



"Accountability"  
The Government Watchdog

Welcome to Volume 6  
Vanguard enters its 6<sup>th</sup> year  
of publication

**Vanguard**  
Glendale CA Vol VI  
Week of October 3, 2010  
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## MAYOR GETS 'VOLUNTEERS' AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

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

### Your tax deductible contributions support the work we do. Please help!

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson.

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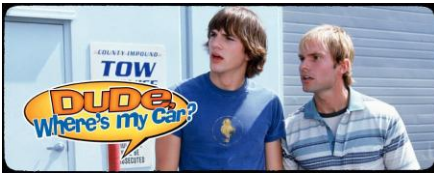
**PASADENA** - The City Council is set to consider the proposed development of a new \$3 million ice rink facility at the Pavilion beside the Pasadena Convention Center at Monday night's meeting. [...MORE]

**Baldwin Park** -- NEARLY every weekend this summer checkpoints were mounted along busy Southland arterials. An intimidating cadre of well-armed police stopped thousands of cars each night, asking drivers two questions: Do you have a valid driver's license? Have you been drinking?

Answered correctly, you can get waved through. Fail to produce the requisite identification, or appear to have thrown back a few, or speak Spanish, and you're in trouble.

The newly wheel-less faced more than an evening of inconvenience. If their license had expired or they had been driving without one, their vehicle would be held under lock and key for 30 days. (If charged with DUI, you can reclaim it the next day.) This month-long loss of transportation has a devastating impact on those who drive to work - and who doesn't in L.A.?

Magnifying this blow are the punitive fees towing companies and police departments charge to release an impounded automobile. In Latino-dominated Baldwin Park, for instance, the per-car tab runs to nearly \$1,500; storage fees for the month make up the bulk (\$1,350), and the rest comes from the city's vehicle-release fee. When families cannot pay, Baldwin Park gets a cut of the abandoned car's sale at



auction.

This modern-day stick-up has become a bonanza. At its early August checkpoint, Baldwin Park officers snagged 150 cars, netting the city a whopping \$38,400. Its take for the past fiscal year alone amounted to \$338,000. In Bell,



officers had daily quotas for impounding cars, a strategy that two years ago generated \$834,000 and this past year netted \$770,000. More striking still was Pomona's haul: its 2007-08 checkpoints allegedly boosted local coffers by \$1million.

These impressive returns have sparked a gold rush. In 2009, according to California Watch, a nonprofit investigative team, checkpoints throughout California raked in an eye-popping \$40 million in fees and fines. Police overtime pay, underwritten with federal dollars, amounted to another \$30 million. Fleecing the migrant, poor and powerless is big business. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

Glendale – Streets were blocked by Mayor Najarian's house with Glendale Fire Engines and Ambulances as well as unmarked city owned vehicles while a Glendale fireman cooked dinner. Some of the firemen were out of their districts which would cause slower response times that could escalate medical emergencies from life to death.

Davis, CA -- [Vanguard Investigation Finds Evidence of Exaggerated Crime Figures in DA Grant Applications](#)

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO – If a judgment of more than \$9.4 million against this city in a development-related suit is upheld, it could face some difficult choices: cut spending, increase revenue or even consider bankruptcy, according to a legal academic expert.

A trial court last month refused to toss out a nearly [\\$7 million verdict](#) against San Juan Capistrano in compensation to a family trust for delays caused in building a proposed housing development. And, last week the court awarded \$2.3 million in litigation expenses in the same suit, which the city says will become part of its appeal to the 4th District Court of Appeal in Santa Ana.

In 2005, the city approved construction of Belladonna Estates, a 31-lot development on nearly 17 acres with custom lots ranging from 13,000 to 32,000 square feet on the [Scalzo Family Trust property](#) along the [west side of Del Obispo Street](#) north of Paseo de la Paz and south of Calle Aspero.

But the city also imposed 121 development conditions, trust attorneys said in a news release, "including a condition that the Scalzo Trust dedicate property to the city to widen an existing city public drainage easement." [Click here for the rest of the Orange County Register story.](#)

LOS ANGELES - Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today announced a settlement with a charity that "betrayed the trust of its donors" by using deceptive fundraising tactics and diverting thousands of dollars from the care of burn victims to pay for meetings in resort communities.

"The trustees of this charity grossly abused their responsibilities as guardians of charitable assets," Brown said. "They betrayed the trust of donors by squandering donations on such things as an expensive Caribbean cruise and trips to posh resorts."

