



“Accountability”  
The Government Watchdog

**Vanguard**  
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## SHEARING THE SHEEP

**Vanguardians Purpose:** To Inform, Educate, & Motivate for Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy

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Afrikaans	Croatian	Georgian	Italian	Polish	Thai
Albanian	Czech	German	Japanese	Portuguese	Turkish
Arabic	Danish	Greek	<b>Korean</b>	Romanian	Ukrainian
<b>Armenian</b>	Dutch	Haitian Creole	Latvian	Russian	<b>Urdu</b>
Azerbaijani	English	Hebrew	Lithuanian	Serbian	Vietnamese
Basque	Estonian	Hindi	Macedonian	Slovak	Welsh
Belarusian	<b>Filipino</b>	Hungarian	Malay	Slovenian	Yiddish
Bulgarian	Finnish	Icelandic	Maltese	<b>Spanish</b>	
Catalan	French	Indonesian	Norwegian	Swahili	
Chinese	Galician	Irish	<b>Persian</b>	Swedish	



As Bob McFall enjoys his retirement parties he gives his boss, Jim Starbird a kiss saying, “Love you Jim, you've made me a millionaire several times over!” I can't wait to get my \$20K month retirement check

The Taxpayers were the recipients of McFalls' "Accomplishments" in the last ten years:

- Project cost overruns
- Lawsuits on projects
- Personnel problems
- Discrimination in GFD employment
- Sexual Harassment lawsuits

- Personnel lawsuits costing the city millions
- Crisis on water - ineffective
- Budget deficits increasing
- Debt tripling
- Customers locked in - as city monopoly policies postponed infrastructure.

An Imponderable: City unions pick their leaders to bargain for them. When the leaders agree on the contract they go to their members for a vote for ratification. The City does not go to the voters, their constituents, to ratify the contract, why is that? Oh, that's right; the voters gave up their rights when they voted for their representatives.

Next week a report on, “When is \$4,000,000 Not Enough.” You can catch a preview Tuesday evening at City Council.

**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*

## From the Publisher... BUDGET OR SMOKE AND MIRRORS?



There aren't enough hours in the day after a Glendale Council meeting where the second oldest member, in terms of service, attacked a speaker who spoke on the failure of the Council to demand a legitimate budget from Management. The Council member spewed forth trash and garbage as a non-sequitor to the comments rather than attempting to provide an answer for his poor understanding of the budget

process.

I am very familiar with the issue because I was the speaker and Frank Quintero was the Council member on Tuesday evening and a Council member, who in 2001, helped vote in the change in the pension program that is today acknowledgeably unsustainable.

Caller after caller thanked me for standing up to Frank Quintero. Some said that I must be hitting some very tender spots and that is why he was retaliating; others said that he is concerned because he had been ostrich-like regarding the recession; still others mentioned the reference to his helping to create the fiscal dilemma the taxpayer is facing.

Quintero demands that we open our books up to him so he can intimidate our benefactors. That just won't happen. We have made all the required filings with the California Charities Registry, the Franchise Tax Board, the Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service.

According to a Glendale Police Detective from financial crimes who was tasked with investigating Vanguardians (with no formal complaint) only a political one, Vanguardians is not in violation of any law, rule or regulation. Frank, the Feds frown on using Law Enforcement resources for political purposes.

Quintero is blowing smoke because he wants to create a diversion from his duplicity. He was milking the Verdugo Work Force program when he was first elected. Because of issues he went to former Democratic Assembly Member Dario Frommer to ask the Attorney General a very narrow question about his conflict of interest. The answer did not include the unasked question about the State Board.

Frankly, Frank a little reminder is that the taxpayers don't provide PEG fees, Charter and AT&T do and pass them on to their customers. If you recall, you said that the taxpayers pay the PEG fees for the cost of GTV6.

When I spoke about the Trash on the Dais, I was speaking about and to one Council member. Had there been a split screen the viewer would have seen Mayor Najarian try to wave me off. I do sympathize with Najarian who, as the lone wolf, gets no support from the troika.

There is more...much more. For another time.

Back to the Budget. I spoke with Management Services on June 14<sup>th</sup> requesting the Budget. They had none and suggested I check with the City Clerk who said there was one for the counter. I spoke several days before with Council persons who stated they hadn't seen the budget. I doubt that the complete itemized budget was available to the Council, let alone the public by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The budget can't be complete because the four city unions haven't settled on their Cost of Living Adjustment.

Did anyone let the public know how little the unrestricted reserves are and whether the percentage meets the Charter requirements?

