



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Question of the week:
Win a Breakfast with Barry

How many city employees don't contribute to their pension fund?

Vanguard
News Service Vol V
Week of October 11, 2009
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

CITY SAYS ‘NO!’ TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

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



Barry spent a busy two hours talking about local government and fiscal accountability in Glendale and elsewhere to an interested, articulate group at GCC on the third of October. This was his second visit and the numbers of attendees has grown.

Legislator meetings continue with meetings with State Senator Carol Liu and Assembly members Paul Krekorian and Anthony Portantino. Each meeting further addresses the Sunshine Laws with emphasis on the Public Records Act, the Brown Act and funding of higher education institutions through H1B visas.

Eagle Rock celebrated its 11th annual arts and music festival. Colorado was closed for the thousands of visitors. It was well managed and a real benefit for the community where restaurants were full even though the festival included a street fair with food vendors.

Is the Unity Fest doomed to failure under the aegis of this City Council? There was no champion of the Unity Fest this year as it conflicted with an event at the Brand Library and the Montrose Farmers Market.

Bus Census...use an expensive consultant or the Glendale Youth Alliance? The City hired the consultant.

City gave away a \$3,000,000 asset along with a Million Dollar bonus to ‘steal’ the Museum of Neon Arts (MONA) from LA. This ‘Art’ form will help fill the hotels as hundreds of thousands descend on Glendale to visit MONA and the other economic drivers which, according to Mayor Quintero, are Porto’s and Panera.

City staff was put on notice about the Compressed Natural Gas incident at the Burbank fueling station. Having advance knowledge could prevent a disaster at the new fueling station.

Vanguardians message about locking City Halls doors with the unintended consequence of preventing people from attending public meetings in City Hall thereby creating an egregious Brown Act violation, was heard by the City Clerk, Facilities Management, Dept of Public Works and Board and Commission staff. A sign will be placed on City Hall doors indicating ‘a meeting is in progress...don’t lock the doors’.

City buys a Fire Truck without a single question as to whether it would fit on City streets.

Better hustle if you are heading for the City Clerk’s office as counter service now ends at 3:30.

LAEDC Selects Ten Finalists For 2009 Most Business-Friendly City in LA County Competition

The anticipation is building among the 10 finalists for the 2009 Most Business-Friendly City in L.A. County competition! The cities are:

Population over 60,000

- Alhambra
- Downey
- Lakewood
- Long Beach
- Torrance
- Whittier

Glendale didn't make the cut.

Population under 60,000

- Bell Gardens
- Commerce
- La Mirada
- Santa Fe Springs

We are following these stories:

- **Mardikian vs. City** [Trial restarts on 10-16];
- **Ivy Glen assisted care facility** [City says the Termite eggs egged them forward and Ability First the operator is getting bids on termite eradication. We'll be watching to make sure the residents are provided for.]
- **The Beeline – More Money – Less Service** [**Speaking of buses the Internal Audit is out for the MV Transportation contract. It is posted on the home page of www.vanguardians.org. The more bureaucracy the City added the less the compliance has been. Vanguard will check with Montebello to see if they had the same problems. Basically the books don't balance. Cindy Coens meetup for Beeline riders at El Morfi didn't happen. El Morfi owner was surprised that the GNP, just down the block, didn't verify the story.**]
- More suits against the GPD.

Vanguardians is expanding into other areas. If you know people who want better, accountable government in their area, ask them to call Barry Allen at 818 243 1502

Mea Culpa: Pacoima is not a city however the area has a redevelopment area and the funds are being used in that area. [From the Daily News: The LA City Council is poised to approve on Friday the release of \\$1 million for a pilot Foreclosure Prevention Program](#) aimed at keeping families in their homes by lending them money for so-called "silent second" mortgages. The program itself was unanimously approved August. Friday's vote will fund it.

The plan is to take \$1 million from the Community Redevelopment Agency's coffers to give lenders an incentive to reduce the loan principal and monthly payments of 20 to 30 homeowners in Pacoima, where one out of every nine homes is in default.

The Los Angeles Housing Department will administer the money, lending up to \$75,000 to homeowners who are upside down on their mortgages. The loans will be paid directly to lenders -- but only if the lenders agree to reduce the mortgage balance to current market value. In some cases, lenders may have to write off more than \$100,000.

CCM Weaver said Glendale would be going down a slippery slope. LA doesn't seem to be bothered, [\\$20,000,000* THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR PORTIONS OF COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 \(PACOIMA/PANORAMA CITY\) TAX ALLOCATION BONDS, SERIES D \(TAX EXEMPT\)](#)

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 ½ million eyeballs. Get a jump start today by calling now. This is a limited offer.