The Association for Firefighters and Paramedics, Inc., based in Santa Ana, misrepresented how and where donations would be spent, and mailed out invoices for pledges that had never been made. Board members also diverted \$33,000 from the charity for out-of-town board meetings in San Diego and Las Vegas, and a Caribbean cruise for board members and their families before a meeting in Florida.

The settlement, filed in the Orange County Superior Court, recovers \$100,000 in funds diverted from the charity, plus attorney's fees and investigative costs. For the next four years, the charity's fundraising materials and program expenses will be closely monitored. [More](#)

According to the 2008 IRS form 990, the group took in \$3M and spent \$2M raising it. The president was paid in excess of \$100,000. About \$73,000 was spent on their mission.

Glendale CA -- People are complaining about the uncomfortable seats in the Council Chambers. Vanguardians advisors came up with a solution. The Hollywood Bowl rents cushions to those who don't

want to sit on the wooden benches. Vanguardians will rent cushions for 50¢ each and will give the GFFA the net profit to help pay the \$100,000 fine.]

**Santa Ana Council Member's 'Pay to Play' votes referred to DA for review** [TheLiberalOC.com](http://TheLiberalOC.com) learned on Wednesday afternoon that [Santa Ana](#) City Attorney Joseph Fletcher has referred the matter of improper votes by Council members **Sal Tinajero**, **Michele Martinez**, and **Claudia Alvarez** to the [Orange County District Attorney](#) for review. The votes in question appear to violate Santa Ana Municipal Code section 2-107. The law prohibits members of the city council from participating in discussions and voting on matters benefitting campaign contributors who have contributed more than \$250 during the year preceding the vote. The crime may be prosecuted at the discretion of the City Attorney who can choose between filing an administrative citation for an infraction or a misdemeanor charge that is punishable by a fine of \$1,000 and 6 months in county jail.

Orange County District Attorney spokesperson Farrah Emami told me that the City Attorney had declared a conflict approximately a week ago and referred the matter to the DA for review to determine if any charges are appropriate. "A review is the first step in the process," Emami said. When a concern or complaint is raised with the District Attorney they review the matter first to determine whether an investigation is necessary. It is possible that the matter of [Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Alvarez' vote](#) on One Broadway Plaza may be referred to the California Attorney General's office for review since Alvarez is an Orange County Deputy District Attorney. [More](#)

Bell CA – LA County is researching placing the city in the hands of an outside receiver, much like in bankruptcy proceedings.

From the League of Cities:

- ["What You Need to Know About Regionalizing Public Safety Responsibilities"](#) - How communities are implementing cost savings by consolidating, contracting or sharing services with neighboring agencies. This eventually will be part of the solution, driven by necessity.
- ["Closed Session Leaks: Discretion is the Better Part of Valor - and Ethics"](#) - Tips on addressing the legal and ethical impacts of leaked confidential information from closed sessions. In Glendale there are two Council members that are known for leaking.

Best Quote from Jon Stewart: "I like the fact that we're gonna set the bar low for them [kids], so that they can feel like they really accomplished something."

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

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

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# 1 COMMENTARY

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

## From the Publisher...



**Mayor Najarian is doing his best to provide the ammunition for the District Attorney when he comes to town to arrest officials for squandering taxpayer money. Najarian kept a speaker from making a presentation at a hearing; he cut the speaking time to 2 minutes on the consent calendar. He does have the right to deny transparency but at his own cost.**

**Unlike the City of Bell, where there were few if any people looking over the shoulder of government including the Bell City Council members who were lulled into a sense of safety by all of them receiving \$100,000 salaries, the Glendale pundits come forward raising questions like, "Why does the city approve an employment contract at \$88 dollars an hour for a retired police captain who is pretending to be a knowledgeable project manager?" "Why does the Council not demand a costing of the project when under the staff report there is this statement: "There will be indeterminable ancillary indirect costs incurred as the result of the investment of staff time in the development of the grant funded program. No overtime or exceptional costs are anticipated outside those to be specifically funded by the grant itself."**

**How will the people look at Mr. Najarian who used his house and taxpaid city employees to be his scullery servants when he opted to host a fund raiser for a worthy cause? A well known developer who is a fund**

raiser, every Orthodox Christmas, hosts a party, ostensibly for a charity, as a way his favored council candidate can press the flesh and receive the money laden handshake, doesn't use city resources.

