



“Accountability”  
Glendale’s Watchdog

[Send me](#) Herbert Molano’s easy to understand ‘Glendale Financial Data from 2000-2009’

**Vanguard**  
Weekly News Vol III  
Week of June 29 2008  
City of Glendale, CA Edition  
[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)  
818 243 1502

## Mayor Muzzles Budget Speakers Vanguardians Serves Mayor with Brown Act Complaint

The four stages of Vanguardians “First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.”  
Mahatma Gandhi describing the stages of establishment resistance to a winning strategy of nonviolent activism

**When WE are complacent THEY win!**

We accept no funding from any governmental agency or political institution. Your support of Vanguardians is critical in winning a battle we cannot afford to lose. All donations are tax-deductible. Vanguardians is a 501(c)3 charity.

### NEWS

The Brown Act for open meetings took a slap from Mayor Drayman on Tuesday when he declared to those attend that there would be no public comment during Action Item 8d the adoption of the City budget. Basically saying there is nothing new to hear and he won't hear it. The City passed the budget without comment from the public on Action item 8d. [Here is the text of Barry's comments.](#)

Vanguardians served the Mayor with a Brown Act Cure and Correct letter for not allowing the public to speak on an Agenda item. Swami Drayman, the clairvoyant, indicated there was nothing new to be heard and other than from the Chevy Chase people nothing new to be learned, a reminder of the myth that the head of the Patent Office told Congress in the late 1800's there was no longer a need to keep the patent office open because there was nothing else to invent. The City has 30 days in which to respond. This issue is an important one as legislative bodies are doing more and more to silence the public. [Glendale's official newspaper](#) weighed in, “Peter Scheer — executive director for the California First Amendment Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to free speech and open government — said that while it's preferable for government agencies to err on the side of additional public input, Allen's legal challenge appeared to be a “close call.”

Council member Najarian wants the Demijrian's of Candlestick Lane to wait forever to be able to enjoy their home. After the TPC and staff said these obstacles should be removed and signage and other mitigation be installed, he said that they should indemnify the City in case someone sues the City for removing what the City put in. The City budget covers a passel of attorney's plus outside counsel and the City Attorney signed off on this one. Najarian forgot that in Glendale we hire attorney's not elect them.

Grandview: At a status conference on June 24, Judge Mohr ordered that Grandview be opened to the public on the following dates: June 29, July 13 and July 27 - 12 to 4 p.m. The openings are being handled by Plaintiff's attorneys' the defense is against the openings claiming safety issues!

Broadview Toxic neighborhood. Spokesperson for toxic testing says the number of people involved is up to 50. This is the case where the GFD accepted a soils report for a Glendale Community College address instead of the gas station at Verdugo and Broadview.

Beeline Route 13, at a cost of \$54 per hour, can't ever break even. 12 passengers, tops, at 25¢ each or \$3.max. Usually there are 2-4 passengers from Glenoaks Canyon to Adventist. It has become an entitlement Council voted to continue.

City Investigator investigates 10 cases of Harassment including sexual; 6 cases of discrimination and/or favoritism and promotion; assault; sleeping on the job; setting off fireworks; vandalism and accepting unearned compensation. From a period of January 2007 through June 15, 2008. Looks like the sexual harassment program isn't getting through.

[Inglewood Mayor charged with 4 felony counts.](#) [LA City Attorney taken to task by Controller over workers comp cases](#)

**Supreme Court rejects 'millionaire's amendment' to campaign finance reform It rules that allowing federal office-seekers to exceed normal contribution limits when their opponents are wealthy violates the 1st Amendment.**

He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money. --Benjamin Franklin

**WEAVER WATCH**

Sponsors of Miss Asia Pageant from their website. According to a Glendale City Press Release Councilmember Weaver sits on their Executive Committee

Charter Communications	Has the Cable Franchise in Glendale	
Kajima Construction	Contractor for Embassy Suites a redevelopment Agency project	
Carruso [sic] Affiliated	Owners of the Americana	
The Americana	A Redevelopment Agency project	
Gangi Development	Recipient of City funds from the purchase of 'open space'	
Super Shuttle	Same owner as Southland Transit the Dial-A-Ride operator	
GLENDALE WATER & POWER	Glendale City Department	
KPMG	Harrah's Rincon Casino & Resort	Sherri Hill
KCS west	Nationwide Homes, Inc.	Rusnak Automotive Group
	AIG	ARAGON Entertainment Productions

