



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Barry Allen joins
Chahe Keuroghelian on
WINDOWS Channel 280
Monday 10PM Sept. 8
Call in 818 547 3668

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol III
Week of September 7, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

City Hall poured another \$417,000 into the Chess Park

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!



Public documents that are posted on the web by Vanguardians shows that the City, as documented in the latest Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR-6-30-2007) shows that the Chess Park is a work in progress and \$417,000 was spent on it in 2007. One City official said that it had to be a mistake that the Chess Park was finished ages ago. The question arises, where was the money spent? The City Attorney wants another 14 days in addition to the 10 days allotted by the public records act. **ANALYSIS:** The City Management is very upset with the number of people watching and reporting on their activities. Dr. Richad Espiritu is an example of the City using its power in an attempt to shut him up. The Mayor showed his power by making a phone call to get his friends to speak against Barry Allen. Bottom line, Management will say that Council made the decision and Council will say that they made the decision based on Management reports. Who loses? The Public!

A special message to City Council candidates. Vanguardians, as a public service, will share any public records we obtain. Please make your request to Barry Allen at 818 243 1502. As a 501(c)3 we are prohibited from either supporting or opposing any candidate for public office.

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

They came first for the agitators, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an agitator;
And then they came for the activists, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an activist;
And then they came for the advocates, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an advocate;
And then they came for the journalists, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a journalist;
And then . . . they came for me . . . And by that time there was no one left to speak up.

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	9-2-08	Cum	Contact info
Drayman	C	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us
Najarian	B	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us
Quintero	C	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us
Weaver	B	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us
Yousefian	B	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us

Weaver gets a 'B' for honesty based on his statement he has no knowledge of the Arts. Quintero continues to follow his leader. Najarian was paying attention. Yousefian was the man of vision and wisdom when it came time to unite the City rather than divide it as the Mayor has done. The Mayor wanted to put the Weaver matter on the agenda...now that the dust cleared.



DRAYMAN'S CONSTITUENTS
Mayor Drayman talking down to his constituents

What will the Council do this week when the issue of campaign contributions surfaces
As they vote on the elimination of the 'in-lieu' fees for affordable housing?

We need the Council to add two items to the Campaign Reform Ordinance, 1) Term Limits (2 terms) and 2) quarterly campaign finance disclosure documents.

The Arts and Culture Commission -- Lana Mahanay reporting on the City Council discussion

If there was one thing that everybody agreed about on Wednesday evening, it was that the Arts & Culture Commission was ineffective. Nobody was willing to take responsibility for why, in the years since the Commission was started, it has not done anything worth mentioning. Everyone was willing, however, to point his or her finger at somebody else. Amador Solis, a member of the Commission, spoke saying that the Commission had not received any direction from the city council, and that all attempts to contact them had been ignored. Council member Bob Yousefian said that the staff was largely responsible for not carrying out what he thought was a very clear agenda. Dave Weaver said he supported having an Arts & Culture Commission, but thought that it should have been a private organization.

Ara Najarian talked about some of the different art and music organizations that are available in Glendale: there is the Alex Theatre, the Glendale Art Association, the Unity Fest, the Glendale Symphony Orchestra, the Glendale Youth Orchestra, various theatre and choral performances put on by students at Glendale Community College, and more, but none of the events or organizations that he mentioned had been created or maintained by the city's Arts & Culture Commission. Najarian complained because the Commission had not had a role in these organizations, but he didn't seem to feel that there was a lack of art or art opportunities in Glendale.

Former mayor Sheldon Baker and Commission Chair Razmik Grigorian spoke with the strong opinion that Arts & Culture Commission should remain a part of the City. They stressed the importance of art and culture in creating an accepting community and a desirable place to live. \$160,000 was spent in total for the Arts & Culture Commission, and \$27,000 went directly to the arts, while the balance went to payroll. Grigorian claimed that each citizen paid less than ten cents for the Commission, which he argued is an insignificant amount for trying to promote the arts, however, this figure is unclear; dividing \$160,000 by 200,000, his estimate for the population of Glendale, means that each person paid eighty cents for the Commission, and even if he used \$27,000, the amount that went directly to the arts, each person would have paid thirteen and a half cents.