Najarian showed no concern for his neighbors as many tax exempt vehicles were blocking egress and fire engines and ambulances were parked out of their districts violating geographic integrity adding fatal minutes to the response time.

The event should have been held in a publicly owned facility like the Civic Auditorium to be physically accessible as it is designed for such events.

Of course the parrots will say Najarian's party was for a good cause. Possibly Mr. Mayor could do a fund raiser for Vanguardians.



I saw Mayor Najarian in the courtyard between the city office complex parking structure and city hall. He was carrying a baseball bat. I asked him if I should be concerned. Instead he countered with a chastisement for questioning the fund raiser on Saturday justifying it as it had been done at private residences before and this was a good cause. I asked about the geographic integrity of the GFD with all that equipment parked there. His answer was that the ambulances had 2 responses and he was unable to tell me how far out of district they were. He said that there were 40 people in attendance. At \$100 a head he raised \$4000 an amount that he could have

written a tax deductible check for and not have the stigma of using city resources to perpetuate his 'value to the community'.

Meanwhile Najarian didn't follow the Council's past edict, after Weaver used the cops for free to provide security and escorts for the Miss Asia Pageant, not to use on duty city employees.



When JFK was a presidential candidate people were concerned that because he was Catholic that his first allegiance would be to the Pope. When Najarian was a candidate for re-election in 2009 he became beholden to the ANC according to their officials in a private meeting.

When the DA investigators come with open handcuffs it will be interesting to hear the denials.

### **BARRY ALLEN**

**Parrot:** One who imitates the words or actions of another, especially without understanding them.  
**Pundit:** A learned person. Someone who, by long study, has gained mastery in one or more disciplines

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

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

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### **A DECADE OF DECADENCE**

Why many Americans thrive on steroids, lies, Rolex watches and compromised integrity.



Pick a year, any year since the start of the millennium and you can create your own list of dastardly events for each year of this past decade. These are not single, solitary events of moral depravity perpetrated by one individual or fringe group. These are systemic examples on the macro scale involving billions of dollars, large numbers of people, or devastating policy attacks to the core ethos of a country we perceived as great.

For nitpickers, the millennium started in 2001 (Year zero had 364 days, eleven hours and 59 minutes) So I'll start with a few memorable honorees at the turn of that fateful year.

Many people will claim unequivocally that George Bush took office thanks to the millions of dollars poured in by special interests to his campaign. One of those major contributors was Enron, a ruthless organization that thrived on unregulated markets where it could practice its magic, buying politicians,

rigging markets, and falsifying their accounting. Their attack on America was not instigated by the Taliban or Al Qaeda. Their attack on several industries, investors and their customers was made possible by the prevalent mantra that unregulated markets could police themselves.

Enron made lots of money from one of the most essential indicators of our modern civilizations - electricity. Without the proper watchdogs, without oversight by elected officials, without oversight by their auditors (Arthur Anderson had severe conflicts of interests with Enron) Enron was free to manipulate the energy sector and slam the utility rate payers to their maximum benefit. Enron and many of their cohorts made millions from their rigged market schemes.

The decade turned out a list of companies and organizations whose aim was to rig the law, cook their books, and play survival of the fittest - WorldCom, Global Crossing, Tyco, Halliburton, Blackwater, Bear Stearns, Lehman



Brothers, Citigroup, Countrywide, Ameriquest, Fannie Mae, and so many others.

But on the other side of the political spectrum - California Governor Gray Davis, a Democrat, was elected under the slogan "Experience money can't buy" except that money from public employee unions and energy producers were not referenced in that campaign image. The pay-to-play governor, as many labeled him, had performed one dastardly deed that would trash California's economy for along time.

It was not the tens of billions in energy payments he acquiesced to forking out during the Enron stranglehold of California. It was not the bloated budget created under the boom revenue years of the tech stock bubble. It was the pension windfall he approved for his key political supporters - The Correctional Peace Officers Association and other "Safety" employees. A copy of that plan was pushed by public employee unions and adapted by hook and by crook at many California cities in since 2001.

