



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard
Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of June 26, 2011
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LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

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

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Vanguardians Town Hall

June 30 – It's all about Utility Rate increases and Props 218 & 26. Guest speaker is Retired Law Professor Harry Zavos. He has researched the topic and is responsible for the City realizing they have been illegally transferring water revenue to the General Fund.

July 7 – TBA

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

Thursday, June 30, 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

"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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Welcome to our newest volunteer

Drayman memorabilia SOLD

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The phone is ringing

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Najarian
Weaver – Rose Float + ADI
Friedman
All waiting to learn how to eviscerate
Najarian Hate Hour
Keep GPD away from Drayman investigation



[Drayman's condo permits understated work done](#) Glendale News Press **John Drayman**, former city councilman and the subject of a police investigation for alleged embezzlement, lives in Montrose ...

[ED – Unasked questions by the GNP – Why did the City not require Drayman to sign a letter authorizing National Fire to apply for the permits as required? If Drayman was working with National Fire who was his contractor why would he even see subcontractor's invoices? If Drayman paid those invoices, where are the cancelled checks or did Drayman pay the subs in

cash? Drayman said he paid \$117,000 – where are the cancelled checks? In a previous GNP article Drayman claimed that only \$30,000 was in dispute, now the amount is \$98,000. It is really difficult to keep track of the lies and distortions. Maybe National will come clean now that Drayman has thrown them under the bus.]

[Average San Francisco Retiree Earns More Than Average San Franciscan](#) With an average pension of roughly \$46,000, San Francisco's retirees aren't doing too badly for themselves. Public safety employees' average pensions range from \$92k to \$108k, helping increase the average. But how does that compare to the city's per capita income? [Read more.](#)

[Supreme Court Upholds Conflict of Interest Rules](#) In a ruling from the United States Supreme Court, a Nevada legislator has finally lost his appeal to a censure he received for voting on an issue that would directly benefit his campaign manager. His loss solidifies conflict of interest rules. [Read more.](#) The recent Supreme Court decision, [Ethics vs. Carrington](#) will become another linchpin in maintaining transparency.

[Former Schools Trustee Convicted of Accepting Bribe for Renovation Project](#) Joe Marines, 55, of Weslaco, Texas, admitted that in August 2006, while serving as a trustee for Weslaco Independent School District and the district was involved in the bidding process for the renovation of Roosevelt Elementary School, he met with an FBI informant who was soliciting a contract on the project.

[Grand Jury report on Fire Department excesses.](#)

[Orange County Grand Jury report on City Manager compensation](#)

Vanguard of Davis -- [Angry City Employees Pack City Hall](#) It turns out that the hard work is just beginning for the council as they attempt to steer the city back onto the course of fiscal discipline. Last week led by Mayor Joe Krovoza the council initiated a bold plan to restore fiscal sustainability. This week with sweltering heat, ineffective air conditioning, and a packed house, the council faced the music. The anger was apparent in signs from the employees that included "Welcome to Wisconsin" and "I'm More Than an FTE." At times the council seemed to pander to the angry employees; they spent way too much time dealing with minor issues... ☐

FORMER EMPLOYEE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR EMBEZZLING \$1.4 MILLION LOS ANGELES – A former employee of the United States Forest Service who embezzled more than \$1.4 million from the agency has been sentenced to serve four years in federal prison.

Kathy Stamps, 39, of Rancho Cucamonga, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Christina A. Snyder. In addition to the 48-month prison term, Judge Snyder ordered Stamps to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,090,744, which represents the portion of the embezzled money that Stamps had spent.

Stamps was an accountant with the Forest Service at the Angeles National Forest offices in Arcadia. Through her job, Stamps had access to funds contributed by private entities for road construction and other projects on federal lands. From early 2002 through October 2004, Stamps fraudulently manipulated and fabricated internal Forest Service records that caused the United States Treasury to issue six refund checks totaling \$1,421,390 to entities that Stamps controlled. Stamps spent nearly \$1.1 million on personal items that included cars, jewelry, mortgage payments and plastic surgery. When the embezzlement was discovered, the government was able to seize \$330,645 from Stamps' bank accounts.

During the nearly three years that she was embezzling money from the United States, Stamps "exhibited a complete disregard for the law," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memorandum. Stamps "carefully planned and executed her scheme, as evidenced by her manipulations of various internal records of the Angeles National Forest accounting office. [Stamps] abused the trust placed upon her by the public for the administration of government funds and used her specialized skills as an accountant to commit....

Legislation to Limit Retention Proceeds Moving Again League Opposes SB 293 (Padilla) Local agencies must accept the lowest

responsible bidder for construction projects, and often use retention proceeds on progress payments to ensure that projects are timely and complete. Local agencies commonly begin with a 10 percent retention rate, and reduce retention to 5 percent halfway through the project if adequate progress is being made and the contractor is acting in good faith. However, as recently amended, SB 293 (Padilla) requires local agencies to limit retention to 5 percent over the life of a project, thus protecting potential bad actors and placing public interests and public funds at risk. The League opposes this bill that includes language to exempt projects deemed “substantially complex” by the jurisdiction, but there is no definition of substantially complex. This may lead to increased litigation and bid process challenges. [\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Public Safety Contract Bill May Offer Opportunity for Law Enforcement Collaboration AB 1087 (Brownley) will be made into a two-year bill and could give cities and counties an opportunity to ensure a steady transition between local agency’s law enforcement services in times of financial hardship. [\[FULL STORY\]](#)

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 for more information.

SAMUEL ADAMS: It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds.

