



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Question of the week:
Win a Breakfast with Barry
What laws does V want changed?
Answer for Last Week: We don't know as
the City is stonewalling!

Vanguard
News Service Vol V
Week of October 25, 2009
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

NEXTBUS REPRISE

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



In meetings with State Legislators during October, Vanguardians presented suggested changes to the Ralph M Brown Act mandating open meetings and the Public Records Act. The Legislators were very open to the recommended changes and indicated they will research the issues raised with an eye toward effecting needed changes that have developed since the proliferation of new technologies. If you would like to read, review and comment on the changes you may request a copy of the documents showing the requested changes.

Happy faces and smiles among Glendale Officials that are watching 43rd Assembly member Paul Kerkorian’s race for LA City Council 2nd District. Kerkorian received the endorsement of the LA Daily News. If he gets elected there will be the scurrying among those officials that want to upgrade and move to the Assembly.

No Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (MMD) in Glendale for the next 11 months. Glendale as always is behind the curve except in employee compensation. As the federal government is no longer harassing MMD’s and as DA Cooley gears up to smash them everyone missed that properly licensing those dispensaries just as pharmacies are licensed is the way to go.

Listening to police and others sharing an anecdote or two about how MMDs bring crime the point is missed. PEOPLE bring crime. The MORE PEOPLE the MORE CRIME. The Americana brought more larcenies...because it brought people. Those people increased the number of parking and traffic tickets.

Drug stores and liquor stores and restaurants are places where there are people, customers...if we get rid of those people then there will be less crime and we can cut the size of the police department, just like the number of firemen were cut when the State imposed new rules and codes for buildings. That’s right, there was no cut, instead, just the opposite.

This issue shows that the Council is happy with anecdotes and facts and numbers just don’t measure up.

Glendale is the City of Beeline Entitlement. A few people in Glenoaks Canyon want their own personal Beeline 13 that carries less than 900 passengers a month. They claim they are entitled. Based on the fact that they turned down dial-a-ride and Access Para transit it shows they have political clout. Chevy Chase Canyon has no bus line ergo no clout. Compare the 900 riders with 72,000 on another line. When the Beeline is cancelled on Central it will affect the jobs center and the Galleria, which is an economic issue.

Rte	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11	12	13	Total
Ridership	16,789	16,207	72,669	44,464	19,599	17,334	27,801	6,142	4,025	886	222,596

Total September revenue was \$27,586.63/222,596= 12.21¢ per passenger

The City wants to pump more money into the Beeline Nextbus system that despite management claims that everything is now working, it doesn’t. Is there a need to download to a pda or check the locating of a fixed line bus when few riders have access to those technology tools? Is it time to pump money in when the City is preparing to cut service? Or is it money waiting to be plucked from the treasury in a City that takes 10 weeks and counting just to refund money from the GWP.

We are following these stories:

- Sgt. Mardikian vs. City – The case is set for January 5, 2010 when all the motions will be heard
- Ovasapyan vs. CoG; Closed session to discuss the fallout from not biting the bullet and paying the judgment. Instead the City hired a consultant and filed an appeal to keep the case alive and the clock ticking. Meanwhile Ovasapyan filed a cross appeal.

- Ivy Glen assisted care facility/Goode House. Termite extermination starts Jan 15th
- The Beeline – Route cancellation should include route 13 that travels up Glenoaks Canyon. That could result in a lawsuit by Southland Transit, a special assessment district to pay for it or a political ploy to get votes in 2011. See above.
- 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

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.

Sponsor the upcoming Vanguardians’ monthly Town Halls.
Contact Barry Allen 818 243 1502 for details

**October 30 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.



Laura Friedman has been on Glendale's city council a relatively short time but already she has presented herself as a channel for the public's voice. She's a strong speaker, an active listener and often times asks questions of her colleagues that if one closed their eyes, would seem like they came from the other side of the gate.