ELIE WIESEL It may well be that our means are fairly limited and our possibilities restricted when it comes to applying pressure on our government. But is this a reason to do nothing? Despair is not an answer. Neither is resignation. Resignation only leads to indifference, which is not merely a sin but a punishment

**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good women & men to do nothing**

**If you have issues with the City and you fear retaliation, bring them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.**

**City Council**

Council	6-24-08	Cum	Contact info
Drayman	E	B	<a href="mailto:jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us">jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Najarian	C	C	<a href="mailto:anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us">anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Quintero	C	B	<a href="mailto:fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us">fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Weaver	D	D	<a href="mailto:dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us">dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Yousefian	B	B	<a href="mailto:byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us">byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>

**DRAYMAN RECEIVED THE 'E' BECAUSE HE LET THE PUBLIC DOWN. SEE COMMENTARY**



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

GFD Roster 5/1/08	GFD Roster 10/1/07	Other Depts. pare down but the GFD has union financial obligations that come first.
1 FIRE CHIEF	1 INTERIM FIRE CHIEF	
1 DEPUTY CHIEF	2 DEPUTY CHIEFS	
5 BATTALION CHIEFS	5 BATTALION CHIEFS	
41 CAPTAINS	39 CAPTAINS	
36 ENGINEERS	38 ENGINEERS	
54 FIREFIGHTERS	55 FIREFIGHTERS	
44 FF/PARAMEDICS	40 FF/PARAMEDICS	
13FF Recruits		
52 Civilian Employees	52 Civilian Employees	
247 <b>EMPLOYEES</b>	232 <b>EMPLOYEES</b>	

A strange Council meeting at best. A caller asked if it was because of a full moon. No, it wasn't. It was just the flailing and flagellating of frustrated candidates for re-election. The Mayor and Weaver aren't up to bat. Weaver moved the question on the budget and then voted. Next he asked when the vote would be. Dying cells. Meanwhile he was caught in an untruth about his January 11, 2005 vote against sidewalk repairs in Montrose. Next time Weaver makes a statement of how he voted...check it out. He knows how to impeach himself.

CM Najarian spent some time taking Vanguardians to task for its educational and advocacy component. In response to him, I emailed this statement:

"That language sounded familiar. But don't stop at the salacious, titillating parts, continue to the meat... Lobbying

A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.- [continue](#)

GFD Management has eliminated 3 firefighters from Station 23. When they could have eliminated one from each company per platoon and the Battalion Chief's Aide de Camp for a total of 39 people all of whom could have been used for overtime fill-in, totally reducing position coverage OT. [More](#)

FLORYNCE KENNEDY You've got to rattle your cage door. You've got to let them know that you're in there, and that you want out. Make noise. Cause trouble. You may not win right away, but you'll sure have a lot more fun.

JOHN F. KENNEDY Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed -- and no republic can survive

**Vanguard** is published independently by *Vanguardians*; Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city's departments, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

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## 1 [Commentary](#) *You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.*

*Commentary is available in Spanish*

An empowered, involved and engaged public can get things done when there is willingness amongst their elected representatives. Last week however, they were turned away from being allowed to participate in government in the purest form...being allowed to speak directly to their legislative masters. "No, said King John, you townspeople have spoken enough. Tell us no more, our minds are full." Little children coming for the first time to see the King and his wise men sitting on their...thrones. King John erred in denying the speech while relying on a lawyer to give his OPINION. How will these adults and their children look at this Glendale government in the future? We all work so hard at getting community participation and in one 'foul sweep' (IZS) the King sweeps it away. In reality the government wants no one snooping or calling them to task especially over the management of our financial resources. King John, the clairvoyant, said there was nothing new to be heard. What about the lady that won a \$57,000,000 lottery and wanted to donate it to the Fire Department? What about those that wanted to question some of the new revenue centers that don't exist? And what about the kids and their parents that just found out about losing the Chevy Chase library? Another sad day for Glendale when the King won't hear from his charges.

