting on various committees. However, the additional committee compensation is an amount they voted to themselves. Isn't being a member of other boards/commissions part of being a city council member? Is that an efficient use of public money? What gives them the ability to be effective on those commissions and receive the compensation? Isn't that how the City of Bell council inflated their salary as well? Maybe if someone actually qualified were on commissions the City wouldn't be embroiled in the ADI fiasco. And to add insult to injury with the medical insurance issue, the City portion of medical insurance for an incumbent council member was the highest paid for ANY city employee.

It is hypocritical to ask the average employee to bear any costs when the council isn't even looking at themselves first. I was always under the impression that it is a privilege and honor to be an elected government official. I guess I was wrong and it's better to have their part time position with all of its perks and benefits. **A Concerned Citizen**

**Council member Rafi Manoukian replies:** True. We get approximately 2k a month from the redevelopment agency in addition to the council salary. This amount used to be approximately \$200 a meeting, and the council or the redevelopment agency members voted for this increase back in 2002, it was a public hearing. We also get \$50 per meeting for the housing authority. For insurance I pay approximately 240.00 a month for the family for the executive plan, which we have talked about before. They have different plans, Kaiser, Blue Cross HMO, a few other ones and Blue Cross PPO. The executive plan has a 10k cushion that pays all the deductibles.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as an elected official. I'll make this offer to all the employees who are really concerned about this city and its financial future, and are not playing politics to undermine and threaten council members to get their salaries padded. I'll take a 50% cut in my overall city salary, in addition I'll pay for 50% of my medical benefits and 50% of my PERS costs if the employee unions agree to meet me half way or 25% cut on these same items, salaries, medical benefits and PERS costs. This will solve the budget shortfall for the next 10 years and generate considerable goodwill from the Glendale community.

Let's put our money where it counts.  
##

**Can Vanguard find out if the principal from Lincoln Elementary was moved because of mismanagement and lack of accountability over the use of school foundation funds? If so, then all they have done is kick the can to the next school. Who provides oversight on the schools? CP**  
##

Now I see the focus of your breakfast meeting tomorrow is that long-time cancer and uber toxin who inexplicably continues to contaminate local government and everything else he touches. I'm supremely confident that your presentation will set the stage for the long fight for recall. Hopefully a renewed focus will not only recap the litany of past offensive and possibly impeachable conduct, but will invite and develop new information to support the effort to remove him from the office he so completely disgraces. I'm curious about the actual process and requirements for recall and I imagine others are unfamiliar with the procedural requirements. To answer the question 'Where do we go from here?' might be an important part of tomorrow's agenda. I'm sure there are many potential recall petition circulators who will be in attendance. Oh how I'd love to see a recall booth at every Sunday's Montrose Harvest Market. Which reminds me that there are many of us in the community who would love to see a Vanguard booth be a regular fixture at the event. The time might be right in the wake of your amazing success with Condo-Gate and new found legitimacy. The breakfast meetings are great, but still require people to come to you. Going to the people where they gather is another thing. Montrose Radicals  
##

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### 3



## Public Information



“Just the facts”

**According to public records, Mayor Friedman and her husband took over \$11,000 out of campaign funds for various purposes none of which are well articulated or documented.**

**On June 30, 2009 she voted to appropriate over \$2,000,000 for Vassar City Lights, an ADI venture. On the same date she received the following political contributions from ADI contractors and subs...**

6/30/2009	Rita Arezoomanians	4613 Hume Av	Firecom	\$1,000
6/30/2009	CSS Drywall Inc	2466 E 5th St		\$1,000
6/30/2009	Fairweather Roofing Inc	1212 E Ash Av		\$1,000
6/30/2009	LA Elite Framing Inc	1754 Vallecito		\$1,000
6/30/2009	Magda Thomassian	5725 Ocean View Bl	National Fire	\$1,000

**In cities with a population of less than 200,000 the compensation for members of the Redevelopment Agency are limited by statute as to their fees for attending meetings: Health and Safety Code Section 33114.5.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever the legislative body of a city having a population of less than 200,000 or the legislative body of a county declares itself to be the agency pursuant to Section 33200, the compensation

provided for in Section 33114 shall not exceed thirty dollars (\$30) per member for each meeting of the agency attended by the member. No member shall receive compensation for attending more than four meetings of the agency during any calendar month. In addition, members shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

**Will the taxpayers get a refund now that the Census states the population is 191,000?**

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

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



### 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 20

- **Special Meeting** – Budget Study Session – 1:00 pm, CH 548-4844
- Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission – 2:30 pm, MSB 548-2000