Friedman's campaign centered around pro green issues, increasing revenue to Glendale by turning San Fernando Road Corridor into an Arts, Media and Design District and increasing access to public transportation. With a summer spent mediating water conservation rates and California's dire budget woes, some projects have been put on the backburner. Though economists speculate the recession is ending, and Winter is just around the corner, an uphill battle lays afoot in not merely getting what she wants approved, but actually seeing results in the often uncontrollable and choppy waters of local politics.

Still, what Friedman has learned so far has not compromised her drive and her past experience in the entertainment industry as well as her spot on the Design Review Board has served her well in making decisions she feels are best for Glendale and still true to herself.

When did you decide to run for city council? What motivated you to pursue such a contentious and often thankless position?

LF: I have been interested and involved in the community for some time, through projects such as the Glendale Garden Tour Fundraiser for Glendale Adventist Cancer Center, and my five years serving on the Design Review Board. Running for City Council was a natural extension of my activism and volunteer efforts.

How has your background in film development helped you in your current position and what unique points of view does someone who comes from that particular field bring to the Council?

LF: Feature film development and production involves having to work with creative individuals – often acting as a moderator and facilitator. In my job, I had to oversee very large projects, which entailed big budgets, strict deadlines, and hundreds of workers. That kind of administrative experience has been very valuable in navigating the operations of the City.

As a person who has a strong interest in historic preservation, how do you feel about Glendale's efforts, thus far in preserving its heritage?

LF: Glendale has made great strides in the past several years. When I first came to Glendale ten years ago, it was not particularly friendly towards historic preservation. That has changed over the last few years with the modification of the guidelines for historic districts (and the formation of three historic districts), a more active Historic Preservation Commission, a City Council that is more sensitive to the benefits of protecting historic resources, and more awareness and interest from the community.

How high a priority is greening Glendale to you and how do you hope to bypass the trend of “Green washing?”

LF: It is one of my highest priorities, as environmental issues are going to be increasingly difficult challenges both locally and on a national level. This region has not always done a very good job in planning for the increase of population and how it relates to sustainability. With my urging, Glendale is moving towards the establishment of green building standards. In term of “green washing,” I am in favor of hiring an environmental

specialist who would have authority over all the departments of the city to be sure that both city government and its policies are effective.

How hard is it to stand up for yourself on issues where you feel ties to other council members?

LF: I've learned that no matter what I decide on any particular issue, someone will be unhappy. At the end of the day, I need to do what I think is right regardless of who will be upset. I try not to spend time second-guessing my colleagues. I respect their opinion and keep an open mind, but I always vote for what I think is best for the City of Glendale.

How have you maintained your integrity on issues when you have a conflict of interest?

LF: There have been two times that I can remember where I recused myself on issues because I thought there might be a perception of conflict – once when my husband had worked for an interested party, another when I had already heard the case on the Design Review Board. City Attorney Scott Howard advises: "if in doubt, conflict out." I believe this to be good advice. Even if I think I can make a fair and impartial decision, it's important that there are no doubts in the mind of the community.

What wisdom were you able to carry over from serving on previous boards?

LF: The Design Review Board can be particularly controversial and high profile. My experience there reinforced that there are often good arguments on both sides of an issue, and that it's possible for two arguing parties to be "right." In addition, even people with diametrically opposed positions often have the best interests of the community at heart. One of the most important skills an elected representative can possess is being a good listener. Nothing is more frustrating to the public than feeling that they are not understood or their opinions taken seriously.

Though you've been on several boards that serve Glendale, none are as scrutinized as the City Council. What challenges have you faced where previous experience has not aided you?

LF: City government works at its own speed, and they often have to guess at Council's priorities. It can be frustrating at the time it sometimes takes to get projects moving.

Is working on the city council a position you had to prepare for financially? Can anyone do it, or do you have to have other means of income on the side?

LF: It would be very difficult, probably impossible, for someone who has a full time job to serve on Glendale City Council. I'm lucky in that I run a website, which can be done in the middle of the night if necessary. However, I have cut way back on my work and my business has definitely suffered. That is my personal choice, and I truly enjoy my service. Serving on City Council is the biggest honor I've had in my life – it's hard to put a price tag on that.

