



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of October 24, 2010
info@vanguardians.org
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

ANOTHER SCANDAL

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.

CONTENTS:

- News:**
Vernon
Bell
El Segundo
San Diego
Santa Monica
- 1) [Commentary](#)
Barry Allen:
Latest Scandal
- Herbert Molano:**
The Law of Averages
Prince of Montrose
Triplets
- Michael Fuss**
A Ghost

- [Bruce Philpott](#)
Private Safety
- 2) [Shout Box](#)
What Mohill said...
- 3) [Public Records](#)
- 4) [Vanguardians](#)
Vanguardians Training
Air Hammer vs Hot Air
Lanzafame out Haghani in
- 5) [The Insider](#)
GFD and God
- 6) [The Denizens on the Dais](#)
Icons
Looking Ahead



- The former city administrator of Vernon was indicted on three felony counts by an L.A. County Grand Jury that has been investigating a questionable business contract between the industrial city and his wife. Donal O'Callaghan was indicted on two counts of conflict of interest and one count of misappropriation of public funds totaling more than \$140,000. He posted \$50,000 bail. [More here](#)

- [Los Angeles Times | Oct. 20, 2010](#) Bell officials misused funds for low-income housing, audit says Former Bell City Administrator Robert Rizzo and other top administrators paid part of their high salaries by taking hundreds of thousands of dollars from a fund that was to be used to provide housing for low-income residents in the small working-class city, according to a state audit released Wednesday.
 In addition, the audit found the city consistently misused the affordable-housing funds by spending the money on everything from cellphone fees to automotive costs. State Controller John Chiang said his office found repeated management failures and at least \$1.2 million of what it described as "inappropriate payments" in its redevelopment agency and gas tax funds.
- The open, transparent government movement is catching fire because of advocates for accountability. http://publicsafetyproject.org/elsegundo/elsegundo_payroll.html
- [San Diego hires outside law firm to negotiate with government employee labor unions:](#) At their Tuesday meeting, all councilmembers approved the lead labor negotiations contract with [Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP](#) for fiscal year 2012. Partner Timothy Davis, and any needed associates, will handle the negotiations with the six unions that represent city employees. Davis will give expert legal consultation to California Teamsters Local 911, Deputy City Attorneys Association of

San Diego, San Diego City Firefighters-International Firefighters Association Local 145, and San Diego Municipal Employees Association. Davis will handle negotiations on retiree health benefit reforms and the 10 fiscal reforms in proposition D, the half cent sales tax law, for all six unions.

- [Santa Monica The Milken Institute says in 2014 every person in California](#) will be paying \$10,000 a year to support public employees pensions. The Milken Institute, an independent think tank, said California's [pension](#) obligations to retired state workers already cost each Californian \$3,000 every year. By 2014, that cost could go up to \$10,000 a year, the group's [report](#) said.

"If we stopped everything today, we would be 500 billion dollars in the hole, of what we owe people that we've promised already," said Marcia Fritz, a pension reform activist with CaliforniaPensionReform.com

CalPERS, the state's largest pension system, pays out pensions of \$100,000 or more to more than 9,000 [retirees](#). CalSTRS, the pension system for teachers, gives out retirement packages of more than \$100,000 a year to more than 3,000 retirees.

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.

Vanguardians Sponsor

Do you have a spare vehicle sitting around that doesn't run, is taking up space, needs repairs, you were going to fix it up and you just haven't gotten around to it? Adrian's Auto Works has the solution...One of their technicians will come to your home or business and give you an evaluation of your vehicle. And the best thing is, by mentioning this ad, the evaluation is FREE.

Call Bob at Adrian's Auto Works now...626 344 8071 make an appointment



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.

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...



Reading the local newspaper one could feel the pain of those getting ready to move into the latest affordable housing project on San Fernando Road. You learn of the frustration of the Glendale City Manager who missed the red flags when the developer wanted more money; where was the inspection department; and if everything is copascetic why bring in an outside law firm; there are so many questions about the performance of the city regarding ADI.

Los Angeles and Anaheim seem happy with the ADI projects and at this time are not concerned with visits from those dedicated people in Westwood.

