



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Question of the week:
Win a Breakfast with Barry
How much will the Mardikian Case cost?

Answer from last week: The Ralph M
Brown Act

Watch for the change – next week

Vanguard
News Service Vol IV
Week of September 27, 2009
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

OOPS...STATE BAR IS OPEN FOR ATTORNEY 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 advocacy



Compare the [information](#) that the City of South Pasadena provides its constituents with that of your City.

“The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.” [ED – What famous document contains these words? For the 10th person with the right answer the prize is a Friday Breakfast with Barry.]

Mardikian vs CoG – City asked for more time to make yet another settlement offer, which didn’t happen
The case sounds similar to the Honey case in W. Covina from whence came the City Manager. Judge Shimer recused himself, no doubt basing that decision on prejudging the case. All Motions were negated. Awaiting another new Judge for the next Court date of October 16. Also Vanguardians awaits the filing of a complaint against an attorney who has an ongoing ‘conflict of interest’. On October 16th Vanguardians will be traveling to the LA Superior Court in a ‘limousine’. Let Vanguard know if you want to join in. The question is...how much will this lawsuit cost the taxpayers?

Terrorist Termite Eggs carried by ADA Advocate Dr. Richard Espiritu to the Historical Commission from the Goode House made their appearance along with some of the residents of Ivy Glen Assisted Care Facility funded by HUD. This historical site is not being maintained nor monitored by the Planning Department as it should. Further, the number of complaints of ADA violations against the owners and managers of the facility, the Housing Authority under the direction of Jess Duran and the Fire Department, are now seeing the light of day because of Espiritu’s diligence. City Manager Starbird had assured the public that everything was under control. He is finding out that often the devil is in the details not in the words. The City is being negligent on the contract enforcement as the owners are violating the terms of the contract between the City and the assisted living facility. We are waiting for another lawsuit.



Council authorized a free lease and a million dollars for the neon museum. Mayor Quintero wasn’t even interested in looking at the 990 forms for MONA where he will spend \$1,000,000 of our money while laying off cops. Starbird stated that GRA money could only be used for GRA projects. However it could have used some of that excess money to hire police for patrolling GRA properties which is allowed under section 33126 of the [Community Redevelopment Law of 2009](#). Where there is a will there is a way. Relative to keeping one of the two buildings, I agree that is a good idea. However it could be rented out for market rate rather than be a giveaway of GRA funds. Here are a few examples of a better use: a Genocide Museum with support from the prolific Armenian community; or a real traffic builder...the scenes and elements of the macabre...like the MetroLink disaster as a safety reminder. Probably lots of grant money for that. The reader is invited to visit the Guidestar website and view the IRS Form 990 for MONA.



Beeline issues are again cropping up. As the City does little to enforce the contract with MV Transportation (MVT) it is demonstrating its negligence which may trump the indemnification clause in the contract. Both Dr. Espiritu and I have spoken to these issues and the lack of fiscal accountability for five years. In fact we presented evidence to show why the MVT contract should not be renewed. Patrons on routes 1 & 2 riding buses B29 & B31 are being taken ill because of non-functioning air conditioning and other toxics. One driver was cited for refusing to drive one of those buses and went to the hospital and the employer, at this

time, was refusing the driver's claim. Another driver wears a mask to reduce the fumes. The City hired additional staff to oversee this operation yet less is being done. The Internal Auditor is in the process of completing an audit which may never see the light of day. Richard Espiritu was caught on one of those buses and was told by Kathryn Engels, Director of public transportation, that those buses will be replaced at some point. This apparently is supposed to make everything OK. However MVT has 8 spare buses - which apparently aren't running either.



On the Council Agenda is a public hearing on the revocation of the variance for Montrose Collection as the City shows how business friendly it is. Also, the City is waiting for Council approval to contract out the Employee Health Service (EHS) to Adventist Hospital for a \$400,000 savings. One of many cost reduction scenarios presented to the Council by Vanguardians.

A busy week for Vanguardians as we attend a key benefit for the NGO community; visit more cities where community advocates for a better government want to take a proactive role in the financial management of their government; a working session with a key Legislator; and a presentation to the Glendale Community College Encore group.