The pension give-away allows public employees and others under the label of "Safety" to claim retirement as early as age 50 with up to 90% of their last highest pay. That "Pay for not working" scheme is adjusted for inflation and often rigged with pay gimmicks that allow many to retire with higher annual compensation than they ever earned in a year. Additionally, CPRA records show that nearly 50% of retirees under that designation in Glendale make a claim of disability allowing them to circumvent or avoid their fair share of taxes. These same employees often get re-hired as consultants at the same city or other public entities doing the same jobs under which they "retired". They, in-effect, double-dip on pay and pensions while they hoard the jobs to which others aspire for advancement.

Pay and benefit increases by public employees take many forms. But city financial reports show that gross pay and benefit increases in the last decade have far outpaced the core revenues the city gets from property tax and sales tax. The money that pays for those exorbitant pay and pensions now come from transfers from the city's utility into the general fund and then used to benefit the arrangements made with public employee unions. Some of those transfers have been confirmed as violating the state constitution, yet cities like Glendale continue to slam the general rate-payer with rate and fee increases while ignoring the state constitution (Article XIII D.)

Ten years after the energy debacle of unfettered energy markets, grandma and grandpa and all struggling taxpayers are still paying through the nose for energy costs. But this time our inability to regulate energy rates depends on the blackmail public employee organizations impose on the elected local officials they helped elect. Its Enron all over again, except that the profit motive is driven by men and women sworn to serve the public.

A couple of years ago a huge gilded statute rose in the center of Glendale at the Americana at Brand. A few years earlier another statute rose in front of the steps of the Police building. Both statutes laud

organizations that have played their political cards to satiate their unrestrained greed. Though this essay could easily have covered similar collusion between the pharmaceutical industry, the FDA and elected government officials, there is a special place in our discontent at the betrayal of our democratic institutions when it is perpetrated by the same people we depend on to protect us.

When our most basic institutions lose their sense of fairness in the face of dire economic conditions to so many, we have crossed the threshold to a sustained moral decline that may take this country down if we don't reverse it. If we continue on this path, Al Qaeda may not defeat us. We will do it ourselves.

HERBERT MOLANO      Click here [Glendale Today](#)

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## WHAT THE PICTURE OF A POLICE CHIEF IN THE GRAYBAR HOTEL MEANS



Randy Adams is in deep trouble. It is clear he became lulled into the assumption he could rely on Bell's corrupt system remaining under the radar forever. His tragedy should be a warning to other local minor kleptocrats to cut it out or get out while the getting is good. He risked not only his reputation and wealth but ultimately his freedom in the bargain. What a sad waste.

It is also a sad day for government ethics too when a police chief feels that he or she can and should get away in what has gradually become stealing from the public. Having said that, local officials have been coming to this day in quarter steps over decades, methodically walling off the public from decision making, giving outside good government advocates either threats or the cold shoulder while at the same time making decisions to turn modest pay and benefits into better than average pay and benefits to pay and today's benefit packages that are now so generous they are 'unreportable' because they are 'undefendable' in broad daylight.

Beware when any level of a public employee bargaining unit asks for 'privacy' with regards to the negotiations involving their pay and compensation packages. We are now in an era where the Brown open meeting act has been truncated to only serve as notice of a fiat - of a finished negotiation that should be dutifully approved by elected officials simply because the packages have gotten so unpopular that exposing them to the public will seriously hurt their re-election chances.

In as much as the math is compelling, our state and local government deficits during this recession and an otherwise apathetic public to look at the costs they will bear if they do nothing, we are at the beginning of a correction where the top brass excesses at the City of Bell represent the Gettysburg, or High water mark of administrative public employee power grabs.



Ultimately too generous a package will boomerang back onto all of the beneficiaries, putting their personal lives in chaos. When the tide finishes turning, lower level public employees will have light shed on their negotiating power and with that their compensation packages will get pared back as well. Because they did not take the personal risk those administrative officers took looting their municipalities, thankfully and with relief, they will not be spending time in the Graybar hotel. They just have to adjust their personal budgets will do with less like the private sector has been for two years.

When this ethics correction is over, and it will take a few years to work its way through the political system, most folks will forget the details of what has gone on here and may only point to flash points like Bell as the reason for the rollback of public employee power. Unfortunately, the cleansing power of reform in democracies is such that when the job is done and the rules of the game have been changed to protect the public, within a generation the quiet disassembly of whatever reform we put up will begin as a largely uniformed and apathetic public will lose its power to remain vigilant.

We should reform on the state constitutional level to insure that it will take longer and be harder for this corrupt dynamic to reemerge. Additionally we should support ethical watch dog groups to keep the information flowing as our traditional media continues to cut back on local coverage.