Here is a question: How much short term borrowing was involved in order to pay the cost overruns on this project?

As I have looked through thousands of city documents I have found cost overruns, change orders and I don't think there was, in recent times, a city project that came through on time and under budget.

In the past I praised Jim Starbird for doing the job of the Council but today I think his management style has hurt the taxpayers. The City Council several years ago was ready to say, 'Sayanara', however cold feet took over and he received homage and elevation to Sainthood and a caveat that firing him would cost the stakeholders dearly, instead. Add that amount to his last years compensation or 'spike it', he would receive a lot of dinero.

Watching from afar the dance of Council and City Manager is predictable. Council says, "protect us," CM asks why he should. They respond that they can fire him. He says, "Go ahead and explain to taxpayers why you fired me and doubled my pay (early termination fee). Make my day!" A political stand off.

Civil service protects everyone else, the City Manager and the City Attorney being the exceptions. Basically Civil Service prevents the punishment of employees except for the most egregious of acts or if a manager wants to stop the advancement of a particular employee, a vendetta.



I have fielded a number of calls from people that have asked why and how Vanguardians got involved. The answer in my mind is simple. We keep confidences and protect our sources; we have connections through our advisors and board; we have developed and protect our 'whistleblowers'. As journalists we can protect the confidentiality and identity of our sources,

Unfortunately, Vanguard is the only local investigative media that shares the results with the public and other media. Glendale deserves more. We have not become 'bosom buddies' with any of the city officials, allowing us to maintain objectivity, integrity and thwart the Stockholm Syndrome. We refuse to accept money from government or politicians.

The defamatory attacks made not only on Vanguardians but those advocates for transparent, accountable government are quite telling. The fact that many people would like to speak out at Council but choose not to as they fear retribution, intimidation

and the verbal abuse of those on the dais, or a visit from the local police making accusations of terrorism (there are at least two documented cases in Glendale alone).

Even monkey's fall from trees...

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

THE LAW OF AVERAGES



It's not in the official Glendale City government reports yet, but the average city resident has one breast and one testicle. It may be factually correct as averages go, but a totally irrelevant and useless observation. That is how the official pronouncements on water rate average increases serve as public information. Officially, for the average single-family house, that averages 474 gallons of water use per day, the city will impose a 3.8% fee increase added to the meter service portion of their water bill. The city message: "Only a 3.8% rate increase."



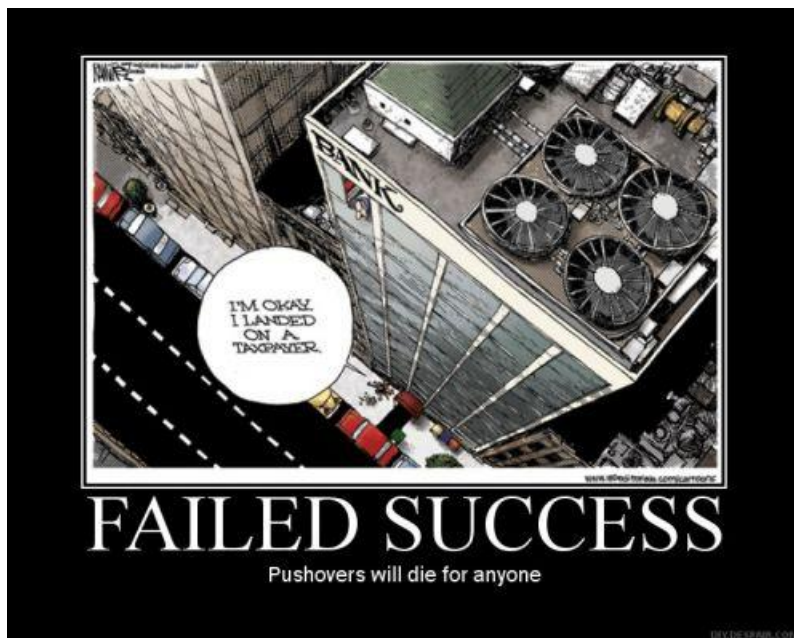
For a very long time, Glendale city management has used averages to depict life in Glendale. They state the average road condition or the average parkland per thousand. Within each of those averages lies a truth that points to their misleading intent and clouds the negative conditions in many neighborhoods or social conditions that have deteriorated.