Next we will hear that the Agenda was long and arduous. Who but the King sets the agenda? No one! The 4<sup>th</sup> week proclamations should have been at 4:30 so that working city employees wouldn't've had to come in on overtime. Candlestick lane should have had a vote supporting the TPC. Then the increase in trash fees hearing. King John was testing the mettle of his constituents.

Fortunately there is a higher authority to which King John will have to answer. [King John's response to the complaint](#). King John relies on the legal expertise of the City Attorney who often loses cases such as the writ of mandate for the police officer.

A commentary from Herbert Molano:

According to the Financial Report for 2006-07, total expenses for the electric utility had decreased by 7% but the city council approved a rate increase of 12% Why?

What is more troubling is that the in 2007 production cost of energy decreased by 11.4 %. but distribution costs increased by 18.9% (See page 21 of the GWP financials - page 9 of the PDF) on to the GWP website.

We need to separate the fuel costs needed in the production of electricity, the fuel costs of energy purchased from other sources and separate these from the labor costs to get at the impact of increased fuel costs for this year.

There is no doubt in my mind that the costs of labor and benefits for the distribution side of the business plus the transfer of funds to sustain the salary and benefits increases of the General Fund is a significant contributor to the rate increase imposed on the public now.

It's only logical. If the city increased rates by 12% last year while reporting a decrease in expenses, then it follows that today, even though fuel costs have doubled, a significant cost increase must be labor and benefits at both the distribution end of the GWP electric utility financials and at the General Fund which requires massive transfers from GWP.

What is the percentage increase due as a result of purchase of

hydrocarbons to generate electricity? That's what should be conveyed to the public. Remember, it is a rate increase on top of last year's increase (which was not justified by costs) and the rate increase will also increase the Utility Users Tax.

to employees many of whom are already earning more than three times the per capita income in Glendale and many times more on the per capita income of residents of southern Glendale. That inequity should be the true essence of the story.

We are hitting tens of thousands of residents in dire financial straits with increases to support major pay and salary increases

**Your continued and ongoing support for Vanguardians and other civic watchdog groups is money well spent to bring accountability back to local government. But we can't do it alone.**

## **WE NEED YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE FINANCIAL [HELP](#) TODAY For all of us to have a better quality of life.**

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with. [ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

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

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](#)



This is a paid advertisement

**Beat the gas price by working from home as a telecommuter. Talk to your employer about a free appointment with Fieldworks experts in setting up the system and preparing management and the telecommuters for their expectations. Call FieldWorks today at 818 243 4864 or email [ba@fieldworks.net](mailto:ba@fieldworks.net)**

## **2** Potpourri

[WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS](#) Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.

Under the heading, "it makes it all worthwhile." I was going at the post office when a voice rang out, "Barry." I spoke to the gentleman and he applauded me and others for standing up for the community. He watches every Tuesday. He inquired about my health. I assured him that otherwise for a summer cold exacerbated by asthma I was OK. "How can I help?" he said. I suggested he get involved by coming to meetings. "No, how can I help you do what you do?" Send a check. "I will and thank you for keeping us informed."

### **Letters & Email**

**ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.**

**From Mayor Drayman: "I enjoyed the edition as usual. The write-up on Trader Joe's was incorrect, so if this was a Vanguard error, I know you will want to correct it.**

**At no time did I say that studies had already been done by the MSPA that concluded Trader Joe's should be chosen as a tenant at the former Ford Dealer site. If you watch the replay, you will see that this contention is wrong.**

**What I stated was that another retail survey regarding the Shopping Park was, in my view, an unnecessary waste of funds because two previous retail studies have already been conducted and paid for by the MSPA. Both of these indicated the same thing, namely that the balance of retail throughout the Shopping Park would most greatly be enhanced by a retail anchor at the west end of the BID.**

**Your, or the writer's, contention that the city should make the determination as to what that retail anchor might be is, in my opinion, correct.**

**To this end, the city spent a full month conducting public outreach in the form of a public forum with the property owners, a public forum with the business owns and a public forum with the residents of the area and any other interested parties. These were conducted at the Montrose Branch Library Meeting Room, the Citibank Community Meeting Room and the Sparr Adult Recreation Center respectively.**

**The planning department, which carried out these forums, also distributed and conducted written surveys for three weeks at the Harvest Market at a city-manned booth, over the Internet via the City's Website and through one-on-one interviews with a dozen community leaders of every conceivable area of opinion.**

This is the outreach which produced the name Trader Joe's. In fact, that was one area of almost complete agreement. But, the bigger point is that the Trader Joe's notion did not come from the surveys to which I referred nor did I state that. If you have any questions,

do not hesitate to let me know. PS: I continue to read Vanguard with interest. Although my opinions sometimes differ from those expressed in the publication, it is illuminating to hear viewpoints from across our city."