Vanguardians is seeking sponsors for the monthly Town Halls.
Contact Barry Allen 818 243 1502 for details

October 16 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 can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

LAUREL MILLER IS OFF THIS WEEK

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

From the Publisher... A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



In order to have a vision for the future you must understand the past. Not too long ago Glendale was a financial Center. It no longer is due to consolidations, merger and acquisitions and technology. It was then decided to make it a retail center with the Galleria and now the Americana. All told it was and is a bedroom community.

Glendale had a past, like other communities, that prohibited certain minorities to live here while it supported the Nazi Party.

Today many old-time Glendalians are still unenlightened. Not too long ago when we were house hunting the Realtor told us what communities to avoid because of the Armo's. I had no idea what he was speaking of.

Today I have spoken to people that would like to invest in Glendale; to move their families here; to buy and remodel, buy and tear down and/or build a new home. They shy away because Glendale is not user friendly; it takes too long to get plan approval along with Zoning Variances, DRB and of course size. Glendale is being successful in keeping out people that would support the non-existent arts community and bring in the expertise in making this City something it is not...a destination.

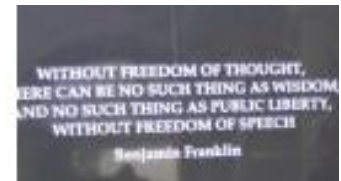
A number of hotels have been approved for Glendale. I haven't seen the marketing studies but I don't believe the demographic will support all these buildings but the City is looking at the Hotel Occupancy tax (TOT) for additional revenue. I see a number of these hotels being converted to apartments and condos.

What is the drawing card for this to be a destination? The Doctor's House? The Alex Theater? The Neon Museum? The Galleria and the Americana? Not Old Town Montrose...if it were we would have a hotel built there. Glendale's public transportation system is limited to a few MTA routes and the Beeline that will be cutting back. Maybe even a trolley on Brand.

The Glendale Community College is not a USC or UCLA or a Cal State university. The three hospitals are not world class. The City has not been willing to invest in anything that would presume to increase the intellectual output of the community.

While Glendale geared up for the Unity Fest on one block of Brand I watched a parade in Pasadena with dignitaries such as Cong. Schiff and Assemblymember Portantino in lead cars; we attended the 11th annual Music Festival along with thousands of people in Eagle Rock where the following day there was an Arts Festival. This weekend it will be repeated in Pasadena where people are encouraged to use the Gold Line.

On Sunday we headed out to the City of Riverside and had a late brunch at the Mission Inn, visited the Mission Museum and the Chinese exhibit at the City Museum; took a picture of the plaque by the City Hall with a Benjamin Franklin quote; saw the beautiful new correctional center along with the County Court House with its early 1900s casting of majestic statuary. The Central library was open and had an exhibit that we missed. At the Convention Center there were signs all over touting the WiFi (Free Internet). The City uses parking pay stations like Glendale but they all have a solar cell to power them. The City is home to UCRiverside, a huge State Building and beautifully designed County buildings for police, fire, fleet management, social services and more.



Glendale should relish the fact that it is a bedroom community and should encourage people to come here and build their homes to fit their lifestyles. Homes for members of foreign consuls; movie magnates; and others of wealth, knowledge and wisdom.

The City should look at the movie houses by Tony Roma's and make them into a conference center; close Maryland and make it a mall where artists and galleries are encouraged to display their wares.

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](#)

COMMENTARY: A TALE OF TWO CITIZENS



While the Glendale taxpayer who works for private industry is ever more constrained, pressured, poorer, I wonder if they have the time to feel indignant at the disparity that is becoming wider between those with a secure government job and those without.

This month a tenant will be asking his landlord for a \$100 permanent break in the rent because the hours at his job were cut. This month that same tenant will be paying one of the highest electric utility bills in California. The approximate bi-monthly utility bill at his 1000 square foot apartment will be near \$200.

Last April a mother and her children, without health insurance, find the public clinic at Pacific Edison park has been closed due to lack of public funds. The day following the city elections the city manager offered a health fair to all the city employees at Parcher Plaza. It didn't matter that they already have robust health insurance choices and now don't even pay for their deductible.

Today a mid-level manager in private industry is probably being asked to work another 60-hour week, and, as a professional, he won't be getting any overtime. This coming Friday about half of the city managers won't be coming to work. They figured that they worked the equivalent of 40 hours so they deserve the three-day weekend.