**Do Taxpayers understand that Capital Improvements took a \$20 Million reduction leaving only \$10 Million to repair the infrastructure?**

**This budget is for an election year and Mr. Drayman needs to look good.**

**City Officials pay attention to Vanguard and to Herbert Molano, even though the Council doesn't.**

Next week: The City's obligation under GASB 49. Did the City with-hold information from the outside auditor and from the public to protect a City Council member? Find out next week.

**BARRY ALLEN**

**PS: Join our team as we review city expenditures**

*Most people want the benefits of an accountable government but are afraid to work for accountability or to support those that do often because they fear retaliation or are the beneficiaries of the largesse or corruption of government*

### **THE BIRTH OF AN ACCOUNTABILITY ADVOCATE**



Michael Fuss probably started out like most of us – a concerned citizen who was growing more troubled (and perplexed) by the day with what they were reading in regards to California's economy- the dwindling budget, the cuts to public programs, the furloughs, the freezes and the job losses, all seemingly overnight. But what started as concern for us, was a call to action for Fuss. His red flag went up when the recession hit and the belt tightening that was expected to be universal, simply wasn't. As librarians have been forced to go home early, public employee contracts have remained unsustainable and untouched. Instead, the public has paid in taxes, fees and fines, all the while unaware of a system that has been in place for decades, where the public employee unions have bought politicians in order to get more money for the job, and after it's over. And while our collective jaws will continue to drop, Fuss is in the process of getting an initiative called "Save Our Budget" on the ballot. While he knows this won't be an easy process, he also understands that when the average citizen is hit at home, they can become activists over night. Here's to Fuss making a fuss.

**VG: Explain what the Save Our Budget initiative is all about and why you decided to take action?**

MF: The Save our Budget initiative is about doing two major things to reform our current system- First to give the voters the right to approve public employee contracts and in so doing take away the power of elected officials to grant unsustainable contracts to public employee unions that give them significant and consistent campaign contributions. Second it is designed to automatically reduce the pay of public employees in lieu of reducing essential public safety, health and social welfare services that the most vulnerable of Californians depend upon. I decided to take action after witnessing the raising of fees, taxes and fines and reduction of services to our communities during the biggest recession since WWII while our public employee unions flexed their power by not giving in to very modest requests for pay reductions and in some cases insisting upon and receiving previously scheduled pay raises.

**VG: Also who are the people behind this and why are they doing it?**

MF: I, Michael Fuss, am the principle author of the bill. I have both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Political Science from CSUN and UCLA respectively and have been in private business for over 20 years, employing people and meeting payroll. I have worked with a number of consultants including but not limited to Mark Romano, a professor of Political Science, Thom Wines, my IT consultant and Lucy Cook, my liaison to a marketing outreach center specializing in phone and e-mail contacts. Mark and I are what some might term "true believers" in the sense that we know in depth how damaging the present corrupt system is and how we have to do something to fix it before it gets even worse. Thom, the IT consultant and Lucy, the marketing liaison both work in the private sector and have expressed sympathy with the cause though their roles as hired guns.

**VG: A lot of people feel that the increased salaries and pensions for city safety employees (like firefighters and police officers) is understandable because of the high risk involved in their work. That makes talking about caps feel almost taboo. How can you sway the public on this very sensitive issue?**

MF: With regards to swaying the public on the need for caps and reductions in pay for firefighters and police officers during deficit years, the strongest way to sway the public is to focus on the average pay and value of their benefits packages as well as the huge number of applicants that get turned away for each job opening. It is also important to clearly bring to the public's attention just how deeply in debt we are becoming as a result of the corrupt dynamic that paid-off public officials unleashed on everyone in California who pays taxes, fees and fines. \$500 minimum moving violation tickets, \$300 false alarm response charges, \$975 ambulance rides as well as the consideration of the City to charge for public safety responses for traffic accidents or non pick up paramedic deployments. These are some of the increasing examples of the excess costs of the current system. One could also compare what police and fire fighters get to what members of our armed forces get facing much more danger on the battlefield. It is important to connect cost with regards to the early release of state penitentiary prisoners to the skyrocketing compensation packages that prison guards have extracted from the elected officials that they paid off. The public during this very deep recession are starting to become more sensitive to their wallets and are increasingly viewing their public safety providers' excessive and unsustainable compensation packages as a threat to their own family budgets.

**VG: It is a lot harder to lower people's current wages and benefits than it is to start fresh with incoming workers. Is there a way to do both, or should it be a "moving forward" situation?**

MF: The initiative is a 'moving forward' proposal for all new contracts after its enactment and specifically does not allow the grandfathering in of previous contracts, pay and other compensation in evergreen clauses simply because the budget crisis cannot be solved by shrinking the compensation of a relatively small group of new hires. There will not be enough of them in the next five to seven years to offset the skyrocketing costs of the obligations we currently have. Due to the inherent conflict of interest in the contract approval process, existing employees have benefited tremendously compared to the private sector; some have gamed the system but all should be treated fairly which means equally with each new contract. The financial bleeding from our deficit crisis has been going on too long and is becoming more urgent as more services to the needy get cut with each passing year of one time fixes and sell offs.