I was never a fan of Bob Yousefian. I got caught up in his less than pure California accent. But I'll tell you, I am changing my mind. As I watch him more at Council meetings and I realized that he is really trying to be my, or rather, our advocate. He's honest about admitting he doesn't know everything and asks questions of the staff in public. He doesn't take it too well when he finds out he has been lied to. I can understand that. He is innovative and suffers slights from his colleagues and yet, even if he disagrees with their basic political philosophy, he will vote with that person, if he agrees, and acknowledge them for that. By the way, I enjoy your weekly report card. I would like to add my two cents worth. How can I do that? PH [ED For those that would like to rate the Council each week, send your 'grades' to [Vanguard1@charter.net](mailto:Vanguard1@charter.net)]

Barry, Even though you were a bit under the weather last night, it seemed Councilman Weaver was the one in need of a medical leave of absence. Another YouTube moment when he completely detached from the proceedings seemingly unable to recall a vote that had just been cast. Bizarre behavior to say the least.

affirmation of democratic principles and the societal value of watchdog groups ever coming from that dais. He really seemed sincere in his support for you and Vanguardians and his perspective reflected a long needed change from the prevailing adversarial approach favored by some other council members. If well-deserved recognition ever leads to a city proclamation, count me in the audience at that one. GG

On the other end of the performance spectrum was Councilman Najarian. I can't remember a more heartfelt

\$47 K contingency for \$168M budget- amazing! Was Najarian being sarcastic at the end there or was he pandering to you? JP

I was very glad to hear Ara Najarian saying what he did about you and your cause and your public work. It was very good of him to say it and the others should have spoken out too. You are awesome SL

CM Quintero said the City has \$500,000,000 or \$50,000,000 available. Why did he vote for closing Chevy Chase Library when the amount needed was less than \$100,000? Why didn't he stand up to Mayor Drayman and demand that all of us from Chevy Chase have a chance to

speak on the budget? Is he waiting for John Drayman to win the election for him? I am really upset. DJ [ED We can't answer on Mr. Quintero's behalf but would suggest you talk with him. You can catch him before or after meetings at City Hall on Tuesdays.]

**CALLS:** Nice work by Mr. Molano. Nice ad in GNP. Inertia has a motion component as well as an at rest component. **NEWTON'S SECOND LAW OF MOTION-** This law is the strongest force of the three laws of motion. It states that an object accelerates in the direction of the net force that acts on it and in the opposite direction from the mass itself. This law has to do with the principle of momentum. Vanguardians has the momentum – keep it going!

Thanks for filing the Brown Act Cure & Correct letter. At least you are the representative of us all. I am sending you \$1,000 to cover legal fees for filing the suit.

Mayor Drayman represents Montrose. He does not care for those in Chevy Chase Canyon. He treats us like sh...

Publishing the \$100K club was a brilliant maneuver. HW said that ad cost \$2500. Here is my share.

I can understand Mayor Drayman's attitude because he was one of those that suffered from the bigotry of the past. [ED – We all suffered bigotry in the past...however when you are an elected official – a choice made by that person – you set aside those preconceived issues and you agree to represent everyone even if their values are personally repugnant.]

Yousefian is looking better every day even while the Quintero surrogates try to do him in.

It appears to me that Mayor Drayman is turning into another Dave Weaver..just more theatrical and has his memory intact. He really protects his Montrose fiefdom.