I am a legislator. I write the laws therefore I can wrong them. Throckmorton P. Aardvark III

Vanguardians is planning a 250,000 opt-in email campaign for California residents to encourage them to become informed, involved and interested in accountable government. The email will direct them to www.vanguardians.org where your advertisement will be seen. Call Barry Allen if you want to have your business seen by 1/2 million eyeballs. Get a jump start today by calling now. This is a limited offer.

Sacred cows make the best hamburgers. Abbie Hoffman, political activist

October 2 FRIDAY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

See you at Foxy's at 7AM

Advertisement

Vanguard is published independently by Vanguardians, Inc. 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 government department, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.



LAUREL MILLER IS WORKING ON A PROFILE OF A FAMOUS ELECTED OFFICIAL

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

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Public Officials are manufacturers - many make excuses - some make trouble - only a handful make things happen www.betterpublicoofficials.com

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

From the Publisher... WE GET LETTERS



Actually we get snail mail, email, text messages and phone calls everyday of the week. Last week we received a cry for help from an assisted care facility for people with disabilities. The materials along with additional research were turned over to Dr. Richard Espiritu, Vanguardians ADA advocate. On Friday he had his first meeting with that disabled community and it won't be his last.

On Saturday we received a call for help on a Public Records Request. A call about the Chess Park, reform about healthcare, corruption, graft and issues from people that fear attacks and reprisals by city officials.

Let's take a look at some of today's letters and that will segue into our future plans. Richard Bennetts' dialogue with me speaks for itself. However, even though Drayman was not on the Council until 2007 I don't remember him coming to Council and demanding they do whatever it would take to keep Noise Within. I am certain that the \$1,000,000 now planned for a neon display that has been rejected by the City of Los Angeles could have been lobbied by Drayman for making the Noise Within venue ADA and Title 24 compliant. Today Drayman is supporting a museum that has little following, a poor attendance record and great ideas for future programs with no financial support for them. The Redevelopment Agency, in bringing this costly venue to Glendale is being consistent with its other folly's, the demised Zany Brainy (ZB) for locating at Wilson and Brand without a review of their demographic needs to see if Glendale was a good fit and the Salvation Army thrift store to replace ZB and today another copy store that along with the other 3 or 4 such stores on Brand Blvd. should be located in a commercial district on Central leaving the space on Brand for more retail or food service elements.

Marlene Walker loves to joust with us. We stayed away – as much as possible – from State and National political agendas of the major political parties. We do, however, cover the State and National government as it affects local government.

Healthcare reform affects the amount of money that local government pays for their employees and for workers comp as even those who are retired on disability and who have further medical needs, have those expenses covered by the taxpayers.

Stimulus projects for 'shovel ready' demonstrated that with all the projects that were ready to go, apparently none were.

I could go on and on. Suffice it to say that as we enter our fifth year of publication, the demand for more local government accountability has driven more people to realize that they can do more to hold their local government accountable. Responsible people that want to help educate, inform and motivate the electorate are stepping up to the plate and asking for help in starting Vanguardians chapters throughout the United States.

It all started right here in Glendale but, believe me, there will be no awards from the Glendale City Council that acknowledges that accomplishment.

In the past months there have been subtle changes in Vanguard and there will be more as Vanguard continues to be a source of light for many communities, not just Glendale. Ultimately there will be separate sections on the Vanguardians.org website for each City; the columnists will cover different aspects of government issues and my role will change.

Some additional changes:

- 1- We will be adding 250,000 emails each week to the Vanguard distribution
- 2- We have already located a venue to host forums of interest in a panel type setting. Some topics will include:
 - Public Safety,
 - The Sunshine laws and How to Use Them
 - H1B visas...job killers,
 - Pension and Payroll reform
 - ADA
 - Municipal Bankruptcy
 - Interviews with City Officials
 - New Revenue for the City
 - Alternative Energy Sources
- 3- A study of the wages paid in the 87 cities in LA County (not including the City of LA) and the posting on our website as a precursor to a statewide audit
- 4- Additional grant applications
- 5- Adding more volunteers
- 6- Working more closely with Federal and State lawmakers
- 7- Expanding the Board of Directors
- 8- Expanding the breakfast meetings to other municipalities
- 9- Creating more tools to educate and inform
- 10- And more.