What the GWP has done with their water rate proposal is to reduce the fees associated with water consumption while increasing the meter service or connection charges. This pricing scheme forces an increase to all water utility property owners regardless of their water use and places the burden on those who conserve the most. A short example should demonstrate this bizarre pricing concoction.

Imagine that you leave Glendale for a few months and don't use any water at all. Your basic water bill charge from the GWP will increase because the fee increases are tacked on to the connection or meter fees rather than to the water consumption.

What is so absurd with this use of averages is that the rationale for the water rate increase harped on by council member Friedman is that the rates must go up because the Metropolitan Water District has increased their fees to the GWP. The cost of the water from MWD has gone up, but the customers are not being charged additionally for the consumption of the water. All additional fee increases are tacked on to the meter charge. This way, all customers will be hit with a fee increase even if they turn to extreme conservation. What Friedman failed to mention along with the average fee increase are the millions of dollars taken away from the utility and into the General Fund where pay increases, employee pensions and benefits have risen almost uncontrollably.

Last Tuesday, the city council's public hearing seemed like an incredibly contrived and rehearsed session. At the tail end of the discussion, one of the GWP commissioners, Zanku Armenian, who was nominated to the GWP



commission by Ara Najarian, gave his rendition for justification of the water rate increases. But Mr. Armenian failed to give a strong argument supporting the observations presented at two previous commission meetings regarding the manner the rates are being constructed and the impact of the transfers on the utility. Why didn't the GWP chair make the presentation? My guess is that the GWP chair is more skeptical of the way the rates are structured, and has questioned the practice of transferring funds from the GWP to the General fund. There was no vote by GWP to select Mr. Armenian as their spokesman for this city council meeting. To me, the whole question and answer session seemed rehearsed and contrived. No other speaker during the public hearing was granted the opportunity to expand on his opinions.

Council member Friedman was the most vocal supporter of the rate increase and gave little acknowledgement to the thousands of residents who are struggling to pay their bills. Her sentiments were then echoed by Councilman Weaver who gave his usually slanted justification to support the apparently unanimous decision by the GWP commission. According to Weaver, three members of the commission work for other utilities and are therefore more qualified than most residents to give their opinion on the water rate increases. What he didn't mention is that the job titles of most of these commissioners bear little relevance to the study of the operational performance or costs of the utility.

Mr. Armenian, for example, is an attorney focused on the public communication aspects of another utility. Though he has the demonstrated intelligence to tackle the issues, he and others did not start to question the rationale of official GWP presentations until pointed out by city activists demanding greater transparency at the commission meetings.

The GWP commissioners have demonstrated their reluctance to challenge the city staff effectively. Most have probably not had the executive positions where they've had the opportunity to evaluate, hire or fire senior managers in their respective job functions. Commissioners mostly seem deferential, often meek and apologetic with a demonstrably lack of confidence. Some don't seem to do their homework, don't read thoroughly the reports prepared by staff, and don't analyze the staff conclusions. At a meeting earlier this month, a staff member gave one of the most boringly detailed and irrelevant presentation that had commissioners yawning and struggling to stay awake. When the presentation was over, commissioners nearly applauded as they lauded the presentation as

wonderfully thorough. They can't seem to build the courage to stop a needlessly technical presentation when all they need is the executive-level summary.

What is so disappointing is that we probably have the most talent and intellect relative to their commission appointment at GWP than most appointees at other city commissions, but they lack the self-assurance that leadership demands. Invariably, most commissioners lack sufficient years in positions of leadership to hold city managers accountable to real performance outcomes or truly transparent reports.