Somewhere in the city a business has laid off employees and the remaining managers and employees must take up any slack. In the city of Glendale an additional 40% more mid-level managers have been hired in the last ten years. It's a lot easier now to take off those Fridays every other week. Work won't be piling up.

A senior living by herself finds that her weekly trash barely covers the bottom of her trash can. When she compares her waste disposal fees from the city from just a few years ago she finds that it has grown by well over 40%. She now needs to search for more double coupons to squeeze her social security check.

A building developer is negotiating to build an apartment building. He finds that his cost is less than \$200 per square foot (land included) even with a subterranean garage due to the lower construction costs. In the mean time, the city is paying \$360 per square foot for a building built at surface level on city property at Central Park. No one is asking why.

Several neighbors get together to share the news that the 99 cent store on San Fernando Blvd has just received a shipment of notebooks and other school supplies. Somewhere on city hall some employees are gathering together to tell of their last cruise-ship vacation in the Caribbean.

This week a 53 year-old man is desperately looking for a job. His retirement nest egg is nearly zero as he discovered that the 401k his bankrupt employer provided is nearly worthless. This week in Santa Clarita, a 53 year old retired GFD employee is basking in his \$180,000 per year pension courtesy of the 2001 Glendale city council.

Last Tuesday at the city council meeting millions of dollars in purchases were approved without much challenge from the city council members. No relevant questions were asked. No spirit of frugality permeates their consciousness. Who cares? Just take it on to the hapless taxpayer.

It has taken this dismal economic condition to show us the disparity, unfairness and sheer disregard for the taxpayer that has become the mindset of the Glendale city government for much too long. Which council member speaks for the taxpayer?

Last Tuesday at the city council session a taxpayer came up to ask for accountability. The presiding officer said as he yawned and looked away, "You have two minutes." Herbert Molano

Training Dais A political novel By Herbert Molano

Prologue: *In a small desert town in California, the recipe for political control of a mid-sized city on the East Coast was taking shape. Back in Jersey, a sleepy bedroom community had already taken the steps towards becoming a political incubator. The city budget had almost tripled in size in 12 short years and was soon reaching that magical landmark - One billion dollars. Big developers were already elbowing for influence, and Nathan Neiderman was going to ride that horse. He felt he finally had a winner. He needed the limelight and the money, but he had no idea what hard-ball politics would cost him.*

Chapter One

It was just five days after the election, and Nathan could not yet sleep soundly. He woke up after a troubled sleep, irritated and dejected. The morning was still dark, and he hurriedly put on a pair of jeans and the first t-shirt he found draped over the chair. He slipped into his sandals then paused briefly at the door. He went back to the nightstand, picked up his cigarettes, and quietly walked out the door. The cold, damp, morning air suited him just fine. He lit his cigarette and walked down the steps.

Palm Desert was quiet and peaceful at this time. Nathan Neiderman had taken refuge here before and he found the walks before dawn helped him clear his thoughts. Through the years, he could always count on Palm Desert and Jacques to help make him whole. He was a long way from New Jersey and far away from small-town petty politics.

Still, he could not get past the disappointing loss. Here, he could reflect on his life steadied by the friends he'd had for so many years. He walked briskly, as if an answer could be found in the distance.

Nathan stopped suddenly and looked back. He had heard someone running towards him. It was Jacques, "Nate, I brought you a pull-over; it's cold out."

Nathan turned slightly irritated, "You needn't have bothered, the morning will warm up soon, besides, you didn't sleep well last night either."

Jacques ignored him, "It's still bothering you, isn't it? The election that is."

Nathan's face softened, and turned to Jacques as both walked together, "If only we've had a couple of thousand dollars more or three more volunteers. We were so close."

Jacques understood the meaning all too well. Three hundred more votes and Nathan could be in a position to pull himself up financially. He had learned that as an alderman, Nathan could be in a good position to make a name for himself. Nathan was a natural. He had great potential as a politician and a voice that carried his prose elegantly. Jacques turned to Nathan, "How's that little tailor shop in Valley-Glen doing?" Jacques immediately noticed the slight change in Nathan's face and added quickly, "I know it hasn't been the same since your dad passed away. Why do you keep the shop open?"

Nathan chuckled, "Jacques, that store has been the center of my world. That shop is now the hub that has allowed me to create an identity. It's where I hold court to all those who seek a friend and a link to their past, to their memories." He spoke slower now, "Without that shop I'd have no basis for running for office. I'd only be just another anonymous face in the crowd."