Limited Sponsorships are available. Call Barry Allen 818 243 1502 for details

Here are the names of **VANGUARD VOLUNTEERS** who work to get Vanguard out each week and post on the website:

Barry Allen	Publisher	Richard Espiritu	ADA Issues
Pauline Field	Editor	Richard Hopp	Sunshine Laws + Distribution
Herbert Molano	Commentary--Financial	John Kraft	Legislative Liaison
Laurel Miller	Columnist-- City Hall	Sokkhak Thongsavanh	Data Conversion
Christian Arbid	Real Estate Issues	Christopher Bopp	Spanish Translation
Justin Smiths	Columnist -- State-Local	Diana Ringer	Webmaster
Dona Boehm	Columnist - Claims	Victor Route	Ass't Webmaster

There are many other volunteers, for legal, healthcare and insurance issues, Public Safety, Finance and Accounting and of course, our Board of Directors and Advisors and the Directors of our affiliates.

Areas for expansion include the States of Ohio and Louisiana; the California cities of Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, Carson, Chino Hills, Long Beach, Pasadena, City of San Bernardino and South Pasadena.



These are exciting times and I appreciate the assistance from all our volunteers and those that have kept the wolf from the door, which in these times of recession is essential as we don't accept financial assistance from local government.

Speaking of Volunteers, I am on the of Board of Fifty-Fifty Leadership, a non-profit promoting Women's Equal Leadership. On Sunday September 20, Fifty-Fifty Leadership sponsored 8 lower-economic young women to see Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood. Only one of those young women had ever been to a stage play. Here is what happened on the way to the Playhouse:

Volunteers donated clothing for the girls; another volunteer arranged a Hollywood studio for a volunteer photo shoot (photos will be on www.5050leadership.org) and a photographer to the stars. There were makeup artists, hair stylists, volunteers who shepherded the ladies and a generous contribution by California Pizza Kitchen that provided dinner. Then over to the Geffen where they saw a particularly funny and poignant story followed by more pictures with the girls and the cast including Matthew Modine.

This is a day these young women won't forget.

It was and is always gratifying to work with Pauline Field, the Chair of Fifty Fifty.

Think about how you can be a volunteer...there are lots of opportunities that can be fulfilling...and you'll live longer.

Next Week: The City's Vision is in the Past...Making the same mistakes for the future **BARRY ALLEN**

"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." And, "Money is the mothers' milk of politics." Jesse Unruh

"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money" - [Alexis de Tocqueville](#)

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. [Albert Einstein](#)



JUSTIN SMITHS IS WORKING ON CHAPTER 9 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

Commentary: WHEN FAUX EMPATHY OBSCURES UNMITIGATED INCOMPETENCE



No one can take pleasure in exposing the immoral underside of those prickly urchins that rule over Glendale residents with a disdain for public opinion. I also imagine that few taxpayers can stomach the symbiotic relationship of those who stand to get a special financial benefit from the unchallenged decisions coming down from the city council dais.

The vantage point which allows me to make these criticisms is not available to the casual observer, so it would be natural for many of them to feel incredulous about my observations. But they would surely come to the same conclusions if they had made over 400 presentations, read thousands of pages of city documents, or pursued a lawsuit to compel the city to fulfill its own published plans and objectives.

Nearly all residents form their opinion from the snippets of political patina that color the local politician's public persona. Then, when a group of concerned residents come to the council chambers to pursue their single issue, our political darlings put on their faux empathy to work. They'll invite their campaign supporters to stand watch and then proceed to fill the ears of the unwary activist with make-believe paternalistic verbosity.

But when an opinion from the dais can't be sustained through logical reasoning or augmented by hard evidence, we can dismiss it as empty rhetoric. It is relevant data assembled together to expose a contradiction that can paint an accurate picture of the values these councilmen hold and identify the true beneficiaries upon which our tax dollars bestow much largess.