**VG: Will lowered pay and benefits for necessary safety personnel mean less qualified and fewer applicants?**

MF: Lowered pay and benefits for necessary safety personnel will not affect the quality of the applicants for these jobs. Before the recession started, there were around 400 qualified applicants for each opening in LA Fire and PD. Since the recession, it is very likely to be near double that. Our initiative requires that the number of applicants per opening be noted in the voter information guide to make sure that the public sees through the old saw regarding qualified applicants that the unions frequently put out.

**VG: How did exorbitant public employee contracts and runaway budgets happen right under the public's nose?**

MF: In the 1970's the cost to allow public employees collective bargaining rights was marginal as the average public employee pay was perceived by the voters to be less than the median in the private sector and only offset by defined pensions which the private sector still had a significant amount of 35 years ago. Over the decades, the public employee unions took advantage of campaign contribution conflict of interest loopholes and quietly began to regularly provide larger, significant campaign contributions to elected officials who in turn quietly approved their contracts as the pay off. It's like the slow boiling of a frog so that he does not jump out of the pot but gradually weakens and succumbs to the increasingly hot water until he dies, the public employee unions have gamed the campaign contribution system to cook our goose. The public, slowly over the last 35 years, became used to initially modest introductions and increases in fees, fines and taxes as well as cut backs in services as it was all happening in slow motion. The market crash (along with it CalPERS and CalSTER's massive devaluation) coupled with our great recession, have super heated the water and the public is being forced to notice.

**VG: Why has it taken a dire financial crisis for the public to speak up? Can change only come from a meltdown?**

MF: Representative Democracies are reactive by nature, meaning that the majority of voters are very busy and preoccupied with their daily lives and will often mobilize and react when a problem is no longer on the horizon but on their dining room table when they are paying their bills. During this great recession we have high unemployment and deflated wages; add to this the increase in fines, fees and taxes accompanied by cutbacks in services and the growing realization of the voters that the public employee unions have captured their government and made it unresponsive to their demands. Sadly, we are in a slow moving meltdown which does present a window of opportunity for the voters to mobilize and fix the problem as Sacramento is paralyzed to act with the fear of alienating their patrons in the public employee unions. Mobilization of the public will only happen as things continue to get worse. The success of this initiative's introduction to the public will be based on the timing and now is the right time for it to happen.

**VG: Have you seen any support in Sacramento for your initiative?**

MF: Dan Walters from the Sacramento Bee gave me a few encouraging remarks in response, as well as Tom McClintock who invited me to a town hall meeting. Republicans recently failed (again) to bring very modest pension reform through the legislature in Sacramento because the power of the public employee unions has completely captured the Democrats. One Republican state Senator (who will at this time remain nameless) wrote that he basically supported the initiative but would refer it to my district's Representative who is a Democrat which was tantamount to dropping the ball and running away. Sadly, as Republicans are learning to compete for public employee union contributions by making alliances with public safety bargaining units, true reformers will be able to count on less of their support unless we fix this system quickly.

**VG: What is the process to get this on the ballot?**

MF: The process to get this initiative on the ballot is to do the following:

- 1) Write a text and gather 25 elector signatures from registered voters. (Preferably pre verified)
- 2) Submit the text and signatures to the Legislative Counsel so it can be vetted to be constitutional and re written in a legal format.
- 3) After Step 2, get it to the Secretary of State's office for Titling and Summary.
- 4) Submit the initiative to public hearings.
- 5) Gather funding and signatures. (600,000 + minimum for a Constitutional Amendment)
- 6) Turn in the signatures before the deadline for the election that it would appear in.

**VG: What will be your biggest hurdle in getting your initiative on the ballot?**

MF: The biggest hurdle to get this on the ballot might be the vetting process at the Legislative Counsel as the public employees in that organization have to wrestle with the conflict of interest that it presents to them personally. If things don't go well it might be because they could look for a technical way to kill it to keep the rotten system going for another year or so until insolvency and municipal chapter 9's settle the issue. If it makes it to fundraising and signature gathering, I have a commitment to reach the first 400,000 email addresses so the initiative's merits can sell itself especially in these tough times, massive union contributions to a 'no' campaign notwithstanding.