To me, commission assignments are often taken as qualification to run for city council as we learned from Najarian who sat warming a chair at the TPC for years. Some are simply biding their time, acquiescing to the city management staff while paving the way for a run at a city council seat with city public union money. Others are simply there to warm a seat, rubber stamp when told to do so, and make a good show for the public. These are positions that often require high-level managerial experience, a discerning mind, and low tolerance for nonsense. But these commissioners behave mostly like your average Joe or Jane - unfit for leadership.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE THE SUPERFICIAL PRINCE OF MONTROSE

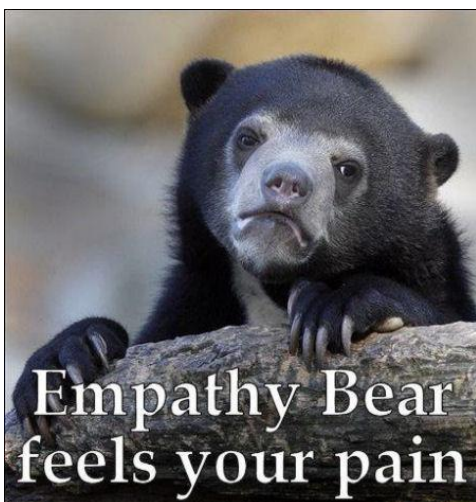
The man whose candidacy for city council I loved to promote showed up at the city council chambers Tuesday October 12th. He is not an ex-councilman who came to visit. It was John Drayman whose pathos made a comeback just in time for next spring's city elections.

Drayman was at his empathic best. During the discussion of water rates increases, Drayman gave us an anecdote of his trip to the Glendale Water and Power offices to hear first-hand how these harsh economic times are impacting the utility rate payer. Drayman's recounting of that emotional experience had all the elements of sympathy for families struggling to pay their utility bills. His timing was impeccable, the thoughtful pauses allowed the audience to view the pain welling within him.

I looked around for a casting director but all I could see was the angry faces of residents unwilling to accept the abuse of utility rates that continue to increase despite resident's dwindling incomes. But, Drayman was doing his acting best to make this event a virtual audition for a second run for public office – The theme: Unfinished Business.

Those of us loved the candidate who so often portrayed himself as the image of everyman looking out for social justice. We learned during these nearly four years just how hollow Drayman's concerns really were and how vulnerable we were to his words.

Before I met him, I had read in the Glendale News-Press several front page eulogies about Drayman's father. Here was a man of exceptional character who had conquered local prejudices to gain the warm respect and admiration of the local community. A man of integrity had left Montrose a better place to live, and left us his begotten son - John Drayman.



After reading the stories of a man doing the right thing for the right reasons, I felt eager to meet his son. After all, we all expect an apple not to fall far from the tree. When I met him, all my expectations were coming true. It was as if I had already known him. My stories about broken sidewalks with the elderly often tripping, falling, and breaking their hips, were met with his own struggles in trying to get the city to fulfill their promises to fix sidewalks and light up the dark streets on Honolulu Avenue. To my observations that the city government spends less than one percent of its budget on youth, he had memories of living in southern Glendale and growing up Jewish in less than idyllic conditions. I said council districts; he depicted Montrose as the city's step-child. I said ethics ordinance; he said transparency. I said tomato; he said tomato. I said potato; he said potato – He was John Adams incarnate with a righteous indignation ready to make democracy work for us.

Then he got elected. On election night, after celebrating his victory, I walked out of Damon's Steakhouse behind city manager Jim Starbird

and councilman Ara Najarian. Though I did not hear Starbird's words to Najarian, I caught the last part of Najarian's reply, "Don't worry, he'll come on board".

What did Najarian know that I did not?

I found out in less than three months. When I reminded Drayman of the parkland shortage in central Glendale and his promises to address it, he conferred quietly with Najarian and then took a fifteen minute tirade - a vicious verbal attack against me. He uncovered his signature weapon, claiming that I saw council's actions as "conspiracies" He would place the word "conspiracy" in the mouths of many public speakers, and then make a verbal assault on whoever would question city policies. Drayman had turned out to be the best friend of his former nemesis - autocrat David Weaver, and became the confidante of our premier public narcissist, Mayor Najarian.