If I'd made the observation that the city of Glendale is mismanaged, it would be the most tepid understatement I could convey given the evidence. The atrocious growth in the budget and unrelenting benefits the city unions seek can easily be corroborated. All we need to do is ask for the right document and assemble it for public scrutiny.

I've yet to be challenged by anyone with regard to the statements I've made about the city's uncontrolled budget mess. Glendale's city budget has grown from under \$400 million per year to over \$800 million today in just ten years. We also know from city reports that tens of thousands of residents can hardly afford their high utility bills. We also know that a study done by the city of Roseville last year ranked Glendale with the highest commercial

utility electric rate in California and the third highest for residents. We also know that we have over 10% unemployment and who knows how many underemployed struggle in the city today. Yet despite those data elements, we find the city council unwilling to discuss or address those issues head on. They avoid it like the plague. Why?

From the city's payroll reports to the IRS we know that gross payroll compensation has grown by 50% in the past ten years and other reports show that those who've benefit the most have been managers and members of police and fire departments. So let's take a look at another benefit growth - Medical cost of employees (leaving vision and dental for another day).

This year, in lieu of a pay-raise, some city employee organizations accepted a postponement of pay increases for a reduction or reimbursement for all out-of pocket medical co-payments. That's not chump change as medical costs for the city have skyrocketed while the city councilmen have never challenged nor mentioned anything in this regard during the eight years that I watched them in budget study sessions.

In 1999, according to the Combined Fund Statement, total expenditures for medical insurance has gone from \$2.5 million the first full year of Jim Starbird's management to \$13.3 million for the current fiscal year. Put the information together from my previous reports and you get the following:

- City increase in population 5%
- Inflation 1999 to 2009 30%
- Increase in management personnel 40%
- Increase in gross payroll 50%
- Increase in Pension expenditures 300%
- Increase in Medical Expenditures 500%



These trends are by themselves reflective of the sheer disregard by the city council members in agreeing to the demands of city unions and in not holding the city manager accountable to results – to stem the growth in the budget and improve the quality of lives of its residents. They've got their pay and benefit increases; so where is that Quality of Life report assigned to management in June last year?

If you've ever wondered why it seems as if we are building a more indecent society, ever more unfair, ever more difficult to endure, look no further than the people that ran for office seeking the applause of electoral triumph but rarely admitting their failures in office.

It is hard to be a witness to this travesty of incompetence, and to the indignity of their failure to hold anyone accountable. It is not only immoral; it is an embarrassingly dismal state of affairs. **HERBERT MOLANO**



CHRISTIAN ARBID is a Real Estate Broker and Loss Mitigator. If you have questions about Foreclosures, Short Sales, Saving Your Home, Loan Modifications, email him at christianarbid@gmail.com and your question may be answered in the next issue of Vanguard.

Total Number of Current and Active Glendale Foreclosures as of Sept. 25, 09 are: **920**

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](#)

2 Shout Box

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 be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



A dialogue between Richard Bennett and Barry Allen: I like getting your newsletter and enjoy its confrontational perspective but you are simply wrong that John [Drayman] had anything to do with A Noise Within leaving Glendale. I have done volunteer work for A Noise and have been a patron for more than ten years. I know Jeff and Julia and have talked with them over the years about the poor reception they got from the Glendale Council. They made the decision to go to Pasadena as John was coming in. Knowing John's bent for the arts it is hard

to believe you would accuse him of this.

You cannot evaluate art based upon financials. Van Gogh did not sell a painting in his lifetime. J. S. Bach died virtually unknown. If you determine the value of art based upon dollars and cents you do not understand art!! Glendale needs more art and culture.

The real issue is that the majority of Glendale residents do not support local art, unfortunately. The other unfortunate thing is that money for the arts goes to salaries and pensions. As the residents fight downtown development where an art component is part and parcel...there will be no new display art In Glendale where Art means the Doctors House or the Alex Theater that cost the taxpayers \$500,000 a year, at a minimum, and management there is reluctant to try new things. I consider art being the graphic on the Panera Bread store yet others hope that Glendale will prohibit further type of art like that. Too bad.