Vanguard is published independently by Vanguardians, Inc. Advocating for Accountability– Our vision is to live in a community where all people can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

1 COMMENTARY

You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them. The commentaries do not necessarily reflect the position of Vanguardians and are the opinions of the writer.

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



Charter Art 23, Sec. 25. Of the City Charter of the City of Glendale says, “Political activity or contributions on part of city manager, etc. Neither the city manager, nor any person in the employ of the city shall take any active part in securing, or shall contribute money toward the nomination or election of any candidate for a municipal office.”

When our City’s forefathers wrote that section of the Charter they were well aware of the issues dealing with city employees who could, if that provision wasn’t in the Charter, make certain that the people they worked for and contributed to, would stay in power.

I do believe that section of the Charter was prepared before municipal government unions were formed. Those unions were created to collective bargain, not to work for workers’ rights as do non-governmental unions.

Then to add a layer of complexity and to break away from the latest campaign finance reform wherein the unions could only contribute one thousand dollars to a candidate there came the Political Action Committees (PACs) that have no dollar restriction so long as the candidate is not directly involved with the endorsement of the mailer or the financial support he/she receives..

One of the words overlooked in Art 23 Section 23 is ‘person’. Now to those in the legal profession they look at that word as follows: **person** n. 1) a human being. 2) **a corporation treated as having the rights and obligations of a person. Counties and cities can be treated as a person in the same manner as a corporation.** However, corporations, counties and cities cannot have the emotions of humans such as malice, and therefore are not liable for punitive damages. [Emphasis added.]

Maybe we should ask the Courts to decide if the Charter, which as we have heard from the City Attorney, comes before the California Constitution, prohibits unions and PACs from contribution for elections. But then, Attorney Howard capitulated when he opined that the Constitution may pre-empt the Charter making the water transfer illegal, but even today knowing that, the City continues to violate the law.

"If you can't drink a lobbyist's whiskey, take his money, sleep with his women and still vote against him in the morning, you don't belong in politics." Jesse Unruh. And the same holds true for municipal unions and their PACs.



HOW TO RESTORE FINANCIAL HEALTH TO GLENDALE'S BUDGET – SURGERY IN 35 STEPS

The budget discussions were inefficient, wasteful, and misdirected the key issues that the city council must tackle to fix inherent problems for the long haul. Spending countless hours on how to reduce some hourly workers to save in some cases less than 0.0001 of the budget, borders on skullduggery.

Raising fees or cutting access to park facilities, hiking fees to bus riders and rate-payers, then throwing some rank-and-file employees out the door may seem necessary. But such tactics are demoralizing to the public and rank-and-file employees who carry the heavy workload. Squeeze hard-pressed unemployed taxpayers and rate-payers whose dwindling incomes have caused many of them undue hardship is unjust. The proposed budget options will do nothing to stem the long-term bleeding of red ink. Emergency surgery is needed now to remove the growing tumor of benefits and growing mid-manager employment that's choking off vital city organs.

Though, by law, the benefits that Unions have acquired can't be taken back without their approval, included is a list of the inherent abuses in the employee contracts (MOUs) that merit correction. The city council must look out for the city's taxpayers, residents, and rate-payers as their first priority in these harsh economic conditions.

Here is the fix.

1. Since the pensions are partially based on last year's salary, there should be a salary and step freeze to anyone who might be retiring within five years. That means no promotions, special assignments, or gimmicks to boost pay.
2. Since medical insurance for public employees in Glendale has increased by more than three times the national average in the last ten years, the city has plenty of justification to pay only half of the lowest HMO rate. The city must take a tough stance. Employees should pay the difference. That will save over \$11 million dollars right away.
3. The Post employment health benefit is now subsidized by the city. To restore the pay-as-you-go concept, all employees must increase their contributions to reduce the subsidy to zero. Additionally, the city must restrict the generous sick leave policy by half. That sick leave policy only serves to accumulate the city's obligation to pay for those OPEB benefits – Savings about \$1.2 million dollars
4. The city must clamp down on the egregious workmen's compensation claims that climbed to \$16 million in 2010 out of a \$150 million payroll. Take drastic measures to cut it in half – save at least \$8 million dollars this year. Aim for less than 4 million per year. Cut all the bogus Fire and Police disability retirements such as those that Police Chief Randy Adams aimed to claim for himself.
5. Managers responsible for the safety of employees or who are responsible for evaluating disability claims have not been effective in controlling those costs. To me, it is lax oversight. The city increased its mid-management staff by 90 positions since Jim Starbird came to manage the city, but there has been no let-up in excessive costs. Cut at least 20 management positions this year. Savings \$3 million. Cut 20 more positions each year for the next three years.
6. Managers should not be paid for overtime, nor be paid compensatory time off, nor have any of that time applied to the Other Post Employment Benefit payments.
7. For years managers have been paid for every other Friday off while claiming that they worked 80 hours every two weeks. Furlough all managers earning over \$100,000 by cutting 26 days from their annual pay. Fridays off will not be paid. Savings of roughly \$7.5 million dollars.
8. Supervisors should manage at least 10 employees. Anyone supervising less than that number should be demoted and their pay cut. Savings roughly \$5 to \$10 million dollars.
9. No department should be allowed to accumulate overtime hours in excess of 5% of base payroll. Exceptions should only apply to natural disasters.
10. The city adds 9% to the salaries of Safety personnel who then use that increase to pay their share of their retirement. The city should renegotiate that hidden abuse. Reduce the pay by 9% and pay the money directly to CalPERS. This way, a lowered salary will be computed toward the pension obligation. This is a long term financial benefit to lower the city's pension burden and stops the misleading claims by the city manager and mayor that employees are carrying their fair share of the pension burden.