The real John Drayman was slowly unveiling his real persona. The fair-minded person, I thought I knew, evaporated. The man of empathy and compassion had new friends to conquer - overpaid low-income housing developers. The man of impartiality had transformed into the public employees union true advocate. Infrastructure repair was put on the back burner as handsome pay and benefits went to the handsome fire fighters and well-placed city managers. I've come to learn that John Drayman, the advocate, will never be truly straight with you.

And so we rediscovered last October 12th how easily John Drayman can change back into his role of the empathic candidate. The same councilman, who ignored the studies by GWP that highlighted how thousands of residents could not pay their high utility bills, suddenly shows renewed concern. The same politician, who'd rather file away the city's own Quality of Life report, now has a renewed sense of the social conditions he's dismissed all along.

We are passive actors in a Shakespearian play with a radiant leading man front-to-center teaching us how wrong we can be about political love. And it takes Shakespeare's sonnets to depict our woes.

"What potions have I drunk of Siren Tears?"

"What wretched errors hath my heart committed?"

HERBERT MOLANO [Click here Glendale Today](#)

TRIPLETS

Coming to a theater near you

When it comes to city governance, the aim for developers, city unions, and other groups, is to gain control of three city council seats - the majority vote. Their aim is not to target improvements in the city's quality of life, but to control a good chunk of the 800 million dollars in annual city expenditures.

Without political parties that have an ideology behind it, the aim of these groups is their financial gain.

We've seen the results of that success in many forms. The change in the pension system that allows police and fire personnel to retire as early as age 50 with up-to 90% of their highest pay was made possible by the selection of Quintero, Yousefian, and Weaver. What most people still don't know is that the law made the pension benefit calculation retroactive to 1971 so that by July 1st of that year any police officer or fire-fighter with 30 years could walk off their job with a huge multi-million dollar pension.

How do residents benefit from this action? The only lame excuse we got from the city manager and others who stood to gain from the passage of the ordinance was that it was now a competitive landscape and in order to retain the best and brightest, we needed to pay commensurate salaries and benefits. In the following three years dozens of senior police officers took the offer and ran.



Having three councilmen in their corner, has allowed contractors and land developers to have their way with the city contracts. By today's standards of construction, a basic wood-frame and stucco apartment building should cost around \$100 per square foot to build. But, if you take the time to find the least cost the city pays for low income housing construction it is closer to \$191 per square foot (6200 San Fernando Road) and the other projects like the "City Lights projects" are an astronomical \$391 per square foot and others approach the \$500 per square foot range. An unsupported, bloated amount even with the 30% additional cost for union-pay scale.

Put three council members acting in concert to circumvent cost controls, transparency, and most measures of performance, and you have all the core ingredients of corrupt government. You find the trail of this audacity by listening in on the rationalizations and half-truths they give before the public when confronted by a city activist at city meetings. You find another indicator of the corrupt relationship when you find the name of the same players getting the cream of city contracts year after year.

Many people listen in on the apparent discussions that take place before the public at city council meetings or at the Housing Authority or the Redevelopment agency. If you listen to one or two meetings, you might leave impressed. Listen to two-hundred meetings and you'll find that whole experience is no more than a well orchestrated charade.

Once in a while, when four votes are assured to pass the ordinance, the leading man who pushed for the ordinance will vote against the project. It is an apparently effective way to cover his tracks and was used extensively in the 1980's and 1990's. But it only fools the uninitiated to council tactics. Most of the time, the three main players work in concert. They need to create a firm record of who truly rules the roost.

A few years ago, the city council passed an ordinance that made the city council have the final say in approving condominium conversions. It was not a problem that needed a solution. It was as pure a Pay-to-Play tactic as you could devise. For a city government that is apparently strapped for cash, turning apartments into condos creates a property tax bonanza without additional traffic, increases in population, or additional demands on the utilities. But since those changes took effect, you hardly see these transactions taking place in Glendale. Maybe the price has been too steep for many in the real estate industry.

But now that election time is near, there is another tactic you can look for. Identify the alter-ego voting practice. For example Drayman and Friedman have voted in concert with Quintero with nearly identical voting records. But now that election issues on taxes and utility fees come to the attention of the public, look for Drayman to switch back to present a popular position while Friedman becomes the lead in supporting the most abusive city policies that hammer the common folk. As long as three votes have been precooked for the status quo, it's show time for these hams. Friedman will turn populist again when her turn for re-election comes.