**Please note: This meeting has been moved to a different location to accommodate the special Budget Study Session. It will be taped and aired at a later time on GTV6.**

#### Tuesday, June 21

- Housing Authority -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005
- **Joint Meeting** –RE: Project Design Update for the Wilson/Maryland Lofts – CH 548-4844
- City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

#### Wednesday, June 22

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

#### Thursday, June 23

- Design Review Board # 2 – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140
- Low-cost Animal Vaccination Clinic – 6:30 pm, Parking Lot behind City Hall, 548-2090

**Friday, June 24** No Meetings Scheduled

#### Saturday, June 25

Grand Re-opening of Maple Park Community Center – 11:00 am, 820 E. Maple St., 548-2000

## 4 *Vanguardians*

**FOR SALE: Drayman memorabilia – the 10, 3' x 4' posters of his building code debacle including the plans.**

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 be 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.”

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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.



Now that we all know Mike Garcia will be the new City Attorney we hope he has the cojones to tell Councilman Weaver to bug off, that he doesn't have time to hold his hand and fend off women who have sexual harassment issues with him. Not only city employees but members of the public. It appears that Garcia's marriage is intact and his wife won't find it necessary to demand that the City Manager intercede because of a sexual encounter between employees.

The secretary to the city council has had something added to her job description that was not added via the HR department. She is now the official driver for Mayor Friedman. Her first assignment was to pick the Mayor up from the train station to get her to the 'church' on time.

CA Howard is very perplexed with having to remind the Mayor of the need to open public hearings.

Former planning head Elaine Wilkerson, while she was championing Laura Friedman's election campaign, kept coming into planning and going through files to help find sources of money. It took Hassan quite a while to get up the backbone to explain that she was no longer a city employee and was in restricted areas.

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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

The Mayor is campaigning hard to fill her campaign coffers. She said that it is incumbent on the officials to share what happened at meetings to which they are assigned. Meanwhile she told everyone about all the touchy-feely meetings she attended. She never really shared what she talked about with Modern Parking before voting on their contract.

Does Dave Weaver recuse himself when voting on Disney projects where he used his influence to get a job for his daughter?

City Manager Starbird has taken over the leadership role from the deposed John Drayman. Weaver is aligned with whatever Starbird wants because Weaver owes Starbird for pulling his fat out of the fire with at least two sexual harassment complaints from a Management Services employee. In 'protecting the city's image' Starbird has done a great disservice to the women of Glendale.

Starbird has Friedman and Najarian in his pocket. Starbird has outlived his usefulness in Glendale. Time to move on to taint another city.

CCM Rafi Manoukian is weathering the storm of adverse comments by his colleagues. Unfortunately, he is the only one that is asking serious questions about the City finances.

One of the basic questions is, "With the serious unfunded liabilities exceeding the unrestricted reserves, the increased fire department costs, the increasing number of city employees, the workers comp fund, the ongoing demands of the pension funds and the post employment healthcare and the late payment of monthly expenses brings forth the question, "is the city actually financially bankrupt?"

[The purpose of chapter 9](#) [municipal bankruptcy] is to provide a financially-distressed municipality protection from its creditors while it develops and negotiates a plan for adjusting its debts. Reorganization of the debts of a

municipality is typically accomplished either by extending debt maturities, reducing the amount of principal or interest, or refinancing the debt by obtaining a new loan.

Although similar to other chapters in some respects, chapter 9 is significantly different in that there is no provision in the law for liquidation of the assets of the municipality and distribution of the proceeds to creditors. Such a liquidation or dissolution would undoubtedly violate the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution and the reservation to the states of sovereignty over their internal affairs. Indeed, due to the severe limitations placed upon the power of the bankruptcy court in chapter 9 cases (required by the Tenth Amendment and the Supreme Court's decisions in cases upholding municipal bankruptcy legislation), the bankruptcy court generally is not as active in managing a municipal bankruptcy case as it is in corporate reorganizations under chapter 11. The functions of the bankruptcy court in chapter 9 cases are generally limited to approving the petition (if the debtor is eligible), confirming a plan of debt adjustment, and ensuring implementation of the plan. As a practical matter, however, the municipality may consent to have the court exercise jurisdiction in many of the traditional areas of court oversight in bankruptcy, in order to obtain the protection of court orders and eliminate the need for multiple forums to decide issues.

**Overall rating for the week ending June 18, 2011:**

Weaver	Quintero	Najarian	Friedman	Manoukian
<b>F</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>

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

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