11. Replace all the paramedics with contracted ambulance services. It will remove the pay spiking that many fire-fighters have in getting qualified for EMS then boosting their pay. Direct expenditure savings of \$15 million dollars. Net savings of \$5million with huge savings in the pension obligation into the future.
12. Contract with the County fire department and remove the top-heavy Glendale Fire department.
13. As an alternative, have the GFD match the staffing structure and costs the county fire department would offer. Goal to trim 6 to 10 million dollars of excessive staffing and bloated overtime.
14. Contract with Burbank or Pasadena for helicopter service on as-needed basis. Savings \$1 million dollars. Give helicopter away in exchange for \$100,000 worth of air support services.
15. Reduce the police force to year 2000 levels by reducing the ratio of sergeants to patrol officers. Tighten the qualifications for police officers who will then need less oversight. The city's population decreased in the last ten years and crime has been decreasing for over 15 years by almost 50%. Most of the declines occurred before the police augmentation effort got started. Savings of at least 10% of police payroll or a minimum of \$6 million dollars annually.
16. Limit the total of all Full Time Equivalent Employees and consultants to not more than 1% of the city's population.
17. Limit the growth of city's total payroll expenditure and benefits to not more than 2% per year.
18. Stop all new low-income housing development and purchase buildings already built to code. The city could provide twice the number of affordable housing units and reduce its internal staff. Direct savings of 5 positions if not more. Fully burdened savings about \$1 to 2 million annually.
19. Install a 311 system for city services and aim to cut non-emergency 911 calls by at least 50% - Savings undetermined, but should be in the millions of dollars.
20. Cut all college tuition re-imburements and remove all the bonus payments from those who got a college degree while working for the city. Savings unknown. Assume 50 employees at \$10,000 each or ½ million dollars per year.
21. Reduce pay-steps to just three levels and freeze all step pay augmentation. Savings around \$2 million. Flatten the organizational chart to just five levels. Apprentice, Rank-and-file, Supervisors, Unit Manager, Department Manager.
22. Extend pay-steps to two-year spans. No pay-step promotion if local unemployment equals or exceeds 5.5% - Cost of Living Adjustments should be at 50% of CPI (Benefits justify reduction)
23. Cut all travel expenditures by 50% from 2010 levels. For example, trips by low level managers for conferences in Las Vegas and stays at expensive Vegas Hotels. Savings unknown.
24. Remove all nickel-and-dime type benefits such as paying police and fire personnel for qualifying with a gun or riding a helicopter. Remove all clothing and dry-cleaning allowances to Fire and Police. The justification is that their gross salaries have doubled in the past ten years. The city has been more than gracious with their pay increases, and carrying a benefit burden that has tripled in cost.
25. Assign limited Procurement-Cards only to essential business units. Limit the issue to no more than 50 P-cards and limit their individual expenditure to less than \$300.00 – All other purchases must go through requisition process. Savings unknown. But discipline sends a strong message.
26. Business units with employees who sue the city for discrimination, sexual harassment, or other labor-related practices will have their budgets cut to the amount of the judgment and attorney fees caused. Managers of such units will have their pay frozen until city is able to recoup the losses. Such managers should not be eligible for any promotions or transfers. Savings undetermined but could save the city several million annually. Unit reductions s/b made through furloughs.
27. All project managers must be appropriately certified by the Project Management Institute before handling any project exceeding \$1 million dollars. Savings of several million annually if projects are better managed.
28. Establish a PMO – Project Management Office to instill best practices and have substantive monthly public report to the city council on the status of each project over \$1 million with regard to timelines and cost.
29. New development projects must have a design/build contract. Stop the abuse of the general contractor blaming the design for their barrage of change orders and cost overruns.
30. Modification to projects that exceed more than 10% of the original project cost must subject for open bidding. No exceptions.
31. Disqualify any developer/builder who has been sued by a municipality or other governmental entity in the past seven years on grounds of cost overruns, or quality of workmanship, or unmet deadlines.

32. Provide monthly financial statements with annualized figures along with Full-Time-Equivalent staffing levels. The annual financial reports must be completed and audited within three months after the end of the fiscal year.
33. Return the city to Pay-as-you-go financing of capital expenditures. Long term bonded debt should not exceed 33% of the city's total revenues unless there is a natural disaster.
34. Negotiate city contracts to remove the guaranteed pension payment (Defined benefits) and instead opt for a defined contribution to their pension fund in an amount not to exceed 10% of base salaries and where all combined benefits not exceed 15% of salaries.
35. Provide 10-year side-by-side comparisons of Departmental salaries, Overtime , Pensions, Benefits and Capital Improvements. Initiate a new management ethos in across-the-board strategic planning, costs controls, setting performance measures, and making Police and Fire departments accountable to results.

The annual savings to the city should be at least \$50 million dollars and gradually extend toward \$100 million. These steps will put the city into a strong financial footing and the city council can begin the process of paying down its debt, rebuilding the city's aging infrastructure, creating jobs, and improving its quality of life.

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

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

TIFFANY AND Co, CRUISE SHIPS, AND HIGH-END RVs LIGHT MY FIRE.

What is a poor retired fire-fighter to do once he's bought a set of council members? Go shopping for a nice big sparkler for the wife? Schedule a three-week cruise around emerald-colored Caribbean islands? Go online for rhinestone seat covers for that new \$200,000 Recreational Vehicle?

Ahhh, the pleasures of a fat pension courtesy of a robust employee association orchestrating the election results. There is nothing quite like having a quartet of self-absorbed city council members with a verbose capacity to misdirect and mislead the public. Are these Glendale voters' suckers? Or What?