But, we are turning the corner. People are finally tuning in to understand who these council members really are. Residents only have to look at their astronomical utility bill and compare it to the list of retired employees with multi-million dollar pensions. But investigators are now finally taking a good look at the documents and practices that belie the smiling faces and warm commendations that initiate every city council meeting. It's all theater for them and we, the audience, have been paying a very heavy price for admission.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

THE MAYOR'S PRIVATE FUNDRAISER AND PUBLIC SAFETY



I would like to acknowledge the tremendous value of the Glendale Healthy Kids Program and salute the citizens who support this organization that brings needed medical and dental care to the underserved youth in Glendale. Equally deserving of recognition are the doctors, dentists and others who volunteer through the program.

Unfortunately, the mayor's fundraiser on September 25, 2010 on behalf of this worthy program removed several on-duty firefighter-paramedics from their primary life-saving emergency response capability.

Unbeknownst to guests, the firefighters who were behind the BBQ grill were assigned to a paramedic engine company. Their daily activity log states they were performing a "Public Education" function for four hours. This engine company is one of five in the city that has a paramedic on board. Paramedic engine companies often get to the scene of medical emergencies before the ambulance. In some cases, time is critical in administering diagnostic techniques and medications that only paramedics are certified to perform. A second on-duty firefighter paramedic was taken out of service as well. This firefighter paramedic was absent from his engine company for 13.5 hours. Driving a fire department pickup truck, he carried materials and supplies to assist with preparation before and clean up after the event.

The net result was that two of Glendale's five life-saving paramedic engines were removed from primary emergency medical response, leaving only the remaining three paramedic engines available to cover the whole city.

On that day, the Glendale Fire Department responded to 44 emergency calls of which 38 were medical. Some required rapid response with skilled paramedics due to life threatening circumstances. With a reduction in 40% of the on-duty paramedic engines (two of five) during the time of day when the call volume was at its peak, it is mathematically possible, even probable, that one or more emergency medical responses were delayed or lacked the value added service of a paramedic on board. This may very well have compromised one or more patients who required advanced emergency medical intervention. Although it is possible to find out, the city will not permit that data be made public.

The question for the citizens who pay for these critical emergency services is, "should this kind of activity be permitted?" Firefighters are the highest paid of all city employees and are trusted with important responsibilities. Taking them out of service to perform these kinds of duties is irresponsible and a violation of the public trust. This is punctuated by the fact that this year, the fire department eliminated one of its five Advanced Life Support ambulances. When I approach the public, without exception, they prefer that the critical first responders avoid engaging in activities that prevent them from getting to the scene of a major medical crisis as fast as possible.



City officials, including the mayor, city manager and fire chief could remedy this problem immediately by allowing only off-duty firefighters to perform these functions. They can wear their uniforms and drive the reserve fire engines. That would keep all of the on-duty first responders – and paramedics -- available to serve the public in an emergency and demonstrate to the public that they not only volunteer while being paid, but also for volunteering without pay.

According to a city spokesperson, there were a total of nine on-duty fire personnel at the mayor's party, including the battalion chief. According to the mayor, off-duty firemen were present at the event. The obvious question is why didn't they perform the volunteer functions and keep the on-

duty emergency responders in service? These officials should know better and should take immediate action to prevent a reoccurrence.

The holiday season is approaching. Will the fire department allow our first responders be taken out of service while participating in the Montrose Christmas Parade? Will city officials allow first responders to delay their arrival at medical emergencies because they are delivering food and gifts to needy families?

We are grateful to the Glendale firefighters for their service, but shouldn't their participation in parades, funerals, civic and charity events reflect the true spirit of volunteerism and staff them with **off-duty** firefighters? They know that a time delay of a few seconds or minutes can mean the difference between life and death. They also know that these kinds of avoidable activities create longer response times.