**VG: What is the conflict of interest for public officials in relation to city employees and what are some of the damaging effects of their relationship you have seen thus far?**

MF: A good case study of conflict of interest between city officials and city employees could be made in the City of Los Angeles. Mayor Villargosa (hardly a sympathetic figure to many in the pension reform and anti corruption movements today) has repeatedly called for a modest 5% pay cut across the board for all city employees for over two years now in order to balance the budget. He and his staff have taken deeper cuts than he is asking for. It should be noted that the Mayor has a long history as a labor organizer and Democrat heavy weight in Sacramento. The public employee unions have largely said no while some have even gotten raises at the DWP, and in so doing, have forced the city to cut social and welfare services as well as hike fines, fees and taxes for all of LA citizens, especially the most needy. For a Democrat, who by definition is for the poor and needy, to do this shows you just how powerful the public employee unions have become. The contracts that penalize the City for tens of millions of dollars for laying off public employees in lieu of a deferred pay raise that was scheduled to happen during this great recession is another example of how completely captured elected officials in the City of LA are at this time.

**LAUREL MILLER**

**CALIFORNIANS FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

## **COMMENTARY: THE NAME OF THE GAME**

### **KEEPING SCORE AT THE CITY'S COUNCIL SESSIONS**



What would you rather do, follow a basketball championship game or watch a laborious city council meeting? What would you prefer to do: Watch as the Lakers try to go for a championship or watch as the city squanders a good portion of 800 million of your dollars? Is there a coincidence in the timing? Maybe not. Was there a plan to bore the viewing audience? Very likely.

That, in a nutshell was last Tuesday's city council's apparent plan. The city was about to introduce two ordinances. One to augment the city employees' supplementary benefits and the other to introduce the 808 million dollar budget. So what did the mayor do? He packed the agenda with issues totally unrelated to this huge problem including a discussion on how to allow councilmen to have a larger presence in front of the GTV6 cameras – The city's cable network.

Instead of telling the public about the growing public debt by the city – around 450 million and growing, they wondered who will get to hold a puppy in front of a rail-road crossing.

Instead of discussing the huge increases in the pension obligation that city employees have been demanding, they had a field day remembering Councilman Weaver's Dog House, his "I am kind to animals and other leggy things" Television show

Instead of telling the public how it is that retiring assistant city manager McFall will wind up with about 8 million dollars in pension if he lives 30 years in retirement, three council members seemed to be testing the resonance of their voice with the city's chambers new microphones. Friedman, Drayman and Najarian, were pondering how best to use the GTV6 for some political air play this year.

Instead of telling the public that the city's annual pension costs are now \$20 million higher than just a few years ago, they wondered if the city's communications director and staff can come up with a way to parcel out time for the councilmen to appear before the voters. As some of you may be aware, Drayman is up for re-election next year and what better use of his resonant baritone than with a walking tour of the new Neon Museum?

Instead of making suggestions on how to tackle the demands by the Glendale Management and Public Safety Unions to unload the 12% hike in health premiums on the city's taxpayers, the council members concocted a real tempest in the new council chamber's tea pot. Ladies and Gentlemen! Look this way! Come right up into our tent and don't be sidetracked by those budget figures. Barnum and Bailey plus three others will keep you thrilled with their lively debate! Come right up!

To my personal chagrin, I was suckered into the discussion. After voicing my concern about how Weaver and Najarian might use the GTV6 air time, I sat down feeling taken for ride. How many television viewers must have turned to another channel while that useless discussion was taking place?

But I believe there was more misdirection planned than these concocted agenda items seem to indicate. As if to insure that anyone still watching could be instructed to switch channels, Weaver asked out loud if someone could tell him what the Lakers – Celtics basketball score was. Anyone forgetting to watch a more honest contest could then switch channels and miss the budget presentation that was yet to come up.

But the beauty of having an experienced city manager is the creative agenda arrangement. Its a boffo production. The city Finance Director not only presented the most visually boring set of charts he could muster, he added his most monotonous voice to seal the deal. Anyone with GTV6 still on their television set would be grinding a loud snore by then.

What our sleepy audience missed was the graph depicting the city's exploding salaries at the Glendale Fire Department and Glendale Police Department. That should have set off fireworks. But the remote city council's audience was well into never land courtesy of a city Mayor and City Manager who very likely devised a clever way of keeping the television audience in the dark for another year.

And what about the game score? Transparency 0 and Accountability 0. It was a tied-up ball-game.

**HERBERT MOLANO**

## COMMENTARY II: THE ROAD TO PERDITION

Strap on your seat belt tightly and take one Dramamine pill. You are about to take a ride down Reality Road, a ride that may make you nauseous. This is the bumpy ride along the road to perdition - the long declining road that America is now taking where our children will be poorer, and our productive capacity continues to decline. The evidence is all around us in city governments throughout California, but you'll notice only if you have the stomach to stay on board.