When it came to be Mayor Drayman's time to speak, he said he thought there needed to be a "task force" to take up the issue. It should include some members of the current Arts & Culture Commission, he said, along with some local business owners, and any members of the community who might be particularly helpful. He did not provide details concerning who should be on the task force, when they should meet, what they should do, or what their budget might be. On the advice of council member Yousefian, the mayor added the task force should have something worthwhile done by January 09. Attention started to shift to the next action item, when Yousefian asked for clarification of what had been decided about the Arts & Culture Commission, "what changed?" he asked Drayman. Mayor Drayman replied that "nothing has changed."



Get 10% off your purchases at many Glendale merchants – Check them out at www.loyalty.com No coupons or punch cards. Look for the Olive Tree at your favorite merchant. To enroll send a check for \$40 to Vanguardians POB 11202 Glendale CA 91226 and your card will be sent by return mail.



GFD sets their priorities to fight brush fires when requested to by the State Office of Emergency Services (OES). The State OES requires a minimum of three firefighters per rig. Chief Scoggins and the union say four. Meanwhile State and Federal firefighters don't get paid \$200,000 per year. And Battalion Chiefs don't get paid overtime. It is time for the public to open their eyes and see we pay employees to sleep.

Chief Scoggins was upset with the last Vanguard article about the loss of life. As you will recall, the GPD provided us with information about their response to the Loraine Street fire. The GFD requires that we make a public records request to receive data from them. We did use their press release that was devoid of meaningful data. The City agreed to spend \$300,000 of fire station upgrades that will not get service to the public any faster.

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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You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.

Mike Mohill is a candid man. He came before the dais and the public and said that he voted for Drayman and Weaver because they were not Armenians. He admitted that he was clueless regarding the issues. When the tree issues hit the front page he decided to get involved. He listened to the CCMs on the dais. He heard Bob Yusefian read the letter from the Collards. He heard Weaver say that he got one too. Most importantly Mohill said that he is better informed on the real issues and had he known in April 2007 he would not have voted for Drayman and Weaver and he will never again vote based on ethnicity. It takes a big person to acknowledge he was wrong and how he will correct this in the future.

A guest Commentary by J. Stein



Barry, thanks for keeping me in the loop. I read the Glendale News Press online, peruse the Glendale Family Jewels Blog, get and read with relish the Weekly Vanguard and watch your City Council meetings. I do have some questions. Is the Mayor Jewish by birth or practicing? If so, does he belong to **Beth Chayim Chadashim**? I also note that the Mayor is the only one on the dais that isn't married; does that mean he isn't ready to make a commitment?

What spurred me to ask for an opportunity to pen a guest editorial is I thought you needed some outside support for your endeavors to bring an accountable government to your City and by extension to other Cities through a grass-roots engagement.

Your Mayor reminds me of the [J Edgar Hoover FBI](#) [ED – Link regarding Hoover who died in 1972 added] days when, if there was a criticism of the establishment, Hoover would go after you with all vengeance and all the power of Law Enforcement. He even went after Gays even though he was a closet homosexual, not being 'outed' until his death. Then the Mayor writes in an anonymous blog instead of being righteous and presenting his complaints to the Pasadena Weekly or to you, Barry. His complaints should have been taken up with City Management or himself for not addressing the 5-week old Pasadena Weekly article. I now understand why his 'actor' career was so limited.

Apparently Dr. Espiritu came into his radar and he didn't like it. Why hasn't he demanded the Police Department investigate who used law enforcement only databases to search on Espiritu in an attempt to discredit him? Did Drayman ask Espiritu if he was a practicing Chiropractor? The answer is, "No." I did take the opportunity to call Dr. Espiritu and he confirmed his degree and the fact he went into healthcare administration. Like the cop with a law degree who wants to better understand his career.

Drayman doublespeak's, "Issues that are not issues." He also spoke about spending an 'inordinate amount of taxpayer money' and doesn't cite specifically what he means. A chap by the name of Mike Mohill has come forward and talked about spending \$8,500,000 to buy a pig-in-the-poke. I doubt that Espiritu caused the City to spend that. Espiritu brought up the issues of continuing dysfunction in the police department that already cost the taxpayers over \$6,000,000. Bruce Philpott brought up the issue of overspending in the fire department to the tune of \$6Million and spoke of a \$10Million savings. "Pooh, pooh on you, Mr. Philpott and on you Barry Allen Silverman for telling the public that we owe ONE BILLION DOLLARS in bond principal and interest! The voters don't need to know that."