Will any city official who truly holds the public trust and cares about emergency response times take charge and require that off-duty firefighters perform these activities as a true "volunteer" service? **BRUCE PHILPOTT**

A VANGUARDIAN AND A GHOST FROM CHRISTMAS PAST FRIGHTEN A CITY GOVERNMENT.



Two weeks ago the Glendale City Council had their final public hearing regarding the pending water rate hike. As it turned out, a lot of the usual attempts to sand bag the opposition were attempted.

Some interesting things happened before the opposition got a chance to speak. The GWP spokesmen skirted around the issue of Glendale's violation of prop 218 and the financial obligations that the city would have to make by soft selling the idea that their legal council's opinion was that they were not in violation of the law - period, no plan B just in case they were not. It was clear that legal precedent with LA's lost DWP case from less than 2 years ago cast a pall over the meeting. No mention was made of how much compensation packages for public employees had expanded during his presentation. The closest the GWP spokesman came to an acknowledgement of the issue was simply to

allude to the fact that GWP rates and compensation packages were in line with neighboring cities as if that was an acceptable answer.

Council Member Laura Friedman then pulled off a farcical theater act by posing the rate increase as a two



dimensional problem simply constructing a 'questions and answers' dialogue argument with the GWP spokesman explaining the rate increase solely on increased water charges from the MWD. Again no mention was made with regards to the city diverting water payments to the general fund or the growth in Glendale public employee compensation packages that ultimately consumed the payments at the local trough. This sleight of hand might have worked if not for sharp forensic cross examination by Vanguardian Herbert Molano who pointed out that:

- A) The GWP was using less water due to conservation efforts.
- B) That translated into lower billing volume per household.
- C) This meant that the overhead ratio at the GWP would now become a factor - It was pegged at a constant cost despite the amount of water being sold. Then the GWP would have less money left over, however...
- D) The cost of running the GWP has gone up as public employee compensation packages inside the GWP have grown without legitimate public input. Molano asked the council to explain how much public employee compensation went up but was met with silence.
- E) Our Vanguardian also pointed out that the City of Glendale has been using the GWP as a piggy bank to fund City wide public employee compensation package cost over runs as the true reason for the GWP hemorrhaging. The city council sat stonily and had no response to his very clear and logical reconstruction of their looting of the GWP reserves which ultimately will result in a series of continuing rate hikes to cover for them.
- F) Sadly for those nice folks in the City Council the bill for skirting prop 218 will require another embarrassing public meeting to raise taxes, fines and fees to cover the payback that is due to the residents of Glendale in the not so distant future. Is there a plaintiff's lawyer in the house?



Mayor Ara Najarian, as if on cue after this stinging and truthful opposition performance made it clear that facts are indeed stubborn things as the quote goes, sought to shorten the speakers list.

The icing on the cake for me was watching and listening to an imposing rough stranger from the City of Bell raise his voice to warn the council like a ghost from Christmas past that what they were doing is visible to all who cared to see it in the light of day and that time was running out for their shenanigans. I fear it might be too late for some of the council members as it is rough for any elected official to make it through a series of unpopular rate hikes, tax hikes, fee hikes and fine hikes, but hopefully the political survivors or newcomers of 2011 will have the courage get costs under control to turn a corner on this dark page in Glendale's history.

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

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.



Below are some of the comments made by Mike Mohill during Oral Communications. The only reaction from the dais was from Drayman who stated that the political season is upon us:

“...City council members tell us Glendale is unlike the city of Bell. They are right! It is worse!

Today, word on the street and at City Hall is that Councilman John Drayman and others are under investigation for taking bribes, not all in the form of cash, but some in material goods from the likes of ADI- (Advanced Development and Investment.), an affordable housing developer in the city of Glendale.

It is also my understanding that city executives were busy performing inspections at the ADI projects. What were our executives looking for as everything is behind the walls? Were they looking for mahogany cabinets or mahogany flooring?

As we have seen in the past, public officials will deny all charges until they have to appear in court, a judge will accept their plea bargain. Then the defendant will walk out of court in tears, sorrow and with their hands covering their face from the TV cameras.

When they get out of prison they will have repented...after they found Jesus.