Michael Fuss Californians For the Right to Vote on Public Employee Contracts  
<http://www.cavoteonpublicemployeepay.org/>

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## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRANSPARENCY



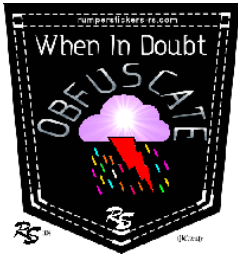
Brandman University Masters in Public Administration (MPA) students Janice Voshall (left) and Cindy Smith (right) collected the data for Barbara Kogerman's Orange County City Manager Compensation Report.

Our work was called sloppy and incompetent and veiled threats were made that we would never find work in the public sector in Orange County. The Orange County city managers association even voted to send a delegation of elected officials and a League of Cities administrator to complain to Jim Doti, the president of the Chapman University, about the harm our efforts were having on Chapman's reputation. (Brandman is part of the Chapman University system). The California League of Cities released its own report of city manager salaries. Their effort confirms several of the things we found in our four-month investigation.

We had to chuckle when we read that the Leagues' data were "not perfect" since our data were harshly criticized for being inaccurate. They have a paid full-time staff and surveyed their own membership, who, in Bell's wake, was highly motivated to cooperate. We are unpaid interns using public records act requests to take on 34 city halls. More importantly, the California League of Cities survey did not include many of the benefits and perks that city managers have negotiated, including employer-paid health insurance premiums and contributions to defined benefit retirement plans, as well as many other perks not reported to the IRS. We did include these data; they were not easy to get. Here were some of the obstacles we faced:

•**Conflicting answers:** Cities posted salaries online that conflicted with salary information we were originally given. Often, we would get one figure from one city official and a different figure from another.

•**Delays:** It took weeks and sometimes months to get answers to basic questions regarding benefits such as health insurance premiums, life and group insurance premiums, and payouts for vacation and sick leave.



•**Obfuscation:** Some cities sent us a copy of the city manager's entire contract but would not provide specific dollar amounts. Several cities simply gave us percentages but not the real dollar amount for CalPERS, Medicare contributions, life insurance premiums or deferred compensation. It was nearly impossible to figure out what cities were paying for city manager health insurance; for example, whether the plan covered just the city manager or his entire family. Some staffers got irritated that we wanted that information.

•**Runaround:** We got the runaround from the city clerk, human resources or accounting, and the city attorney.

•**Denial:** Some cities said the city manager's contract was confidential and that the public did not have a right to this information. Even today, Orange County's division of the League of Cities has declined to answer public records act requests regarding their meeting with Mr. Doti. The SoCAL League is a taxpayer-funded organization.

We made four recommendations to the California State Assembly Joint Legislative Audit and Local Government committees at a special session on local government compensation and transparency in Sacramento on Sept. 22.

1. **Tougher transparency laws:** Groups such as the California League of Cities and state officials say they want transparency, but the reality is that they do not walk the talk. We need tougher transparency legislation. Citizens should be able to ask, "How much is the city manager's total compensation" and be able to get a direct answer in a timely manner.

2. **Need for uniform benefit reporting standards:** One of the reasons that it was so difficult to get information regarding benefits is because there is no uniform standard for reporting them. Our data was widely criticized for comparing "apples and oranges." However, the League hit the same wall, which is why they stuck with just the IRS figures. This is a consistent and reliable figure, but it does not fully capture city manager total compensation.

3. **Need for data archive:** Data is not information. While many cities are now posting salaries on their websites, these numbers do not mean much unless they can be compared to other cities with similar demographics or other characteristics cities find useful (for example, the number of city employees or median income of residents). To do this, we need an unbiased, independent searchable data archive.

4. **Accountability:** Finally, voters need to hold elected officials accountable for their spending priorities. Later on we discovered that some cities didn't disclose that they provided city managers forgivable housing loans and that

one city manager was holding two jobs. We also found that some could use sick time and vacation days to "spike" their pensions. To us it appeared that some city managers were "gaming" the system, and that some elected officials were letting them get away with it. At the same, they were authorizing cuts in city services. Now that the information is out there, citizens should hold public officials accountable. Otherwise, "baby bells" are inevitable.