It is unfortunate when the local newspaper, the recipient of the contract to provide all the legal advertising, has allowed the relationship to taint their independence. It is also a shame to see the City of Glendale restrict public opinion and public access by removing Oral Communications to the end of the night and by removing materials that have not received Managements' approval from the Peoples House and for the Mayor, in contravention to the Brown Act, to allow speech against your requests for public documents, an issue which is not within the purview of the City Council. Barry, again, thank you for the opportunity to address your readers. J. Stein

Imagine being a Glendale councilman and experiencing first-hand the needs of Glendale residents. If you are Weaver or Yusefian, you cannot help passing through Glenoaks park, one of the best laid out neighborhood parks in the city. You get picnicking areas, barbeque areas, even free tennis courts and basketball. There is a premier

playground and convenient facilities. The grounds have great upkeep with lush mature trees and deep green grass. If you live in Glenoaks Canyon, you've got parks galore.

In strict measures, this is recreational planning area 11 with 6.67 acres per thousand residents - above the minimum threshold of six acres per thousand that is the city's goal as the minimum standard.

If you drive by Verdugo Park and Glorietta Park on your way home as councilmen Najarian and Drayman do, you'll experience the great open spaces and peaceful reminder of premier city areas with 5.9 acres of parkland per thousand residents. And if by chance you have a 20 meter lap pool, you don't need to be reminded of the lack of aquatic facilities for the general public. Empathy is so relative!

If you live in the upper reaches of the Verdugo mountains, as councilman Quintero does, with an expansive view of Glendale and Los Angeles, you may forget about the claustrophobic living of the densest areas south of the 134 freeway. There in Recreational Planning area 10 you have Piedmont Park and Wilson mini park. The combined total of this parkland is 0.017 acres per thousand residents, about the size of a one bedroom apartment for a population of nearly 32,000 residents.

So this past week, when providing the final funding for the Adult Recreation center, They took up the last major green open space in Central Glendale to put this needed facility and its surface parking spaces. The areas that have the largest increases in multi-family development with a history of parkland deficiency that gets worse every month, these fine gentlemen with a verbosity of misdirection and fluff just decided to take up the last 2.5 acres of city-owned open space and tossed away a grand opportunity in the dumpster of failed concepts.

To make that decision, these councilmen had to ignore the land use element warnings. They had to ignore the Recreational Element, The open space element, the air quality element, the recommendations by a Blue Ribbon committee in 2001 on parkland and open space. They had to ignore the 1996 strategic plan and the EIR for the Downtown Specific plan. Why bother with planning documents or even a planning department? No one who's ever picked up a book on Urban Planning and appreciated its core concepts would ever agree to this loss of green open space in the densest part of the city.

[Here is a graphic representation](#) of the disparity and unfairness of park distribution in the Premier City. You be the judge. This council must reconsider that decision before the proposal is sent out to bid. Herbert Molano

We are not alone:

Commentary from Doug Paul Davis of Vanguard of Davis: [Lessons to Be Learned From Vallejo's Bankruptcy](#)

~~~~~  
Some have openly wondered why the sudden focus on the salaries of public employees in both Davis as well as in the county. In truth, it is a combination of factors that stem from the alarm of what happened in Vallejo to the burning question: can it happen here. Over the course of the summer, we have looked at this question from a variety of different angles. Perhaps most concerning was the seeming lack of concern from two of the victors in last spring's Davis City Council election about the looming and impending problem of Davis' fiscal stability.

These candidates argue that Davis has a balanced budget and it has a 15% reserve. At the same time, we see signs that all is not quite as well. The reports about the city's unmet needs is alarming. Basic repairs are being left undone which means that when they finally are tackled, their costs will likely have gone up. A simple view of the budget picture is that employees salaries have gone up far faster than tax revenues. The amount the city has spent on pensions have increased five-fold over the course of just this decade. The city council at every budget workshop has looked toward the creation of new taxes. And finally, the most extreme cost to residents may be a water rate hike that was so explosive the Mayor would not even let a councilmember complete her questioning of a consultant.

With all that as context, we now look at Vallejo briefly as a guideline. Vallejo is not where we are right now, a clear view of that will emerge in a minute. The question is whether Vallejo is where we are going to end up. As we look at this analysis, I think the picture will become very clear as to why we have spent so much time looking at the issue of Davis' fiscal situation this summer. [For the full story, please click here](#) [ED With the freewheeling by Management and Council, what happened in Vallejo could happen in Glendale.]

## WE NEED YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE [HELP](#) TODAY

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](#)



### Potpourri



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

**Arts and Culture**...some thoughts I have. Dave Weaver was the only honest person when he said that if it was baseball he would understand that. Mayor Drayman is quite the expert on the Arts as he has played in some bit pieces in a B movie and some single episode sitcoms as a busboy. There was talk of an artist colony, maybe it would fly as a purpose for buying Rockhaven. No one wanted to touch on the real issue which is...Glendale is a bedroom community. Lots of **proposed** downtown development that will bring more bedrooms. Glendale is not a destination City. We boast the Alex Theater, the Center Theater, the Doctors House, and the Brand Library. Would your friends come here from the Midwest of the East coast to do what? Go to the Disney Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and Universal Amphitheater. Descanso Gardens, Our Lady of the Angels, the Huntington, Staples and Nokia Center? Or Venice Beach, Santa Monica, Huntington or Newport Beach or San Diego? Glendale does have two shopping Centers, the Americana and the Galleria, and old town Montrose. It takes more than a name. There are a number of new hotels coming to Glendale and I wonder what the owners and operators know that I don't. It is time for us to wake up and provide transportation to the destinations and enjoy our bedroom status. MK

**Please pass along my thanks** to Bob Yousefian for answering my question and steering me in the right direction. I will also call Sam Engle to get the proper citation. I watched Frank Quintero on channel 280 explaining how to start a rent control petition. He didn't say that he could or would put it on the Council agenda and then the Council could vote to put it on the ballot and we could all vote on it. The renters are getting organized and will become a substantial voting bloc in April. We get nothing from the City. Glen Oaks Canyon gets a free bus; Chevy Chase Canyon soon will get their library back even for a day a week; Northwest gets police and security protection at Brand Park and we get nothing. That will change. Thanks for including my letter. JA

I read Herbert Molano's commentary in the GNP about the need for the FBI to investigate the shenanigans in Glendale. You used to report on the investigations that Vanguardians started. What is the status on those? BG [ED – At this point we have chosen not to divulge the status of any investigation to protect the integrity of that investigation. We call to your attention the [Federal Bureau of Investigation stance on public corruption.](#)]