**LINKS** [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org) [Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) for a free copy of waste of taxpayer money, read [Piglet Book 2007](#) . -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#) [The Glendale California 100K Club](#)

Just enter your zip code and you can find out which gas stations have the [cheapest prices](#)

Links have now been added to connect you DIRECTLY to Streaming Video of all four Budget Study Sessions:  
[The Glendale California Budget Letters & Articles Regarding Open Government in Glendale California](#)

**CALENDAR** – Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)

**Tuesday, July 1**

2:30 pm Glendale Housing Authority -- Glendale Redevelopment Agency, City Council Chambers, City Hall,  
2:30 pm **Joint Meeting** – Glendale City Council/Glendale Housing Authority/Glendale Redevelopment Agency  
RE: “Green” Buildings  
6:00 pm, Glendale City Council

**Wednesday, July 2**

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140  
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission – 3:00 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2000  
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

**Thursday, July 3**

Committee for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:30 am, Room 106, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2060  
Design Review Board #2 – 5:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

**Friday, July 4**

All City Offices Closed – Independence Day National Holiday

**ARTICLES**

Bruce Philpott sums up the [financial issues in Glendale](#)

By Karen Maeshiro, Staff Writer LA Daily News

[PALMDALE](#) - After a year of declining revenue and the city's first layoffs since 1997, the City Council has adopted a leaner \$223.1 million budget for 2008-09. The spending plan represents a nearly 21 percent drop from the prior year's adopted budget but includes increased spending for law enforcement.



**Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Installs Solar Powered Parking Machines Downtown**

The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency has installed new solar-powered pay stations at three Downtown Long Beach parking locations: 4th & Pacific; 7th & Pacific; and Long Beach Boulevard at Broadway. The new machines accept coins, cash, debit and credit cards, and replace outdated 'honor boxes' that only accepted cash. [Click here](#) for more information.

[While cities can afford generous employee compensation when tax revenue is pouring in, it causes fiscal problems in lean years like this one, said Tom Davidoff, a professor at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.](#)

### 3 Open Government



A Records Act request was made for the names of the 13 cities Glendale uses for wage comparisons. It will take an additional 14 days to come up with the list. Is the list just a figment of the imagination? Council would never ask for a list like that.

The current issue of City Views has an ad for Dreaming of Roses, Inc. Please provide documents indicating which department or group paid or transferred funds for that advertisement.

The announcement relating to Dreaming of Roses appears on the Management Services page of City Views, according to the City Attorney. It looks like the City Manager may have been complicit.

Provide documents for Neighborhood Services section of Community Development and Housing Dept showing:

- 1- Roster of names, titles and job assignments (Organizational Chart)
- 2- Job descriptions for each position
- 3- Salary information including name, job title and salary for 2007

The City exercises its right to extend the time to respond to the request below by an additional 14 days. The additional time is necessary to gather documents from multiple locations.

## 4 Vanguardians

You can sponsor an ad that will reach many people in the City that aren't 'online'. Call Barry for details 818 243 1502

Introducing the Vanguardians Board: Jeffrey Stadnik, BS in Industrial Engineering, Cum Laude University of Michigan, former COO of a 330 bed teaching and research hospital and a supporter of accountable government. Even though we both are from Michigan we met in California about 20 years ago. Jeff brings his analytical ability to the Vanguardians Board.

Vanguardians Speakers Bureau provides speakers that are not restricted, restrained or prohibited from speaking candidly on their topics -- there is no approval required from the City Officials.

1. Bruce Philpott on answers to the Glendale Fire Department lack of accountability.
2. Dr. Richard Espiritu on ADA compliance. 90% of our population is affected by disability
3. Barry Allen – How accountability through advocacy helps bridge the gap between the public and government; the California Sunshine Laws – Open Meetings, Public Records and Public Officials' Financial and Conflict of Interest reporting requirements -- Financial Red Flags

These knowledgeable people are available for your organization, service club, homeowners or neighborhood associations. Call Vanguardians 818 243 1502 or email us at [info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org) to book them

### VANGUARDIANS

Please make checks payable to "VANGUARDIANS" Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226  
Contributions are tax deductible – You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

[Vanguard1@charter.net](mailto:Vanguard1@charter.net) to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.**

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## 5



**the Insider** is a digest of information from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. Their identities are kept confidential. The comments are their own.