If you are a Democrat, you are at fault. If you are a Republican, you are at fault. If you are a voter, you are at fault. If you are a fire-fighter, police officer, or government manager, you should be doubly ashamed. If you are the typical incumbent politician, you should be tarred, feathered, and sent on an extraordinary rendition.

Take a seat at the city council chambers and truly observe a session with councilmen presiding, then get ready to feel your stomach churn. Often, you'll find about a dozen city managers, police department and fire department staff members sitting and watching. No productive work is being accomplished. Sometimes they come in, chat around for a few minutes then sit for hours accomplishing nothing. Yet, this little exercise in unproductive work is repeated week after week, month after month, year in and year out. There are countless other daily meetings that we don't see. We know about them because, often, when we try to see them at their offices, we are told, "He is out at a meeting."

Take a seat in front of the city council and hold a list of the salaries many of these managers have finagled for themselves in the last ten years. Their pay has ballooned by tens of thousands of dollars annually above all the increases due to the inflation rate. Yet their increased pay is not tied to any verifiable external performance or any real improvement in the quality of life of the city's residents. Their pay is a game based on the leap-frog concept. They compare salaries with those with similar titles at other cities and then cry for equity. In the mean time, they are 40% less productive. It takes that many more middle managers to do the same work as ten years ago.

As you drive down this road imagine the number of years that you must work before retirement. Sixty-Five has been the standard we've come to expect. Seventy is now being proposed to keep Social Security viable. But these government workers want to be paid for not coming to work. The typical city worker can now expect to work ten fewer years than those of us in the private sector. Those who have been sworn to protect and to serve the public will get paid for fifteen fewer years without having to work. They call it a Safety Pension. I call it extortion. They've demanded 90% of their regular pay starting at age fifty.

Imagine that you are now putting your hands on a briefcase with eight million dollars in it. Imagine receiving it on the day that you retire from government work at age 55. Now sit and look at the people behind the city council dais. Locate the assistant city manager. Look at the serene smile. That expression is the outcome of the eight million taxpayer dollars he'll receive when he departs city employment and takes the value of his thirty-year pension with him.

He has been the operational chief of the city responsible for personnel and ultimately responsible for major projects and evaluating top department heads. He is responsible for insuring that top city policy and initiatives are accomplished effectively. What well did the city of Glendale do as a result of this grand gesture of multi-million pay and benefits to one man?

He leaves a decade of multi-million dollar employee lawsuits losses against the city on sexual harassment, and discrimination charges. He was instrumental in creating a managers' association that now get pay increases without accountability. Huge city projects have gone millions of dollars over budget and resulted in more lawsuits. But this is a city that does not know the concept of best project management practices, few city project managers have earned professional certifications in this field, and there is no project management office to institutionalize best practices.

His oversight of the police and fire departments has been practically non-existent. Those department budgets have more than doubled in the past decade without any major improvement in crime statistics, fire safety, emergency preparedness, or medical emergency services. They measure the number of employees, the pieces of equipment, the number of incidents, but not their effectiveness. On the other hand, those employees demanded and got five more years of pay without work. That's what retiring at 50 instead of 55 really means, with nearly the same base pay. Imagine how much worse off we could be if he had been paid more.

Today, the city's annual budget has doubled in size from a decade ago without much to show for it except luxury retirement pay to government workers. We've exchanged our productive capacity in exchange for their leisure. Money that could have improved our quality of life is now being sucked in larger amounts and re-directed to the unjustified enrichment of former employees who claimed to be public servants.

In 2001 every single fire fighter and every single police officer became one million dollars richer beyond their expected retirement pay than when originally hired. These employees and other regular employees who earn \$150,000 can expect a four million dollar pension given today's life expectancy and their early retirement.

Imagine for a moment that 2000 employees went to their boss and demanded the equivalent of year's pay for not doing any work at all. That's roughly the economic impact to the Glendale's finances when Councilmen Quintero, Weaver and three other naïve or colluding city council members approved the pension change police and fire associations demanded. With their signature, barely two weeks after getting elected, two of these councilmen handed 60 million dollars to the nearly four hundred members (today) of these two groups. In 2005 they added hundreds of millions more to the pensions of the rest of the employees. The value the public get in exchange? Imperceptible.

Today, when you add the cost of benefits to their gross pay, the real cost of each police officer and fire fighter must be around \$250,000. But we don't get the full costs evaluated or examined in public. That's because full transparency and accountability is what this city's management and the current members of the Glendale city council members resist the most. The same pattern is repeated in city after city.

No nation can remain competitive when a huge amount of its resources are directed towards unproductive work, uncorrected institutionalized inefficiencies, or massive waste of the money earned by the general public.