The pleasure of GFFA members is only augmented by watching residents come before the city council begging for a \$5 dollar break on their sports facility use fees. Though, come to think of it, they could have had much more pleasurable watching a roomful of bus-riders pleading for a \$0.25 reduction in their bus fare. Too bad those aging seniors are too weak to walk and can't make a protest when they find out that their free warm meals won't be coming any longer. That would have been too outrageously funny to tell the burly brethren at the fire-house. "Hey guys, we just dropped-kicked grandma!"

The tale above is not a script for some sadistic movie plot written by a born psychopath. It reflects the nature of American values going down the sink hole of narcissism. I sat watching as Fire Chief Scoggins toyed with his Blackberry as baseball and soccer coaches begged the city council for a reduction in the proposed fee increases. But the Fire Chief was not moved. Not a single solitary glance at these parents, let alone a tear or a snuffle. I sat watching as the chief ignored the spectacle taking place just a few feet away from him. I felt like I was watching Justice Clarence Thomas in another but closer dimension.

Missing from the budget introduction were the youth whose programs will be cut. Missing were also GUSD teachers who will be thrown out the door as the school district figures out how to pay for the increased electricity fees. Millions in excess electric fees will eventually be poured onto the benefit packages of Chief Scoggins and his well-heeled troops at the fire houses.

There is an ethos of greed that permeates many in city employment that is coupled with a mindset of retribution against any sitting council members who will not comply with their outrageous demands. So long as we elect officials who feel that they have too much to lose by sacrificing their seat on the dais for the common good, we will be sinking a bigger financial hole for Glendale taxpayers and ratepayers.

The burden on the residents will continue to increase as their quality of life diminishes exchanged for a fire-fighter's trip to Tiffany and Co. Diamonds anyone?

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AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Evil, as a definition, has no place in psychology, but I would not be surprised if a professional who studies personality disorders may have used the term as shorthand when trying to explain unconscionable wickedness to a lay person.

Evil is the absence of conscience. You find it in the people who feel no regret and feel free to say and do horrific things. They are as unconcerned about the damage they cause as they are about whitening their teeth, dying their hair, or getting a pedicure. They won't lose any sleep over the pain and suffering they may cause others. They walk in a world of their own not understood by roughly 95% of the rest of the population that developed empathy. But they are there. You just need to know how to identify them.

Sure, you can recall Bashar Assad, Muammar Gadhafi, Slobodan Milosevic, and Saddam Hussein. But, Immigrants who come from other parts of the world can easily add to this a long list of murderers who capture the reins of power to exercise their ruthlessness upon their innocent people. But these despots have no regret. They won't lose any sleep over their people's suffering.

The fallacy we carry with us is that psychopaths are at the extremes of personality disorders. But psychopathy is a continuum of varying degrees. In the U.S. it is estimated in the millions. We now recognize the thousands of mortgage brokers who made a bundle of money by lying to unsuspecting borrowers and inducing them into signing outrageous and fraudulent loan documents. They may not be on the same league as the murderers – just the minor leagues of unconscionable behavior. Bernie Madoff never killed anyone, but the trail of financial devastation he left behind caused untold suffering.

Psychopaths fill our prisons. By some estimates, ten percent of our prisoners fall into that category. Maybe four times that many fall under the sociopath label where a semblance of remorse may exist but often limited only for their own families or the in-groups with whom they associate. The rest of the psychopaths, not in prison, pick careers where they can leech a good life from the effort and labor of others. They are parasites who often harbor grandiose dreams and seek the short cut to get there.

If intelligent, they'll charm and talk their way into any position of prominence. They may have careers in medicine, law, real estate, and business, but what they have in common is a unique characteristic to hide their malice as they talk their way into your deepest confidence. They are indifferent to your welfare, but when you find them out, it will be too late. Your bank account will have been cleaned out or the deed to your property will have been lost to their manipulations.

If they are not so intelligent, they'll bully their way and bulldoze their victims. They are crass, foul, authoritarian and abusive. They live in a dog-eat-dog world, exploitative, and their lies divulge an unmitigated hubris. Theirs is a distorted reality in which only their self-indulgence is preeminent.

But it is in politics where we must identify them. It is the one career where the charlatan thrives. At the local level few check their character let alone their references. They master deception and the ability to win over people. They know how to push buttons, exploit others, and are relentlessly vengeful. They aim for status, riches, and an easy life. Their calling card is betrayal.

If you are patient, you can learn their ways. But you won't uncover them overnight. It takes time as the evidence mounts and their words are negated by their deeds. You'll learn eventually that their displayed emotions are shallow and contrived.

They are consummate liars and need to display their superiority with fine jewelry, luxury cars, and ostentatious trappings. For most of them, the goal is money, power and sex. For many others the goal is to live at the expense of others, do as little as possible, and take as much of the credit. The former you may find in brokerage houses; the latter you often find in government bureaucracies where they make the life of their subordinates miserable.

Here is the sad part. They can't be reformed. If you know one, the best recourse is to stay away from him. But if you elected them, you'll need to fight them tooth-and-nail before they squander the city finances, tax you into bankruptcy, and load up the bureaucracy with their like-minded brethren. Find them flattering each other, giving themselves accolades, or bestowing meaningless awards.

Look for them tonight in the evening news. Or identify them in action behind the dais at a nearby city council.

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INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY

Chief Godfrey, it has been over a week since you emailed me about assigning on-duty primary emergency response resources to perform ceremonial duties. You were quick to inform me that Engines 21 and 29 had off-duty personnel aboard when they attended the funeral in Monrovia for a 53 year old Pasadena firefighter who died in his home town of Upland, San Bernardino County, of a heart attack while working out in a private gym near his home.