We just came back from a play at the Geffen that would be banned in Glendale. Glendale galleries have tried to put together ongoing programs and have little success in getting publicity.

Unfortunately you are right. My choice for art and theatre is Pasadena. I didn't know that Glendale could ban plays. I thought that went out years ago. Pasadena Pops is better than the Hollywood bowl in my opinion. I'll have to try Americana.

I would suggest that we get groups together and bus to LA for the Disney, the Ahmanson, the Mark Taper and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. We have enjoyed some of the summer music at the Americana.

I don't know when the Saturday concerts at Americana stop, but there were some great old jazz quartets. Check out the concerts from the Pasadena Levitt Pavilion. I tried to get them to come to Glendale. No interest on the part of the City. Mortimer Levitt would have covered much of the expense.

While I didn't mention A Noise because they are going to move, I have always considered them a treasure. It is a real tragedy that we are losing them, but for me it's just another reason to go to Pasadena.

I was wondering why in the past Vanguards you have printed various articles that did not pertain to Glendale City operations when you specifically told me to keep my opinions to the city business.

Additionally, since some articles pertain to national interests -- why are not you concerned with the democratic leadership (Obama administration) that spends (some republicans in the past, are guilty, too) the taxpayers' dollars like "drunken sailors" and have put this country into debt that our grandchildren and great grandchildren will be paying for, ad nauseum.

The local Unions, which you speak out against with regard to the control that they have don't even compare nationally with SEIU and of course, ACORN's monies (not a union but includes, among other organizations, SEIU workers) which come from the taxpayer -- interesting.

On another subject..., I wonder what second hand smoke from Marijuana does -- I was told to put out a cigarette in the parking garage of the Glendale Galleria as those pesky carcinogenic cars went by -- interesting. Stupid and unnecessary laws in parking garages.

And yet another...Most if not all of the proposed suggestions at the meeting of "100" need electricity to run -- I am for nuclear power, period -- clean power! Is France wrong? Marlene Walker

The support for the Drayman Trader Joe's is phenomenal.. How many of those people paid money to his campaign? Don't these folks clamoring for the new City revenue source realize that groceries aren't taxed? And that when people go grocery shopping they don't do general retail shopping? And do they realize that the only income will be whatever rent the City gets? Their director probably didn't tell them. Alex N

I really enjoyed the Friday meeting. It was the most informative, entertaining and energizing gathering I have been too. The people I met were certainly a cut above and they are so knowledgeable about the workings of government. I'll be back and bring some people to share. EE

3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

This is in response to your public records request for "writings evidencing overtime parking tickets issued on Brand Blvd., from January 1, 2009 through and including August 31, 2009." Please be advised that no responsive documents exist.

A renewed response: Please be advised that the City does not maintain a record of the overtime parking tickets issued on Brand Blvd. We do however maintain a record of general parking violation statistics, and a general summary of citations for the entire City. Those records are available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

If you are seeking more specific information regarding Brand Blvd., we ask that you provide a more specific request, namely, are you seeking overtime parking for time zones or expired meters and is your inquiry for all of Brand Blvd. or just a portion? Once we receive this information from you, we will be able to provide you with an estimate for the deposit for the labor necessary for the City to compile this information.

We requested Brand where the pay stations are installed as there must be a tabulation to help the City evaluate the investment.

Provide writings evidencing the number of GWP employees on or about September 7, 2007, September 7, 2008 and September 7, 2009

GWP full time employees as of the dates listed are as follows:

<u>6/30/07</u>	<u>6/30/08</u>	<u>6/30/09</u>
387	386	390

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



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

Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 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, September 28

Transportation & Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960 and Proposed Mixed-Use Retail/Office/Condominium
Community Meeting – Winter Weather Preparation Plans – 7:00 pm, Project at 610 W. Broadway
Center for Spiritual Living, 6:00 pm City Council 548-4844
4845 Dunsmore Ave., La Crescenta. 548-4844