America's road to perdition can only be blocked by a voting public who can learn to discriminate political candidates with a real history of productive accomplishment from the scheming charlatan who will sell the future of his country for the short term gains of his personal ambition.

Democrats who support government inefficiencies because those responsible are members of an employee union are at fault. Republicans who accept inefficiencies because they come from uniformed safety employees are at fault. But the blame for this continual fleecing of the taxpayer is best laid at the feet of council members who negotiate in secret with the employee unions and never bother to check with their constituents for approval.

The consequence of this ignorance and denial is a steady enrichment of many at the public trough and a diminishing quality of life for us and our children. We must find the will to change direction. This is not the road we are destined to take. In the interest of preserving the values that America represents, we must put people behind the steering wheel of government who live the meaning of productive work, have an unwavering commitment to the public, the courage to demand accountability of public employees and the steadfastness to keep their moral integrity.

**HERBERT MOLANO**

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

### 2Shout Box

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, Vanguard News Service, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



Herb Molano's observations on Councilman Dave Weaver's lack of character and ethics "An Uncivil Truth" resonates loudly with a public who has endured this elected official's hypocrisy and corruption for what seems like forever.

Violations of the public trust as shown by Weaver's shameless conflicts of interest around Glendale's Rose Parade entry fund raising, citations by California's Fair Political Practices Committee for playing fast and loose with the state's campaign financing regulations, outright lying when confronted about his own voting record and creepy misogynist fascination with beauty pageants make him unfit for public service.

If he had any positive character attributes he would have resigned long ago. Instead he revels in his position as an emperor with no clothes harboring delusions that he has some kind of mandate to go forward. In the

unfortunate event he decides to seek re-election next year he will be confronted by the truth of his record and wrongdoing at every turn of the campaign. The spotlight of public scrutiny will give him nowhere to hide as the citizens of Glendale reject him at the polls in what we can only hope will be the final chapter of his inglorious legacy.

A sensible man at his age would see the writing on the wall and spare us the agonizing possibility of another Weaver run for council. But then sensibility is an element of good character isn't it? GW

WOW ..... the fire breathing dragon Barry Allen finally came out swinging! It was GREAT seeing you in action AGAIN ..... I am very proud of you when you talk trash! It was so refreshing to see you at your best again. ENCORE, ENCORE A Vanguard Check writer – Please don't give the cretin my name as he will vote against me. Methinks he wants to get your donor list for two purposes, to tap them or to retaliate. TR

Frank, [redacted] keeps preaching the same tired diatribe about Vanguardians, and getting the same result. Isn't that the definition of insanity? My friends and I like you because you tell it like it is and aren't intimidated by these elected officials. Thanks for being there. KB

All of this is hidden from the public. It is irresponsible for the city to keep this data from line-items in the annual budget reports, along with the annual bonuses. One has to wonder how much more of this gifting of public funds is out there. The public and taxpayers are far removed from the financial workings of city hall and if the knew, a revolution would take place. Keep stripping the veil away from those public employees and politicians who want to protect the status quo. WG. [ED – As many readers know, Vanguard has editorial advisors and we get their opinions on future articles..this was the response relating to such a request.]




"Just the facts"

The 2009 Injury Report of City Employees provided the following data: 2040 is the Annual Average number of employees who worked 4,212,200 hours which works out to be, coincidentally, 2,040 hours per employee which seems quite high.

There were either 222 or 212 issues as the number of cases does not match the number of illnesses and injuries. The bottom line is that the 2009 injuries and work related illnesses cost 5,028 days away (there are 365 days in a year) from work and 3,663 days of job transfer and or job restriction. That represents the equivalent of 24 years for which taxpayers are not receiving full benefit for their money.

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

[Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)

 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  
A Weak Week

**Monday, June 21**  
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission –  
2:30 pm, CH 548-2000  
**Please note: This is a permanent change to a new day and time for this Commission.**

Redevelopment Agency -- 548-2005  
6:00 pm CH City Council –548-4844

**Tuesday, June 22**  
2:30 pm CH Housing Authority -- 548-2060;

**Wednesday, June 23**  
Planning Hearing Officer -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140  
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

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## 4 *Vanguardians*

Order your bumper stickers now. Display them on your car and the note book you bring to government meetings. Speak out on the issues that spoil your quality of life. Make certain the elected officials and the government bureaucrats know the pain you are feeling while you continue to heap benefits and pensions on them.