As I pointed out, you failed to answer the core policy question of allowing on-duty personnel to attend such ceremonial functions. This failure to engage the public on important policy issues that all other departments within Glendale city government are eager to supply is troubling. It adds credence to the public's belief that the GFD operates in secrecy. Your failure to answer important policy questions affecting the public's welfare has exposed a lack of openness and transparency that runs counter to your public image and core values contained in your Mission Statement.

In an earlier email I accused your department of intellectual dishonesty. Your email informing me that no on-duty personnel attended the funeral is another example of this practice. While you were eager to inform me that I made an error when I assumed the two engines that attended the funeral were on-duty (and I congratulated your department for making that decision), you omitted the fact that you took two other critical first responders out-of-service as a result of the funeral ceremonies. Having researched your assignments for that day, I discovered that you took Rescue Ambulance 26 and Truck Company 26 out-of-service for ten hours and reassigned them to the City of Pasadena. You also failed to mention that you also took Engine Company 26 and Truck Company 21 out-of-service for several hours while the Paramedic Rescue Ambulance and Truck Company were assigned to Pasadena for the day which expanded the unprotected areas in Glendale significantly.

You also didn't acknowledge that on the same day in question, you staffed four of your engine companies with three firemen for five hours and closed two others during the same period. The selectivity in which you release information confirms your interest in keeping the public in the dark about important policy issues directly affecting them.

Here is a summary of the assignments of your emergency resources for the day of the funeral:

1. Closed one truck company and one rescue ambulance
2. Removed a second truck company (66% of truck company resources city-wide closed) and one engine company for elective non-fire training.
3. Staffed four engine companies with three personnel and closed two additional engine companies from 4PM to 9PM for an elective meeting at fire headquarters.

How can you claim to have the public's best interests in your decision making when your actual performance reveals something very different. You claim that staffing three on engine companies is inherently unsafe, yet you do so routinely. You routinely close stations for elective activities that do not serve the public's interests. And you routinely fail to answer legitimate questions about policy.

Your chief declined an invitation to attend a meeting of a group of Glendale citizens to explain his new EMS model, yet he claims the GFD is open and transparent and is willing to engage the citizen stakeholders at every opportunity. He is only interested in attending meetings that he can control. He avoids those that give equal footing to public input in the discussion. What does he fear, an honest and open discussion on one of the most important policy decisions in a decade affecting the quality of life of Glendale residents? These examples add weight to my claim that the GFD consistently engages in intellectual dishonesty.

Given the short history of our email exchanges, I suspect you will labor over the above content to see if you can find a hint of factual error so you can bring it to my attention, while continuing to avoid answering the tough questions being presented.

Respectfully submitted, **Bruce Philpott**

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

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

2 Shout Box

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

Further from an advisor on last week's letter about Council pay: The author makes some very good observations about the evolution of how we got to where we are now. He is minimizing what CalPERS is now saying is one of the largest hidden costs to employers: They are known as Other Pension Benefits. They will typically include \$1100 per month for medical insurance. Their last year salary that sets the amount they will receive in retirement contains several or many bonuses including marksmanship, bilingual, uniform allowance . . . the list goes on and on. Some pay up to 20% of salary for longevity. Some contracts are very detailed and complicated and are intended to hide the actual amount of benefits and bonuses.

But the public records act allows us access to their annual compensation and we are now shockingly aware. The added benefits to the regular 90% has become a major concern to CalPERS. They are frightened to death when they run their actuarial programs. Some of them predict that it is going to get much worse in terms of how much the employers are going to have to contribute.

All of this spells disaster of a magnitude never witnessed by any living person in memory. And local governments continue to pretend everything's going to be okay. They have not shown any willingness to break out of their rigid mode that is resistant to change. Scholars and think tanks are trying to tell the Starbirds, Weavers, Quinteros, Najarians and Friedmans that the only way to survive bankruptcy is to restructure and innovate. But they continue to go down the same road to ruination. It started a little over a decade ago when the state legislature passed a law that enabled local public safety unions to seek the 90% retirement at age 51 (30 years of service). The politicians were happy to give them these incredible benefits in return for their financial support during their reelection campaigns. All local politicians want both police and fire endorsements. In the past it has been very successful for local politicians and unions. CalPERS made it easy for the politicians to give away these benefits when they determined they had sufficient financial resources to accommodate the new pensions. Once the police and fire unions received their huge increases in pension benefits, it opened a large gap between public safety and the other unions. So, over the next few years, the non-safety unions were able to get the same benefits the police and fire unions moved up from. It has become a double hit on CalPERS. All parties have some culpability.

This is going to rain hell down upon the lowly taxpayer. None of the parties that feed this catastrophe had these folks in mind. Advisor P

##

Love your PRA request on likely Conflict of Interest violations by City employees and your challenge to the possibly faked City population numbers that have been used to get bigger paychecks for our elected officials.

And with the City Rose parade float in jeopardy where is the self-proclaimed King of all things Rose float when we need him to help keep alive a cultural icon? Dreaming of Roses Inc. How much money has he raised and what has he done with it? A timely question for the peripatetic City councilman at the next Council meeting. That is unless his chair is empty as it usually is during oral communication.

I suggest since Dave Weaver likely won't be able to contribute a penny to a 2012 City float that he be put to work on a scaled-down entry to be constructed by him and his fellow travelers including former Councilman John Drayman (as part of his court-ordered Community Service once he has been convicted). Advisor W

[ED – For \$130,000 paid directly by the donor instead of a behest payment to Weaver, there are several entities that could pool some money and take over the sponsorship on behalf of the City – The Americana, the Glendale Galleria, Komar, the developer of the Hyatt Hotel, Nathanson the developer of the Laemmle Theater, the Glendale Car Dealers Association and the Glendale Fire Fighters Association.]