**We get calls:** They are really after Dr. Espiritu. The police department must be scared of some other issues that will be discovered. I read a 'Notable Quotable' in the NewsPress. It sounds to me like the Mayor wants to bring the Council dysfunction to the advocates. What is an 'inordinate amount of taxpayer money running down issues that are not issues?' It seems that the Mayor wants to blame other people for his errors in judgment.

Barry, good call on the Campaign Finance Reform on taking Campaign contributions from people with issues before the Council. Who will make sure that the Council hasn't gotten contributions from them? The 'in lieu' fees are coming up again and one applicant has given money to everyone.



[City manager aims to cut Redlands firefighters' OT](#) Not in Glendale!

**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](#) [Piglet Book 2007](#) . -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#) [The Glendale California 100K Club 2009 City Council Campaign Contributions through 06-30-08](#) ["Glendale Mayor Drayman and his acolytes" by vanmguardians](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)  
**Monday, September 8**

Glendale Water & Power Commission – 4:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2107  
Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

**Tuesday, September 9**

2:30 pm Glendale Housing Authority -- Glendale Redevelopment Agency , City Council Chambers, **Joint Meeting** – City Council/Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency –RE: In Lieu Fees for the San Fernando Road Redevelopment  
6:00 pm Glendale City Council

**Wednesday, September 10**

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140  
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2110

**Thursday, September 11**

Design Review Board #2 – 5:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

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**3**



**Public Information**

Please provide Documents for

- 1. ADV TRAVELER INFO SYSTEM \$73,285
- 2. Low Watt Radio System \$37,925
- 3. Chess Park \$471,734
- 4. Neighborhood Request Program \$6
- 5. Park Development \$3,674,177

[Your] request ... requires the City to research and review voluminous records in order to identify responsive records. The City exercises its right to extend the time within which to respond by an additional 14 days pursuant to Government Code section 6253(c). Modified request was for [CAFR Documents](#) provided August 21 Construction in progress

**CLAIMS FILED IN THE CITY OF GLENDALE SINCE 08-25-2008**  
*LaShannon Lewis Reporting*

08/29/2008 **COVER UP?- Duarte-Voquel v. City of Glendale**  
At or about the intersection of San Fernando Rd. and Los Feliz Blvd., claimant was attempting to enter into a parking lot when the claimant's right front tire was punctured by a piece of exposed metal which was protruding from the catch basin at the curb of the entrance to the parking lot. The claimant entered the lot and proceeded to go to work. According to the claimant, upon returning to the location of the incident, claimant noticed that there was fresh cement now covering the location of the formerly protruding piece of metal- seems the city had come out to repair the sidewalk. I can now say with great confidence- GOOD JOB GLENDALE!

\$\$\$ Claimant seeks \$125.44USD for the cost of tire replacement

08/29/2008 **GIMMEE, GIMMEE, GIMMEE!- Private Citizen v. GPD**  
Claimant was traveling by car when he was pulled over by GPD, reportedly, for having no visible license plates on the vehicle and illegally tinted windows. According to the claimant, when the officer approached the vehicle he smelled the aroma of marijuana (pot). Upon questioning, the claimant informed the officer that the pot was for medical purposes; apparently, this was an insufficient response thus granting the officer with just cause to search the vehicle and the claimant's person. The claimant's pot and some other items were seized from the vehicle. From the claim filed by the claimant, it's reasonable to say that he wants his pot back.

\$\$\$ Claimant seeks unspecified damages for reasons which remain unclear

08/29/2008 **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!- Pimentel v. City of Glendale**  
Claimant has filed a countersuit for damages stemming from "fraudulent conveyances, back taking of any property of value without just compensation or warrant." It is unclear as to what the initial suit involved.

\$\$\$ Claimant seeks unspecified damages for perceived violation(s) of constitutional rights

**4 Vanguardians**

**A special thank you to all our Volunteers and thanks to Volunteermatch**

**VOLUNTEERMATCH** Volunteers for reporters living in the Glendale area...please contact Barry Allen about assignments to write reports on the Commissions and Boards for Vanguard.


Vanguardians Speakers Bureau can spice up and titillate your next meeting. Our knowledgeable presenters 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

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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.

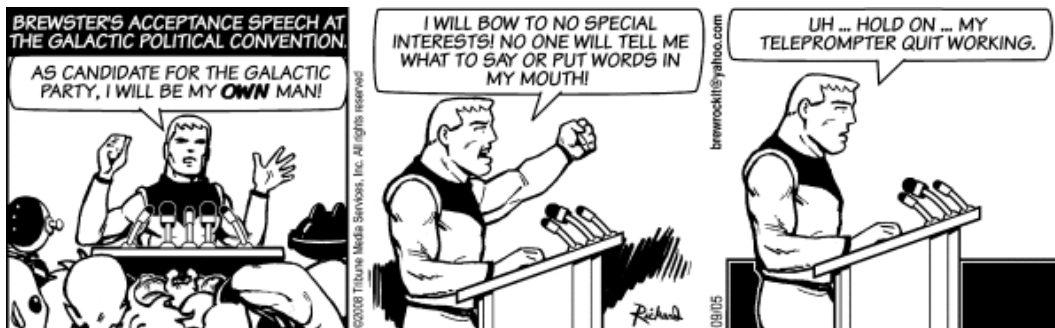