**IF YOU'RE NOT  
OUTRAGED  
YOU'RE NOT PAYING  
ATTENTION**

**SEND YOUR UNION DUES TO VANGUARDIANS AS ALLOWED BY The [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#)** LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS act allows union members to have their dues go to Vanguardians -- (c) An employee who is a member of a bona fide religion, body, or sect that has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting public employee organizations shall not be required to join or financially support a public employee organization as a condition of employment. The employee may be required, in lieu of periodic dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees, to pay sums equal to the dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees to a nonreligious, nonlabor charitable fund exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Vanguardians is establishing a City Wide Financial Oversight Committee to review public documents and report on them. If you have an interest, contact Barry Allen for details and a meeting.

**Vanguardians**, a local government accountability organization, **needs a volunteer construction project manager**. We sometimes find it necessary to review public documents such as construction plans, bid documents, work and change orders and want a chartered professional to prepare our reports.

FOR SALE.... a 1975 34' Silverton twin engine Cabin Cruiser located in Long Beach. Serious inquiries only. Revenue will be used for Vanguardians operations.

Vanguard is following these lawsuits: 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Brooks; Ovasapyan; Scholars, AIG (Gladys); they can be found at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

### *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

You may donate online at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) that mandates legislative bodies to provide each of us an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool we use to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, you can go online to [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org) or call 818 243 1502

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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.



Bob [McFall], some of us girls want to thank you for the 'performance bonuses' we got. Others said your performance was mediocre but we agree you did make life interesting for us. Your fan club.

Molehill [sic] and Drayman spent almost a day together, each trying to BS the other. Drayman got a convert as you all saw at the Council meeting when Molehill started begging for more money for the Council members. Molehill has been asking a number of people if they would vote for him. Maybe that is another reason he wants more Council pay.

He'll learn not to cross Drayman as Ritch Wells did when he didn't get a camera crew over to tape Drayman and his awards ceremony. Ritch is going to 'retire' from a job he doesn't want to leave.

What's the difference between police officers and firefighters? Firefighters are paid to sleep on the job.

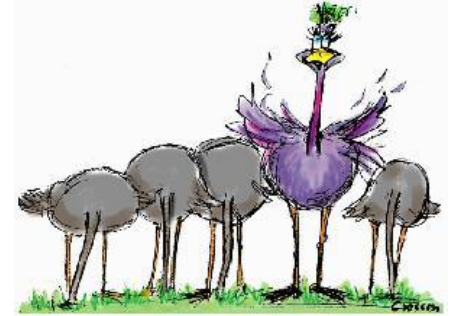
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## 6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

The ability to see and create the future is the essence of leadership. It is the secret of outstanding success in any field. Wfs

Quintero is more worried about Vanguardians finances that those of the City. Is there a penalty for malfeasance of office?

Some men are born mediocre, some men achieve mediocrity, and some men have mediocrity thrust upon them. – Joseph Heller, Catch 22.



When did it begin?

Weaver*	Quintero	Najarian	Drayman*	Friedman
1997	2001	2005	2007	2009

\* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

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## 7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[Grand jury says cities must rein in employee costs - by Ian Bauer, Milpitas Post](#) A Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report says the total compensation costs of city employees in all 15 cities in the county have grown so large over the past decade that cities now face fiscal instability. [View Full Story](#)

[GASB is working on standards for post employment benefits](#): "The project to improve postemployment benefits accounting was launched by the GASB, in part, in response to feedback from users of state and local government financial reports who feel that current standards do not provide them with the information they need to adequately understand the cost and liability for benefits promised to active and retired employees," states GASB Chairman Robert Attmore. "Following considerable staff research and review of financial reports prepared under existing standards, the Board has tentatively determined that changes are needed to improve the transparency, consistency, and comparability of reported pension information. We urge constituents to review and provide comments on the Preliminary Views on ways to increase transparency in financial reporting; enhance the decision usefulness of reported pension information; and better assist financial statement users in assessing the impact of the policy decisions and the commitments governments have made to their employees related to pension benefits."

[PASADENA](#) - A four-person ladder company at Fire Station 32 - one of two ladder companies in Pasadena - has been taken out of service for the remainder of fiscal year 2010 and for approximately 160 days in fiscal year 2011 as a result of budget challenges. The reduction will save \$125,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year and \$725,000 in fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1.

[The head of Los Angeles County's beleaguered Probation Department said late Tuesday that he has referred allegations of credit card fraud by his employees -- who county auditors said made numerous unauthorized purchases with store credit cards issued in the department's name -- to the district attorney's office. \[ED-Glendale has 400 employees running around with credit cards...and from a review of city documents may have the same problem.\]](#)

[Let's consolidate cities](#): A couple of decades ago, a new city manager who had just arrived from Florida questioned why there wasn't more consideration for one large city in the Coachella Valley instead of nine different smaller political jurisdictions. It seemed that this outsider's comments initiated questions of why not use some common sense in planning the future instead of continued duplication? It did bring some discussion, but mostly about why it couldn't work.