##

I am so sorry to impose upon your very hectic work schedule but try as I might; I have been unable to find the Glendale City Budget for this year. I understand that we will be in the red but I am wondering what the total expenditures are expected to be versus the total income. Why do we have both an Assistant City Attorney and an Assistant to the City Attorney? Shouldn't both have a secretary and leave it at that? I just happened to notice that and it struck me as being weird. We are, however, way too top heavy. Where can I find the figures? SS [ED – [Right here](#) item 9 hearing]

##

It sounds like good news when you see what the Orange County Grand Jury is investigating. Glendale is totally excessive in the salary range of over \$100,000 for the population. It is just the "good ole boy" system at its best.

Did you see Council last night? Ara Najarian is getting far too emotional and his remarks at the end of the meeting reek of attempts to censor and intimidate those wanting to speak. Sure one can get exasperated but that is part of the meeting and he signed on for the job. Calling it the 'Hate Session' was totally irresponsible. He took a broad brush and maligned everyone with it. WC

##

Mike Mohill spoke at City Council. Here is what he said:

During candidate forums, Councilman Dave Weaver often told the public the average city worker retires with a pension ABOUT \$27,000 a year. Was Mr. Weaver using fuzzy math when he never defined the word average?

Recently reported in the Glendale News Press, nearly 30% of the city's work force of 2,400 earned at least \$100,000 a year. If this is true, how could the average city worker retire with a pension about \$27,000 a year? Was the GNP using fuzzy math or Mr. Weaver?

The unions were smart this time around by not publicly endorsing or giving any campaign money to any of the incumbent candidates or challengers. But, what they didn't tell the public was the POLICE political action committee (PAC) sent out a mailer endorsing Councilman Weaver at a cost of \$8,612. Although, no campaign money was given to former councilman John Drayman by the city fire fighters union, they supported him by walking the streets campaigning for him. In the wisdom of our city forefathers, Article XX111, Section 25 of the city charter states "Political activity: neither the City Manager, nor any person in the employ of the city shall take any active part in the securing, or shall contribute toward the nomination or election of any candidate for a municipal office." But, employees went around the Charter and formed PACS (Political Actions Committees), which today are unregulated as to how much money they can spend on any candidate. Furthermore, except for Councilman Rafi Manoukian, our four sitting council members have been endorsed or received money from the unions or their PACs.

A few years ago City activists were able to influence the council to limit to \$1,000 the amount any candidate can receive from any person, entity or company, but not PACS.

Is a council seat so important that council members are willing to sell their souls to the unions?

Nowadays, Councilman Weaver is quoted as saying the city got "ripped and gave away the kitchen sink" when negotiating with the unions in the past. Having sat in labor negotiation for years, didn't he have many opportunities to say NO to the unions?

To reduce city labor expenses the City Manager and Council pat themselves on the back and say how magnanimous the unions have been to make concessions on their labor contracts, but in reality no hard bargaining occurred and council members just kicked the can down the road. Tonight, will probably be no different, as four council members have received in the past thousands of dollars in campaign money from the four city unions.

According to the seniority system, the unions will allow their newest employees to be pinked-slipped first, which will perpetuate their \$100,000 a year membership club. This will also mean continued millions of dollars in pension obligations.

Until the voters get mad enough due to reduced city services and increases in fees and rates, perhaps, then, AND only then, will the people become angry enough to vote for council candidates who are not beholden to the city unions.

\$100,000 plus pensions for life along with post employment healthcare is unacceptable for retired city workers, while many of the people who have to pay these pensions live on Social Security.

##

Thank Bruce Philpott for an excellent presentation on what we can expect from the new fire-EMS model. Apparently only one council member stood up for the Glendale residents who will pay for a flawed model, one that will increase the time for response. Too bad that the remaining members of the council don't read consultants' reports. The consultant's report indicated that on a transport the engine would add time to go to the hospital and then return to their district reducing resources. While on a structure fire at least three paramedic teams would be out of district increasing precious minutes for a heart attack or stroke. Meanwhile the 60 new hires will cut down the expense and save money. What on Earth was the Fire Chief smoking? Scoggins was unable to answer the question during a budget study session when Council member Manoukian asked him about how much the new pension burden would be. It was too bad that the fire management chose the cowards way out rather than publically take on someone that has studied the Glendale Fire Department. KEG

[ED – Chief Scoggins was invited to speak. This was his response to Councilmember Manoukian. “I will have to decline of the offer to me or a member of my staff, to present Fire's points of views on the topics that Mr. Philpot will present at the weekly Vanguard meeting tomorrow morning. I/we in Fire have had many discussions with Mr. Philpot on different topics that relate to the Glendale Fire Department and I do not see the value in having an open debate on the issues. Mr. Philpot's actions at the last study session and Mr. Allen's comments at last night's City Council meeting, assist in confirming my beliefs that this is not an objective audience.

Regards, Harold D. Scoggins, Fire Chief, Glendale Fire Department (818) 396-7GFD]

##

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

**City employees spent \$5.4M using their city issued credit cards. Wouldn't you like to have a credit card to use with little restrictions and someone else pays the bill?
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.**

The following demonstrates the support from ADI and National Fire Contractors and subs for what they thought was a sure-thing, until a divorce split the assets and brought in a conservator in mid 2010 ending the need to own politicians.