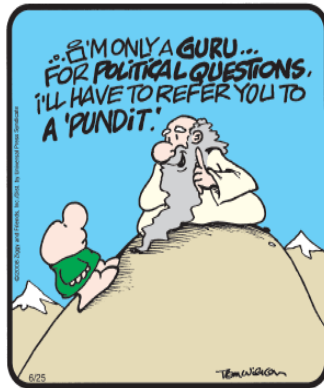
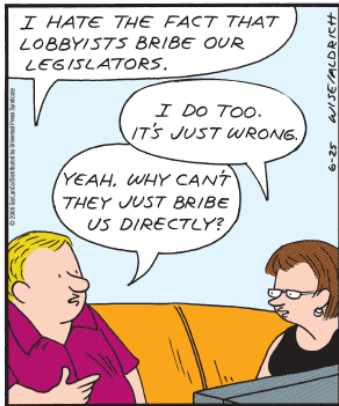
PD is quite unhappy that several officers told the truth about telling the truth during testimony in the Writ of Mandate litigation to overturn a Civil Service Commission ruling allowing the City to fire a colleague. The Court denied the Writ. Budget cuts came at just the right time to make payback look good. City spent more money on lawsuit that on prevention and policy rewrites following the Frieders lawsuit. Coming suits could devastate City reserves. Beware, Brad Gage is coming to do a sequel in Glendale Movie Town.

There are indications that McFall, after recently getting married, is now looking at retiring soon. GWP, now that they have a new GM, is looking to reorganize their operations. Get ready for the internal battles. Look for more visibility for Mike Wiederkehr in Public Works as he is prepped to take over as Deputy Director. Interesting use of sewer funds, fixing the MSB building. Looking back on the Civil service commission meeting of 6-11, the Police Association was the only brave group to stand up and voice an opinion for using independent hearing officers. Confirms what most employees think of their associations, that they are really weak.

When the Council appointed Matt Doyle as Director, they couldn't stop praising him. Wonder what they think now with all the personnel issues the City has going to Court and threatening next year's budget?

**HARRY S TRUMAN** Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.

## 6 Humor



## 7 JUMP



Barry Allen's words unspoken due to Mayor Drayman's edict: Action Item 8d – Adoption of City Budget 2008/2009: “With the City spending more than it takes in each year we were bound to hit a major dry spell taking our reserves. And here we are. The economy is down, unemployment is high, jobs are not available, gas is \$5 a gallon and the cost of living is up. Has the City Council and City Management learned anything? Apparently not. Last week they could have asked the City unions to renegotiate. Did they? No. Several weeks ago Bruce Philpott gave them an opportunity to make the Fire Department accountable to the tune of \$10,000,000, without degrading service. Philpott based his program on facts and the GFD responded with anecdotes. They are so busy that they added another PIO according to their

May, 2008 roster – so now there are two captains writing press releases @ \$140,000 a year base salary. They said they were going to cancel the recruit academy but now they have firefighters assigned to reference checking. They take fire engines and trucks to the supermarket to buy dinner. We give certain city employees take home cars without any accountability but with a full tank of gas and insurance.

We could have put that \$8,000,000 to use for everyone – that is \$6.5M plus the resultant OT.

\$8,000,000 could give us 8 miles of repaved roads, clean up and fix up Rockhaven so we could enjoy it in our life time, add some soccer fields; provide park rangers; secure the parks; make open space usable -- yet we are paying people that don't live here and live in areas where there are only 3 people on an engine and not four. It is necessary for Glendale but not for them or their children. Sort of hypocritical.

Today the City can order the Fire Department to make organizational changes without reducing staff but cutting OT to almost zero. They can direct the GFD to require 40 hour workers that get an 11% shift differential not to work operations shifts where they would get OT ala Chief Doyle at \$250,000.”

Continued from City Council: Legislation includes ... any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (such as legislative confirmation of appointive office), or by the public in referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure. It does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.

An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

Ara - it is a tough battle but we are winning. Even though you don't publicly support our vision or mission I know where your values are. As the GNP inquired, the ad placed was after the vote and thus was educational not lobbying. Feel free to call and chat. October would be a good time to receive a proclamation as we would be into the 4th year of publication. Thanks for your support.”

## **8** Coming attractions

Saving money for the City -- a vision;

POST SCRIPT: Not to worry about my absence from City Council meeting on July 1. Other obligations prevent my attendance.