Nathan felt in his bones that he was better at the game of politics than the aldermen now in office. He knew much more than they in how to schmooze with excellence. He knew how to create an image. The tailor shop was nothing more than a political store front where nearby merchants could confess their frustrations with the city government. That shop was tailor-made as a political validation of the image he had designed for himself: Nathan Neiderman - small businessman, concerned neighbor, political confidant, Democrat. The image was picture perfect. He should've won. It was the money that had come up short. He turned to Jacques, pushing the sour memory into a mental compartment, "I'm hungry. Should we start getting back?"

Jacques replied, "I have a great surprise for you. Roger will be cooking up breakfast for of us. He should be there by now."

As Nathan and Jacques turned the corner, they could see Roger waving a white linen cloth from the balcony. Everyone was fond of Roger. He had turned a sleepy waffle house into a thriving restaurant. Roger had taken his Avant-garde culinary success into a major run for city council six years ago, and Palm Desert had never been the same since. Small-town politics was now in the hands of a master. Roger had created the model of the small-town entrepreneur turned successful councilman and mayor. After six short years Roger not only had control of the city council, he had become comfortably wealthy. He could cook up wild edibles sautéed in wine at his restaurant and created imaginative zoning changes with succulent variances for his political supporters at city hall.

It was going to be a special breakfast this morning. Nathan turned to Jacques, "What are we waiting for? I am famished!"

They raced up the stairs together to the big waiting arms of Roger. The political loss was soon forgotten, and Roger was about to lay the plans for Nathan's second run for office two years from now.

*This is a serialized version of Herbert Molano's upcoming novel about political corruption
All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely coincidental.*

Herbert Molano © 2009

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

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

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

THE PUBLIC BE DAMNED... YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW



The City of Folsom violated the California Public Records Act by refusing to respond to a public records request submitted on Aug. 30 requesting statistics on citations.

There was a buzz on the street that the Folsom Police Department issued citations in a parking lot at Wal-Mart for cracked windows and expired registration on numerous vehicles.

After personally being pulled over by the same police officer in Folsom in late August I realized something wasn't sitting right.

A letter published in the Folsom Telegraph on Oct. 7 2009 from a parent concerned with police (in)activity wrote that police had ticketed her son \$214 for improper use of a horn. The perpetrator in this case was a "passenger in a vehicle who had honked the horn at a couple of friends."

The public records request was sent to Kerry Miller the City Manager, the Folsom Police Department, and the public information officer of Folsom Police Department.

City Manager Miller wrote a quest column in the Folsom Telegraph on July 28, 2009 titled, "Safety, not ticket quotas is police goal".

A closer look at the Folsom City budget for FY 2008 - 2009 shows in the Police Department section one of three listed strategies is to increase traffic citations by five percent and again five percent in FY 2009- 2010.

Looking at Folsom's budget FY 2009 - 2010 preliminary budget the strategy is nowhere to be found. Basic statistics including DUI arrests and traffic citations are not included, while they are as clear as day in the FY 2008 - 2009.

JUSTIN SMITHS



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.

Happy Birthday (10-9)

Total Number of Current and Active Glendale Foreclosures as of OCT 9, 09 are: **918**

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](#)

"Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many" -Eric Hoffer, 1902-1983

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](#)

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

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.



For many months I have been comparing Vanguard with the NewsPress...Vanguard does more than puff pieces while the GNP allows anyone to write a letter that people accept as the Gospel. For instance a letter about needed change in government...what change. Another letter about attending a meeting about the Beeline. It was non-existent. When I want facts and background I read Vanguard. [ED – Thank you. In my experience the GNP would verify almost every word. I mentioned in a letter to them several years ago that Glendale was the third largest City in LA County. They wanted proof.]

Wow, Mike Mohill is going to run for Council against Drayman and Weaver on a platform of council districts to bring more representation to the area below the 134 while he lives almost next door to Weaver. Obviously he is in no way able to support his own agenda. There goes another spoiler.

Why is it that people want the benefits of accountable government but are afraid to demand that from their government, or support those that do? Can you give an answer? [ED – Here we are to support the people in their frustration with government. Unlike MONA we get no subsidies from government. Quite the contrary. People and organizations that help the community get tarred and feathered while the beneficiaries sit back and enjoy the gains that we have made. We survive on your contributions.]

John and Ken on KFI were talking about government pensions and Glendale came up. [ED They must read Vanguard, the LA Times, the Daily News and talk with Keith Richman.]