Is this 'pay to play'? Below is a list of ADI subs that contributed money to Mayor Friedman. Drayman needed another guarantor for his promises.

Date	Name	address	city	zip	b/o	amount
1/26/2009	AA Electric & Plumbing Inc	7421 Laurel Cyn #16	N Hollywood	91605		\$500
1/26/2009	Artisan Co	1481 N Hundley St	Anaheim	92806		\$1,000
1/26/2009	D & A Coating & Restoration, Inc	2560 E Fender Av #G	Fullerton	92831		\$1,000
1/26/2009	Sam Deutsch	16281 Dorilee Ln	Encino	91436	Bluewater Plumbing	\$1,000
1/26/2009	Andranik Eddy Galstian	1120 Mountbatten Dr	Glendale	91207	Investor	\$1,000
1/26/2009	Glen Fire Protection Co	722 W Wilson	Glendale	91203		\$500
1/26/2009	Ivan Construction Inc	6635 San Fernando Rd	Glendale	91201		\$500
1/27/2009	Khan Consulting Inc	1111 N Brand #403	Glendale	91202		\$1,000
1/26/2009	Doug Kowalski	12300 Gladstone Ave	Sylmar	91342	Valley Metal Supply	\$1,000
1/26/2009	James Okeefe	29427 Bluewater Rd	Malibu	90265	Bluewater Plumbing	\$1,000
2/26/2009	Firecom Technologies Inc	4613 Hume Av	La Crescenta	91214		\$1,000
3/13/2009	Najdeh Mirzabeigi	7741 Via Capri #15	Burbank	91504	Neds Electric	\$500
3/13/2009	National Fire Systems	722 W Wilson Av	Glendale	91203		\$1,000
3/13/2009	P R P Painting	315 W Verdugo Av #204	Burbank	91502		\$500
3/13/2009	Precise Air Systems Inc	404 w Colorado St	Glendale	91204		\$1,000
3/30/2009	J & G Sweeping	13461 Desmond St	Pacoima	91331		\$500
4/6/2009	Central California LLC	12059 Crest Ct	Beverly Hills	90210		\$1,000
6/30/2009	Rita Arezoomanians	4613 Hume Av	La Crescenta	91214	Firecom	\$1,000
6/30/2009	CSS Drywall Inc	2466 E 5th St	Highland	92346		\$1,000
6/30/2009	Fairweather Roofing Inc	1212 E Ash Av	Fullerton	92831		\$1,000
6/30/2009	LA Elite Framing Inc	1754 Vallecito	Hacienda Hts	91745		\$1,000
6/30/2009	Magda Thomassian	5725 Ocean View Bl	LCF	91011	National Fire VES	\$1,000
10/29/2009	Shahin Hartunian	3016 Manhattan Av	La Crescenta	91214	Electric	\$1,000
						\$20,000

Mayor Friedman needs to share her ongoing relationship with those that supported her election. As documents will show, she never voted against anything that Advanced Development and Investment, Inc. (ADI) wanted not any of deposed council member John Drayman wanted nor did she demand the city investigate Mr. Drayman.

Drayman's pay to play...

These entities paid Drayman and then he voted on the ADI Vassar Villa project.

Schedule A (Continuation Sheet) Monetary Contributions Received		Type or print in Ink. Amounts may be rounded to whole dollars.		Statement covers period from <u>3/18/07</u> through <u>6/30/07</u>		SCHEDULE A (CONT) CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page <u>19</u> of <u>22</u> I.D. NUMBER <u>1271992</u>	
NAME OF FILER <u>CITIZENS FOR DRAYMAN</u>							
DATE RECEIVED	FULL NAME, STREET ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE OF CONTRIBUTOR (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER I.D. NUMBER)	CONTRIBUTOR CODE *	IF AN INDIVIDUAL, ENTER OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER (IF SELF-EMPLOYED, ENTER NAME OF BUSINESS)	AMOUNT RECEIVED THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE TO DATE CALENDAR YEAR (JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)	PER ELECTION TO DATE (IF REQUIRED)	
5/16	CALIFORNIA CARPET 1116. 1717 S. MOULDER ST. LA, CA 90006	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		1,000	1,000		
5/17	FIRECOM TECHNOLOGIES 4613 HUNTER AVE. LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		1,000	1,000		
5/16	NATIONAL FIRE SYSTEMS 555 ARDEN AVE. GLENDALE, CA 91203	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		1,000	1,000		
5/17	IVAN CONSTRUCTION 6635 SAN FERNANDO RD. GLENDALE, CA 91201	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		1,000	1,000		
5/24	ALAN BUILDERS, INC P.O. BOX 3723 GLENDALE, CA 91206	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		5,000	5,000		
SUBTOTAL \$				9,000	9,000		

M I N U T E S
GLENDALE HOUSING AUTHORITY
MAY 29, 2007

1. ROLL CALL - Drayman, Mincey, Yousefian: Absent
Authority Members Drayman, Mincey and Yousefian were absent for roll call but present for closed session.

2. CLOSED SESSION - 1:08 p.m.

a. Conference with Real Property Negotiators: Property Location 3673 San Fernando Road. Negotiations are Authorized with Advanced Development and Investment. Agency Negotiators Attending the Closed Session are: Jim Starbird, Madalyn Blake, Scott Howard, Michael Garcia, Robert McFall, Philip Lanzafame, Gillian van Muyden, Dave Ahern, Hassan Haghani and Peter Zovak. Instructions to the Negotiator(s) will Concern the Price and Terms for the Purchase of the Property.

General Counsel Scott Howard indicated that action was not anticipated. The Authority recessed to closed session at 1:08 p.m.