#### **About the students:**

*Voshall and Smith testified about the obstacles they faced in gathering city manager compensation data for Orange County's 34 cities. The students' research revealed the need for tougher transparency laws, uniform compensation reporting, and a searchable salary archive. In the wake of the city of Bell scandal, the California State Legislature is now considering several bills that will address city manager compensation. Two bills have been passed and are on the governor's desk. [For the complete Orange County Register article, click here.](#)*

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

### **2Shout Box**

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



**Once again, as I watched the City Council meeting public hearing on a home remodel on Mountain Street, I was bothered when the city employee kept referring to corrections that needed to be made in the staff report. Then real amazement came about when Councilman Weaver read a letter that claimed it had taken 8 years for the homeowner to get their remodel to the point of an appeal by the second highest paid city employee who probably put his appeal together on taxpayer time. If I were on the City Council I would be demanding of Manager Starbird why he accepts reports that are less than mediocre from the highest paid employees and then having the report reviewed and approved by even higher paid employees. GS**

**There was some great news this week as California residents median household income only dropped 3% as it was shored up by well paid government employees and even better compensated government retirees many of whom get 50% of their pensions tax-free. SSR**

Last year, MAPLight.org and the First Amendment Coalition [settled](#) their lawsuit against the state of California, winning public access to the electronic voting records of lawmakers in Sacramento.

Today, MAPLight.org launched our expanded [MAPLight.org California](#) website; built on the public data we won access to in the lawsuit. Our new site now includes complete records of bills, floor votes, and committee votes, as well as interest group support and opposition to legislation and campaign contribution search tools. Our contributions data is provided by the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

The expanded [MAPLight.org California](#) site goes beyond just presenting government information in an easy-to-access way. It also ties that information together, revealing never-before-seen links between campaign contributions, the interest groups that make them, and how lawmakers vote.

Please stop by for a visit: <http://maplight.org/California>

For more details about our expanded California site, please see the launch [press release](#) and our [California site guide](#). Happy searching, The MAPLight.org team

What was going on at Mayor Najarian's house on Saturday night? Fire trucks and ambulances and cars with tax exempt plates made it difficult to traverse the streets. BH [ED – See Barry Allen's commentary.]

Why would an elected council member, who enjoys the respect of the community, give up that respect for a few thousand dollars, or under the table gifts? OR [ED - Everyone has a price and maybe even a little larceny in their hearts and in the case of elected officials they know there is no one watching. The various enforcement authorities work on a complaint basis. Who is going to complain, certainly not the elected official, certainly not the one who gave the bribe? It took over 5 years to catch Weaver. On another case the Chief of Police told investigators not to pursue the matter. If you are not going to get caught why even consider the prestige. Besides that, the parrots will stand by their man denying he/she could ever do that.]

# 3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

City has no record of providing criminal investigation reports to Council member Drayman. This means that if there was no record then the Councilmember was lying. If the City did provide investigation records to a civilian then there is a violation of 42 USC 1983.

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

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

### Agendas for the City of Glendale CA



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)  
Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at 613 E Broadway.  
Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.  
Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.  
Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

#### Monday, October 4

Water & Power Commission – 4:00 pm, CH 548-2107

#### Tuesday, October 5

Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060

Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005

**Joint Meeting** – RE:Proposed Habitat for Humanity Homes at 624 Geneva Street – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844

City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

#### Wednesday, October 6

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

Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

#### Thursday, October 7

Comm. for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:30 am, PB 548-3700

**Public Forum** – Sponsored by the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women and the League of Women Voters RE: Statewide Ballot Issues – 7:00 pm, CH 548-4844

#### Saturday, October 9

Glendale K-9's in the Park – 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Verdugo Park, 1621 Cañada Blvd.

City's Annual Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic, pet adoptions and more. [www.GlendaleK9.com](http://www.GlendaleK9.com).

#### Sunday, October 10

Unity Fest 2010 – 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Brand between California and Lexington. 548-6464

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## 4 *Vanguardians*

Vanguardians is preparing a brief to prevent the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), the staff of Los Angeles Neighborhood Services, from decimating the Open Meeting law and the public records law. They have prepared a draft ordinance that is available from Vanguardians upon request,

Vanguard opens its 'Shout Box' to Glendale News Press (GNP) letter writers whose letters regarding City Government issues, questions and criticisms are not being published by the GNP. Vanguard Editor Pauline Field received approval from the editorial advisory board to make this opportunity available to all stakeholders.