[Rialto still seeking measures to pay for pensions after Measure RR shot down](#) **Josh Dulaney, Staff Writer**

RIALTO - City leaders still don't have a good plan to pay for sweetened pensions after residents on Election Day sent a clear message that they don't want property taxes raised. Measure RR, an advisory measure seeking voter input on restoring a property tax to pay for a portion of the city's contribution to the Public Employee Retirement System, was soundly defeated by a "no vote" of 73.76 percent this week. Officials are tasked with paying for public employee pensions that could rise in costs by more than \$4.9 million in 2012.

"What's going to happen in 2012 if we haven't (gotten) some other revenue streams, we're going to have some serious service cuts," Councilman Ed Scott said.

[FBI and IRS officials served a search warrant](#) at Upland City Hall on Thursday as part of an investigation, a U.S. Attorney's official said. City Hall was one of several locations searched as part of the warrant, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office. Agents also raided an address on the 1000 block of Westridge Court, he confirmed. San Bernardino County voter registration records list that address as Upland Mayor John Pomierski's home.

[Lawyers become the problem:](#) On May 12, the Colfax City Council unanimously declared the city faced unreasonable hardship, even bankruptcy, if it were not allowed to make installment payments on massive monetary judgments impending against the city. The citizens and taxpayers of Colfax deserve to know the truth about lawsuits against the city.

[Pension spiking, read all about it.](#)

[America's Municipal Debt Racket State and local borrowing as a percentage of U.S. GDP has risen to an all-time high of 22% in 2010.](#) California's redevelopment regime is an object lesson. Starting in the 1950s, the state gave localities the right to create public agencies, funded by increases in property taxes, which can issue debt to finance redevelopment. A whopping 380 such entities now exist. They collect 10% of all property taxes—nearly \$6 billion annually—and they have amassed \$29 billion in debt never approved by voters for projects ranging from sports facilities to concert venues to retail malls, museums and convention centers.

**Critics, including taxpayer groups, say most such agency projects add little economic value. Sometimes the outcome is much worse. In 1999, Fresno conceived plans to revive its downtown area with various projects, including a baseball stadium for the minor-league Grizzlies, which it had lured from Phoenix. The city's redevelopment agency floated some \$46 million in bonds to build the stadium. But the Grizzlies fizzled in their new home, demanded a break on rent, threatening to skip town and stick taxpayers with the entire \$3.4 million annual bond payment on the facility. The team is now receiving \$700,000 in annual subsidies to stay in the city.**

**Adding to the city's woes: Last June, another development project, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, went bust, leaving the city's taxpayers on the hook for three-quarters of a million dollars in annual debt payments.**

**Why did politicians offer the deal? For the dubious and hard-to-quantify purpose of "branding" the city with a major attraction, according to the Charlotte Observer. [Ed-Emphasis added as Glendale is in the same boat with the NEON Museum. The City has refused to turn over financial documents.]**

Voters have wised up to the failings of many grand, politically inspired projects, and when given the chance they've defeated new taxes and borrowing for them. But much state and local debt now exists in independent authorities whose borrowings are not subject to voter approvals. Some of these agencies have operated recklessly. Taxpayers are only slowly realizing that their states and municipalities face long-term obligations that will be increasingly hard to meet. Rick Bookstaber, a senior policy adviser to the Securities and Exchange Commission, recently warned that the muni market has all the characteristics of a crisis that might unfold with "a widespread cascade in defaults." If that painful scenario materializes, it will be because we have too long ignored how some politicians have become addicted to debt.

[Vallejo Bankruptcy Tied Up In Binding Arbitration](#) Officials at the League of **California Cities** said Vallejo is scheduled to **consider** a hard-times budget ...

[Santa Paula makes hard choices to balance budget](#) Ventura County Star Santa Paula is among many **cities** and counties throughout **California** that would have to **consider** filing for **bankruptcy** sometime in the next year. ...

**CIVIL RIGHTS, COMMUNICATIONS LAW, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE, GOVERNMENT LAW, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW** [City of Ontario v. Quon, No. 08-1332](#) In an action by police officers against the city employing them, claiming that defendants violated their Fourth Amendment rights and the federal Stored Communications Act (SCA) by obtaining and reviewing the transcript of plaintiff-officer's pager messages, the Ninth Circuit's reversal of summary judgment for defendants is reversed where, because the city's search of plaintiff's text messages was reasonable, defendants did not violate plaintiffs' Fourth Amendment rights. [Read more...](#)

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## 8 Jump Page

Credit for picture of McFall Kissing Starbird goes to Rolf Johansen's Photo

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