Is it true that a GPD officer wrote a ticket to a blind person who was attempting to cross Brand with a service animal where the audible traffic signals were either not in place or not working? [ED – Vanguardians will research that.]

Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech. Benjamin Franklin

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

3 Public Information

"Just the facts"

REQUEST: Provide documents showing all employees, officials, elected officials who do not currently make a financial contribution to their pension.

RESPONSE: The information you request below is exempt from production pursuant to Government Code Section 6254(c) and will not be produced.

Vanguardians REPLY: The Supreme Court was very direct when it stated that compensation of public employees is not exempt. Provide the information requested. Also provide the performance bonus information previously requested as bonuses are compensation.

Glendale’s Legal Department flies in the face of a Supreme Court Decision S134253 that affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeals that “well-established norms of California public policy and American public employment exclude public employee names and salaries from the zone of financial privacy protection.”

Pensions and performance bonuses fall within that decision. The City of Glendale is asking us to take this matter to Court. The Cities of South Pasadena and San Bernardino also took that position. Vanguardians now has in its possession the data requested from those Cities.

[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, October 12

Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, October 14

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

Tuesday, October 13

2:30 CH Housing Authority -- 548-2060;
Redevelopment Agency -- 548-2005
6:00 pm City Council -- 548-4844

Thursday, October 15

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

4 Vanguardians

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy’s we discussed the Beeline audit, the cost of 216 S Brand, the status of new development--- which projects are financially doomed, the tip-over at the Burbank fueling station and the Vanguardians ‘wins’ at public record compliance. The City of Glendale is next on the list for non-compliance. Fortunately Glendale set the bar high on attorney fees. 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. We welcomed some new warriors for accountable government.
- 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

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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 a 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.



My Fellow Vanguardians: Just writing about City issues and E-mails are not going to change the way the City does things. The Council is really rejecting any thing you propose. You are going to have to come together in large groups at the council meeting and also stage large protest with a formal weekly meeting like the Monday before the council meeting. I would also initiate a council recall effort to show the strength of your group and a vote of no confidence in the City Manager and make it public.

Did you know that very few city employees live within the City of Glendale including executives? They have no concern about the City problems all they want is their checks deposited into their banks.

Vanguard should ask GWP for a financial review of their operations of trying to market their resources with a hired contractor; it will show that they have lost 4 million dollars already this year. GWP has one of the highest electrical rates in the USA. Unless someone puts a stop to their wasteful spending they will still go higher.

I wonder if those on the City council knows how damn stupid it is for anyone of them to be bringing up or bragging about their so called attending a big university and crap about the foot ball wins. It only shows how damn ignorant they are and no one is interested in what schools they attended. I have known persons with only a 3rd grade education and they were 1000 times smarter than our almighty dais sitters.

The City's "dynasty builders" are out in force with the details of the reorganization just now being discussed at the lower levels. Only one thing seems certain, managers will win and front line staff and the public will lose with bad managers having power over more staff and customer service being placed further on the back burner. In the end, don't expect any savings or service improvements in spite of the grand claims and expectations.

6

Stories from Claims against the City

Dona Boehm is off this week

7

News Briefs from the neighborhood

From PublicCeo

[Redding firefighters will take a pay cut to prevent the closure of a fire station and the layoff and demotion of firefighters. The concession will represent approximately a 12.4 percent pay cut for 71 firefighters in the department, according to the Redding Searchlight newspaper. **Read the full notebook.**](#)

[The Lodi City Council begins each of its weekly meetings with a prayer. On Wednesday night, the Lodi City Council addressed the issue when it voted unanimously to continue prayer prior to meetings. Now the city is facing a possible lawsuit. **Read the full notebook.**](#)

[A soap opera like saga continues at Taft City Hall. The Taft Independent of West Kern County wrote an interesting editorial that is worth a read. **Read the full notebook.**](#)

[Santa Paula's open City Manager position is getting some good attention, as 75 candidates have applied for the job. But Santa Paula's Interim City Manager, Cliff Finley, is in the running too following a strong endorsement from a former mayor. **Read the full notebook.**](#)

[Should a City Manager Be Involved in Elective Politics?](#)

As one city manager put it: "It is inappropriate and unethical for any city manager or staff person to get involved in the elective politics in the community in which they serve." But isn't the opinion of the city manager valuable? Or is it simply not the job of city management to be involved in elective politics?

[Read more here.](#)

[San Diego Council splits over party lines regarding unions vs outsourcing](#)

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