Public officials are sweating the outcome as they do not know which “Mr. K” will be giving the authorities information to put our politicians in prison. Under pressure, someone will likely roll-over and spill the beans in order to get the best deal from the government.”

3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

The Sr. Assistant City Attorney in charge of public records act requests was unavailable last week.

"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, 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 25

- Historical Preservation Comm. – 2:00 pm, MSB 548-2140
- Transportation & Park.Comm. – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960
- **Community Meeting** – Safe & Healthy Streets Plan – 7:00 pm, Central Library, 222 E. Harvard St., 334-9731

- **Community Meeting** – Safe & Healthy Streets Plan – 7:00 pm, Sparr Heights Community Center, 1613 Glencoe Way, 334-9731

Tuesday, October 26

- **Groundbreaking** – Doran Gardens Project – 10:00 am, 331-343 W. Doran St. 548-2060
- Housing Authority -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005
- **Joint Meeting** –RE: Arts & Entertainment District 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844
- City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Thursday, October 28

- Design Review Board #1-- 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140
- **Public Forum** – Teen Dating Violence for Teens and Parents – 7:00 pm, Central Library Auditorium, 222 E. Harvard,
- **Community Meeting** for Applicants for Habitat for Humanity Homes – 10:00 am, Police Community Room, 131 N. Isabel St. (626) 387-6899
- 19th Annual Kenneth Village Fall Festival – 11:00 am, Grandview and Sonora, 548-2005

Wednesday, October 27

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

4 *Vanguardians*

People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.

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; Rodriguez: Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza & Ovasapyan. The cases cited are 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 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.



The Fire Department operates freely outside the normal parameters of compliance with Constitutional Law, specifically the section that requires a clear separation of church and state. Last year when Battalion Chief Creasey occupied the Training Office, religious symbols and words were displayed on the wall behind his desk. Today, on the Fire Department's official website it states, "Pray for America" with the American Flag as the background.

Obviously no one holds the fire department accountable for maintaining legal standards. They have their own rules that govern their conduct and the way they do business.

They should also update the rescue ambulance data. They still show they are operating with five, fully staffed firefighter-paramedics.

The 4 blind mice went to the ADI Vassar project on Monday and came back declaring that the City got an even better deal than we were supposed to. The construction was top notch and everything is well. Several council members turned up the heat so the fantasy was born. Then on Wednesday came an email with pictures showing 12 #9 rebar's that were cut affecting the structural integrity of the platform on which the columns sit. In order for the 4 blind mice to see the cuts they needed an air hammer to open the concrete.

Certain council members are pulling Starbird's strings. Ritch Wells is now retired. Forced out because he didn't do Drayman's bidding to get him publicity.

Soon Phil Lanzafame will be out and Hassan Haghani in as the first head of the newly combined RDA and Planning Departments.

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

New icons are associated with the Council members. Ms Friedman gets an upgrade from marionette to attack dog as people have commented to Vanguard. Drayman gets the nod for a new interior at his Montrose home and Weaver for his pride and joy...a larger house.

Looking forward to next April to see how Ms Friedman lists her trip to Korea and how she will account for hubby's landscape business and his list of customers.

We are all looking forward to hearing about the meeting with the City parking contractor prior to the vote to award the contract.

Looks like another tenant needs a break on their future lease of the Central Wilson parking lot where a Hyatt Hotel is scheduled to rise, a subject being taken up during closed session. After the leases have been reduced, a certain CCM will be on the phone an absurd number of times telling the developer how he made sure the lease was reduced and he needs to build up a war chest to cover legal fees.

Another topic of closed session is more contract negotiations, a subject that should be open for public participation.

What two CCM didn't vote on the retaining of Burke, Williams & Sorensen (Charles Slyngstad) to assist the General Counsel in matters related to Advanced Development and Investment, Inc. (ADI) and Pacific Housing Diversified, Inc.?

Answer: Ayes: Friedman, Mincey, Najarian, Weaver, Parazian
 Noes: None
 Absent: Quintero
 Abstain: Drayman

When did it begin?

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

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



* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact you. **Vanguardians 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 educational 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. To unsubscribe -- reply with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.** Copyrighted materials used with permission. ©2010**