Your employee Association doesn't support you, DON'T support them. Instead, send your union dues to Vanguardians as allowed by the [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#) for LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Vanguard is following these lawsuits: the 5 GPD officers; in addition to: Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza & Ovasapyan. The cases cited were from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa.

### *VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support*


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

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

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.

- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.
- [www.maplight.org](http://www.maplight.org) to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

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

**5**  **the Insider** is written by city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.

It's obvious that Executives don't want to explain the awards because they were not based upon work performance but on kissing Starbird's ass. When the list comes out, it will show that the same folks getting the bonuses will be the ones getting special promotions and assignments. This is Glendale's version of Bell management practices.



DA Cooley wouldn't accept a complaint two years earlier about the City of Bell.

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES**

KISSING ASS HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED



One more try, looks like the reorganization bug has hit again! Look for planning and redevelopment to be merging. We'll see whose stock is rising when the org chart comes out.

Planners are not following the codes. They are instead using what Drayman and Quintero want even though the Council has not voted on the changes. People with projects need to make sure the codes are being followed.

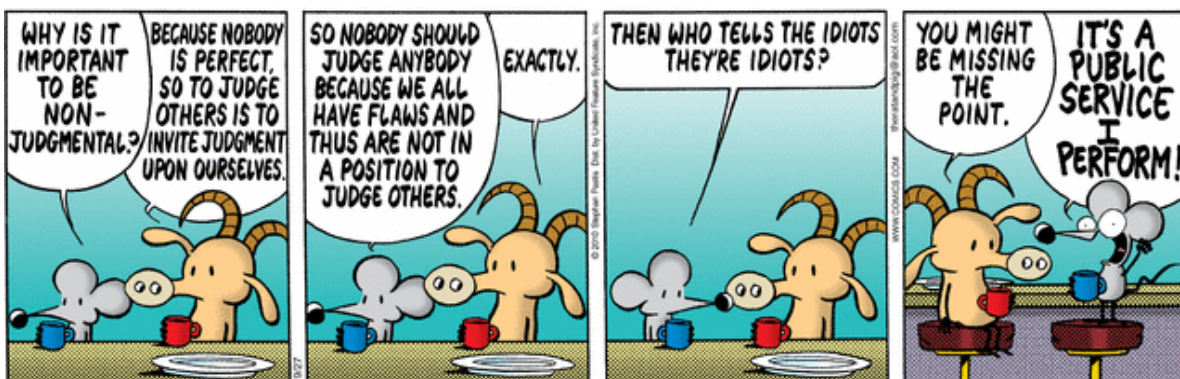
City is trying to settle cases with the 10 police officers by offering some money, early disability retirement and other incentives. The City is fearful of damaging testimony in Court.



## 6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

The penalty good men and women pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. PLATO  
*"You can't win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot" Kraft*

Drayman winds up his pitch against GPD when he doesn't include them in the ways to stop speeders on Lowell. Catch the license plates, ID the driver and don't allow them within 2 miles of the school when dropping off kids. Drayman looks much better since his clothes are from 'It's A Wrap' rather than Goodwill. His condo remodel is quite something. Must have cost the insurance company a lot or maybe the work was done by subs from local developers.



When did it begin?

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

\* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

The Lie-O-Meter moves from week to week showing the official telling the most outrageous lies.



**7** Thanks to retired Law Professor Harry Zavos, Glendale voters have been awakened to the allegations of illegal transfers of money from Glendale Water and Power, a municipal utility, to the City of Glendale's General Fund. The City Attorney has been studying this issue for over two years and has yet to present a report to the public. Meanwhile, Councilman Dave Weaver has said money was transferred to cover street repairs caused by the GWP. If that is the case, the City will have to doctor budgets and CAFRs.

City of Pacifica

On May 3, 2010, I filed a lawsuit in San Mateo Superior Court, asking that a judge rule on our contention that the City of Pacifica is in violation of the California Constitution in refusing to notice and allow protests from property owners about garbage collection rate increases. Click here to [Download Final complaint](#) or click here to see the court filing of the [LAWSUIT](#)

A public-interest law firm is helping me in this suit, and this is not about making money from the city. My agreement with the law firm that I signed a retainer with says in part: "We will not seek a refund for you for any alleged overpayments. ... Client acknowledges that this litigation is being initiated for the benefit of the citizens of Pacifica as a whole and not on behalf of the client as an individual."