It was amazing to hear Mr. Abkarian's comments, 8/27/08, about taking a hard line against people that lie to the Civil Service Commission or against managers that retaliate against individuals that testify in front of the Commission. From his tone, these comments had to relate to disciplinary matters. First of all, everything before the commission is in secret giving the managers the secrecy they need to lie in front of the commission without reprisal. Second, the City has a practice of condoning retaliation against those who don't follow their managers directions. In the last 10 years only 3 cases have been open to the public to see what goes on in the commission with respect to disciplinary matters. Feliciano, Bear and Lee. If you look at the finding of the Bear case you see that the hearing officer, Commissioner Gantus, lied in his finding when he misstates testimony, cite testimony from individuals that never testified at the hearing, etc.

When you look at the documents filed with the court on the matter, you even see that in the City Attorney's filing with the court, it both fails to attempt to defend the false statements of Gantus and stated clearly that Mr. Bear's defending of himself and Lee in the matter was reason to be punished. A clear violation of the City's retaliation policy. So don't expect the Commission to ever stand up to the City Management or for the employees when they can't stand up to their own members when they lie to the other commissioners.

The Council action against the Ambrosia Banquet Hall sure looked like the second coming of the smoking issues pitting one group against another. Can't wait for the lawsuit on this one.

CA wants to appeal the blocked sewer case rather than lick their wounds and pay the judgment and the attorney fees. Long-term is that the City will have to acknowledge their ministerial duties as they are in the sewer business. Simonzad case will be discussed in closed (secret) session to get Council decision (approval) on this employment case. Plaintiff attorneys Goldberg and Gage (represented the Police Officers in the Sexual Harassment suit).

**6**  **Humor**



In Glendale it isn't a Teleprompter but a script



Preparing for Glendale City Election Don't dare ask about the \$1B in Bond Debt!

## 7 The Jump Page

### CRACKING DOWN ON PUBLIC CORRUPTION Why We Take It So Seriously...and Why It Matters To You



*It's #4 in our top 10 list of investigative priorities—following counterterrorism, espionage, and cyber. Why do we rank it so highly? What are we doing to stop it? For the answers to these questions and more, we talked with Supervisory Special Agent Dan O'Brien, chief of our Public Corruption and Government Fraud program at FBI Headquarters.*

#### Q: Why's the FBI so concerned about public corruption?

**Dan:** Two main reasons. First, it strikes at the core of what our country's about. Our democracy depends on a healthy, efficient, and ethical government—whether it's in the courtroom or the halls of Congress. Second, public corruption can have a direct impact on national security. For example, in a recent case in Arizona, 26 current and former department of motor vehicles (DMV) employees were indicted for taking cash bribes for fake driver's licenses, ID cards, and even a hazmat license. What if it's a terrorist trying to get one of those licenses? We've also seen bribes paid at our borders to let drugs come into the country. Again, what if a bribe lets a terrorist get through?

#### Q: What kinds of crimes are involved?

**Dan:** They run the gamut. Embezzlement. Voter fraud. Subsidy fraud. Illegal kickbacks. For example, a health inspector might threaten to report code violations unless a restaurant owner pays a bribe. Or a government official might award a contract in exchange for free work on his home or some other favor.

#### Q: What are you doing to stop public corruption?

**Dan:** Plenty. We've got a strong national program with agents in place around the nation dedicated to the issue. In our investigations, we use every tool we've got—our cyber capabilities, our surveillance skills, our ability to track financial dealings around the world. Last year, we opened over 900 cases, which led to over 650 convictions or guilty pleas. We're also proactive. We've got analysts specifically trained to uncover corruption, and our agents always have an eye out for new and evolving angles. We've got a new initiative to identify DMV employees nationwide who issue fraudulent IDs for bribes and kickbacks. And we're working with state governments to identify fraud and ways to prevent it.

#### Q: Does public corruption really have an impact on people's lives?

**Dan:** Absolutely. Public corruption can take funding away from your child's school and even prevent your street from being re-paved. Police who take bribes endanger your neighborhood. And guess who ultimately foots the bill for these crimes? We all do...through higher taxes. The Government Accountability Office estimates that at least 10 percent of the funding for federal government programs is lost to public corruption

## 8 c



Ignorance is bliss—Dangerous. The 12 props on Nov Ballot; who will win in April; The Sunshine laws On the front burner...Mayor Scared; Payback is a b---- when you give honest testimony as a police officer Scorecard comparing former Mayor Najarian and current Mayor Drayman