Councilman Manoukian has a webpage where readers can get data that is not easily obtained
www.manoukian.us The television interview with Retired Police Chief Bruce Philpott about the changes in the Glendale Fire Department can be seen on that website or
[06-24-11, Bruce Philpott reveals what Glendale Fire Chief Harold Scoggins did NOT tell the Glendale City Council](#)

"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, 2nd Floor at 613 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.
Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

Monday, June 27

Historical Preservation Commission – 2:00 pm MSB 548-2140
 Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960

Joint Meeting –RE: Budget Adoption for the Finance Authority

– 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844
 City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

City Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 to be adopted during this meeting

Tuesday, June 28

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

Wednesday, June 29

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

Community Meeting – Draft North Glendale Community Plan
-- 6:00 pm, Sparr Heights Community Center, 1613 Glencoe
Way, Glendale. (818) 548-2140

Thursday, June 30

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

Friday, July 1 No Meetings Scheduled

Saturday, July 2

Grand Re-Opening – Griffith Manor Park – 11:00 am,
1551 Flower St., 548-2000

Monday, July 4

Federal Holiday – All City offices and Library branches closed

4 *Vanguardians*

Meet our newest volunteer who has taken on the FaceBook social media site, Josh Bronson from the state of Maine. He is a Computer Science major, and will be switching to Political Science for his bachelors. Politics about conversation and participation is what gets him excited; he serves on committees to stay involved with the local government. He is a frequent letter and e-mail writer to Members of Congress of Maine. Josh went on to say, “Although the Vanguardians efforts are currently based in a few locales in California, it is still pertaining to politics and I feel has the opportunity to really get people involved all over the US. Again, I would be honored to partake in this organization and I only had one question... Does the Vanguardian take any type of political bias towards a particular party? I'd be much more interested if this was a nonpartisan effort, but I would still be interested regardless. Thank you graciously for your time. Joshua Bronson.”

SOLD: Drayman memorabilia – the 10, 3' x 4' posters of his building code debacle including the plans. A new Glendale Museum bought them for an exorbitant amount to be displayed in the 'FRUITS of CORRUPTION' section.

Vanguard archives are available by clicking – [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)

People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and for Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.

Vanguard is following these lawsuits and others: the 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza. The cases cited are from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa.

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

Please make checks payable to “VANGUARDIANS” Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226

Your contributions are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.
- www.maplight.org to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, call 818 243 1502

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

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character. [Margaret Chase Smith](#)

5



the Insider is written by city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are

concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



Numerous city employees called about their involvement in protecting John Drayman and we provided the answers.

"Politics is entertainment. It's a sport. It's for the well groomed and well heeled. The impeccably dressed. Party animals. Politicians are interchangeable." - Bob Dylan

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

Another sad day for Glendalians as CCM Najarian cried out, "Point of Order!" to Barry Allen's invitation to the Town Hall that was going to explore the dealings of the Fire Department, the same guys that came to Najarian's house to cook dinner for him and a few friends. City Attorney Select, Mike Garcia, basically put Najarian at ease telling him that Allen was doing the right thing. Najarian is having a difficult time. He isn't sure where he lives whether in Glendale, La Canada or at a lovers' abode. Now he adds to his emotional outburst, his arrogance toward the public and his ignorance of the financial fires that surround him. [06-21-11, Video: "Glendale City Councilman Ara Najarian Suggests Renaming Oral Communications, "State Your Hatred"!"](#)

Barry Allen, Vanguardians director said, "Mr. Najarian, here is what I hate – politicians that lie and encourage others to lie; politicians that are corrupt and protect others that are corrupt. I don't care what, if any, house of worship they go to, their ethnicity, age, gender, whether they are fat or thin, tall or short. I hate officials that are in the 'game' to feather their nest, and those who forgot to notify the electorate when he moved to mom's house, the same person who lied about a fellow candidate."

Mr. Weaver made his apologies for being a jerk. Needless to say, it is something we have long recognized. **Then he made his pitch to send money for the float.**

He represented the Americana being their Chamber of Commerce to extol the virtues of two new stores. Well I wonder how much that will cost Mr. Caruso.

Next up for Weaver was when he was saying he already received \$20,000 from someone for the Rose float, an amount that will probably not see the CoG bank account. Remember when Weaver took over the Rose Float committee and then turned it into his cash cow, Dreaming of Roses? The IRS is still investigating his personal non-profit that he sold seats on the float for and created a phony scholarship fund. Almost forgot...he sold a seat on the float to a chap by the name of Ajit Mithiwala the principal of what firm? **Try ADI! The only one to say that Weaver was full of ...himself was Frank Quintero. Dave, the BlackJack Oldtimer, mentioned that his records went ca-floey when his helper came down with an unknown disease. However we checked and GW is fine, just disgusted with Weaver. Must have been some early on dementia for Weaver.**

Ms Friedman was cited by the League of Women Voter's regarding ethics. She did share all the meetings she voluntarily attended, maybe even soliciting cash for her next campaign.

But never fear, all those budget cuts were just theatrics to get the public to understand how the Council stood up for them. The effort was wasted. It is another year and one half till the next election and political memories are short.

Council should demand that the Police Department turn the Drayman Embezzlement Investigation over to the LA County Sheriff or the LAPD as the employees that are working the case are members of the same union that supported Drayman in his election bids. The Fire union counterpart, Capt. Stavros, was photographed by the GNP along with Drayman watching the election returns coming in.

Overall rating for the week ending June 25, 2011:

Weaver	Quintero	Najarian	Friedman	Manoukian
F	B	F	F	Absent

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

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