Tuesday, September 29

2:30 pm CH Housing Authority -- Redevelopment Agency
-- **Joint Meeting** –RE: Status Reports on
Adult Recreation Center and Proposed Water Features at
Maple and Griffith Manor Parks

Wednesday, September 30

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140

Thursday, October 1

Committee for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:15 am, MSB.
548-3700

4 *Vanguardians*

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's we discussed the Mardikian lawsuit; Transportation issues of the Beeline and the number of CNG tanks that have blown up, similar to the ones being installed in Glendale Each week we add a few new faces and have returning warriors. Become one. This is an excellent opportunity to share opinions about quality of life issues.
- All issues of Vanguard are archived at www.vanguardians.org
- Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at www.vanguardians.org
- Great opportunity for you to place your ad or link on www.vanguardians.org
- **Vanguardians needs a donated vehicle in running condition. Blue Book donation value**

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

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

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

You may donate online at www.vanguardians.org

5



the Insider

is report from 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.



Why is it when someone gets elected to the City Council they become their own decision maker and change or approve what they think is best rather than listening to the people that they are supposed to represent. At least they should listen and discuss the issues with those that have some good ideas. Then they can agree or disagree out in the open. Our Council is a bunch of arrogant bastards.

An obscure document was found last week behind a file cabinet. The memo contained information about disaster preparedness where every single-family residence had to be taken 'off grid' so they would not be dependent on government resources. They would pay an annual fee to the City for the use of the water in the aquifer as each home would have a well for water. All used water would go to a septic tank and tile field in the yard to provide water for the vegetable garden and fruit trees.



Electric power would come from roof mounted solar collectors and back yard vertical wind turbines fed at night by the biofuels developed from the trash and garbage, that would no longer be picked up by the City, would be used to provide energy to the cars.

All houses and the contents thereof would be totally non-combustible negating the need for fire officials. Basements will be required to provide crypts for the dead. Houses would be required to have gun-ports to keep out miscreants and DNA screeners to keep out the uninvited.

City Departments will be staffed to issue violations and fines for the failure to heed the required changes.

Notice the tone of the City Manager's staff report on the reorganization. Even though front line staff is being asked to take on more responsibilities all the time, he wants to make sure that the Council will be giving raises to the current Executives as part of the reorganization. After all, will these Executives refuse the duties if they don't get a raise? It's a joke to say 'no' to staff one week only to give money to the top the next.

Although the staff report on the reorganization stated that Building Safety would remain under Public Works, the Public Works Director wasted no time in saying "see ya" to Building Safety staff on the Wednesday after the Council signed off on the Starbird proposal. The report talked about raising the salaries of Department head getting more responsibility; does that mean that Zurn will get a reduction since he's losing Building Safety? Silly thought!

6 Stories from Claims against the City

Let's welcome Dona Boehm our latest Columnist. Her topic is the claims that are filed each week. Some tragic, some funny but each one is informational. You will enjoy her in-depth reporting.

INTIMIDATION AT HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING

Claimant vs. City of Glendale



Claimant, an individual with disabilities who has been an advocate for the 35% of those with disabilities in Glendale for years, was publicly berated during the August 25, 2009 Housing Authority meeting by a Councilman. Claimant simply asked a question during the meeting regarding why the neighborhood garden at Monterey and Glendale was not ADA compliant. The councilman suggested the claimant had a personal motive to spin a controversy and that his implications were all wet.

Claimant is protected under section 504 of the rehabilitation act and the American Disabilities Act against intimidation, retaliation and under title 24 against coercion.

Claimant is seeking a public apology from the Councilman and is reserving his options. **Dona Boehm**

7 News Briefs from the neighborhood

Burbank Police Captain files suit against City of Burbank. Read the whole article in the [BurbankLeader](#)

Email info@vanguardians.org 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. Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 charitable non-profit corporation Contributions are tax deductible.** Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. **To ensure you receive Vanguard**, please add our email addresses info@vanguardians.org, vanguardweekly@gmail.com and ba@fieldworks.net - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. **Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue** Copyrighted materials used with permission. ©2009