[http://www.pacificariptide.com/pacifica\\_riptide/2010/05/prop-218-lawsuit-filed-against-city-of-pacifica.html](http://www.pacificariptide.com/pacifica_riptide/2010/05/prop-218-lawsuit-filed-against-city-of-pacifica.html)

[Judgment issued in Great Oaks lawsuit – water district files ...](#)

Feb 9, 2010 ... Judgment issued in Great Oaks **lawsuit** – water district files appeal ... The water district believes that **Proposition 218's** limitations were ...

[Pacifica Riptide: Prop. 218 Lawsuit Filed Against City of Pacifica](#)

May 6, 2010 ... BY LIONEL EMDE (plaintiff to the court in the **lawsuit**) On May 3, 2010, I filed a **lawsuit** in San Mateo Superior Court, asking that a judge ..

[Citizens file lawsuit against city of Dunsmuir - Mount Shasta, CA ...](#)

Aug 25, 2010 ... Under **Proposition 218**, a property-related fee cannot be increased ... Asked if his decision to file a **lawsuit** was motivated by his store's ...

[Lawsuit filed over water rates](#)

a **lawsuit** was filed against the City of Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Superior Court. ...Miller's attorney has stated that according to **Prop 218**, ...

[Solutions Sought to End Service District Subsidies](#)

Provisions of **Proposition 218**, the Right to Vote on Taxes Act, ... in violation of 218 or enact the rate increases over the protest and draw a **lawsuit** and ...

[Water rates lawsuit ruling expected in a few weeks](#)

Borst and the **lawsuit** contend that the city's recent water rates violate **Proposition 218** and that they should be considered a special tax, not a fee. ...

[218 hearing on hold](#)

The **lawsuit** questions the adequacy of **Proposition 218** process the Imperial Irrigation District conducted on a water rate increase in 2009. ...

[Already, things are shaking up in Livingston](#)

... Theresa Land met with legal counsel to discuss pending **lawsuits**, ... complete a new water rate study and go through the **Proposition 218** process again. ...

## **8** Ballot Recommendations

Vanguardians provides this information as a public service. Vanguardians has made no monetary contribution either in support of or in opposition to the measures.

### **November 2010 Statewide Ballot Measures**

**Proposition 19 Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Allow It to Be Regulated and Taxed.**

**Vote Y – A Yes vote will reduce making the use of Marijuana a reason to put more people in prison.** Marijuana is clinically proven to be less dangerous than either alcohol or tobacco, so to continue to ban marijuana while permitting the use of alcohol and tobacco makes no sense.

**Proposition 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts.**

**Vote Y – A Yes vote will maintain the redistricting with the people rather than partisanship**

Proposition 21 Establishes \$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Grants Free Admission to All State Parks to Surcharged Vehicles.

**Vote N – The state is quick to tax and then reduce the service. Let's not give them more money to squander.** The state should be able to fund all such programs out of the general fund. The fact that it cannot is indicative that state revenue is inadequate, meaning that taxes are not high enough. Special funds simply are a bad idea. They remove accountability from the legislators and permit them to blame the voters when it is the legislators who are not doing their jobs.

**Proposition 22 Prohibits the State from Taking Funds Used for Transportation or Local Government Projects and Services.**

**Vote N – The Cities and Counties need to live within their own budgets without dependence on the State**

**Proposition 23 Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws Requiring Major Polluters to Report and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions That Cause Global Warming Until Unemployment Drops Below Specified Level for Full Year.**

**Vote N – We need to maintain the momentum gained in controlling air pollution**

**Proposition 24 Repeals Recent Legislation That Would Allow Businesses to Carry Back Losses, Share Tax Credits, and Use a Sales-Based Income Calculation to Lower Taxable Income.**

**Vote N – This is not the way to correct legislation**

**Proposition 25 Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget from Two-Thirds to a Simple Majority. Retains Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Taxes.**

**Vote Y – A Yes vote will eliminate partisan gridlock**

**Proposition 26 Increases Legislative Vote Requirement to Two-Thirds for State Levies and Charges. Imposes Additional Requirement for Voters to Approve Local Levies and Charges with Limited Exceptions.**

**Vote Y – A Yes vote will give power to the voters and will make legislators accountable**

**Proposition 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates Authority for Redistricting with Elected Representatives.**

**Vote N – Let this new commission do its job.**

Click the link below to read the details of the Propositions:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>

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