How have Glendale City Councils of the past impeded an arts and culture movement in Glendale and what can be done to help the arts flourish in the Jewel City?

LF: I don't know that they've impeded the arts, but it hasn't always been a priority. Council can help by financially supporting arts and culture, and by trying to create an environment that's friendly to the arts and to people who work in arts related industry. My project to designate the San Fernando Redevelopment Area as Glendale's "Creative Corridor", which was recently approved by the Redevelopment Agency, will hopefully be a big step in that direction.

If one were to read the comments section of any Glendale-centric blog, they could easily detect an air of intolerance against the Armenian community. Do you think there is a problem with prejudice in Glendale? If so, what can be done about it?

LF: More understanding and education would help. Council's influence over the personal prejudices of individual constituents is extremely limited. We need to be sure that we promote an atmosphere of tolerance, and always reinforce the benefits of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Often the people who speak regularly at council meetings have incited anger rather than discussion from their City Council members. So far, you seem willing to listen to the grievances of even the most notorious members of the public, some of them, who write for this publication. Can communication be improved and what do you hope to see from the public and your colleagues at future meetings?

LF: I always listen with the intention of finding value in whatever a speaker says. I might disagree with twenty things that a speaker says, but agree with one. If I think a person is dead wrong, I still try to understand how they got to that wrong place, and what I can do to change their mind or ease their concerns. Because I'm dealing with City business full time, I have access to information that the public doesn't always see. The oral communications portion of our meetings can allow council an opportunity to share some of this information with the public. I have tremendous respect for members of the public who care enough about the City to address Council. As a body, we should encourage that participation.

LAUREL MILLER

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

From the Publisher... WHY DO I DO WHAT I DO?



Twice this past week I was asked why do I do what I do? One of the people was an elected official and the other wants to be. To me the answer is simple, actually two words, "Tikkun Olam". Your next question is, of course, "what does that mean?" It is simply a covenant which a few have accepted that means we have assumed the role to 'repair the world' leaving it in a better condition than we found it, a concept of social justice.

I have accepted that challenge, commitment, obligation and even burden. It started when I was a child when my schoolmates accused me of being different. Maybe I was. I stood against many odds as did my father and his before him to make the world a better place for each following generation.

I learned 'Tzedakah' giving without being asked. If I had no money to give, I gave of myself and the skills and talents I had and acquired. I never admitted to my handicap, Peters Anomaly. I asked questions and sought answers. Learning came easily even though there was TV in 1948 when my family got our first one.

Rather than be too reminiscent lets cut to the chase. I decided when I moved to the Left Bank that I would take on the challenge to inform, educate and motivate people to take a more active role in government, especially local government. I did this after analyzing the issues involving the creation of a new class of people, government workers. Their numbers soon surpassed those in the private sector who had to work harder to support the new class. The Federal government offered better pensions along with lower pay – it is still that way – where an FBI agent makes \$65,000 a year compared to a California police officer that takes home in excess of \$100,000 a year. Somehow our elected officials were mesmerized by their ability to pay more money, give bigger pensions so they could look good to their employees. Afterall, who wants to just get a Turkey for Thanksgiving or Christmas?

I have a background in Law, Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention and Investigation as well as working with the State Legislature in drafting legislation. Oh, yes, I had not only run for public office, I managed successful campaigns for elected office. Using this background I took the time to study the few laws available to the public to enable them to pursue the objective of an accountable government. I asked questions to determine who was knowledgeable and who had just constructed opinions based on hearsay. I looked for those who could be a mentor in these areas. I did have to kiss a few rattlesnakes before I found those who were knowledgeable and trustworthy.

First I listened and watched: then I did public record research so I could ask appropriate questions; next I developed a direct email 'newspaper' to share that information to fulfill my task of informing and educating. The most difficult task is to motivate people to take appropriate nonviolent action to obtain the goal of accountable government.

Local government is accessible and addressable. Results can be seen in the subtle changes in government by those who put the best interest of the community forward.

Each 'win' for the public is why I do what I do. **BARRY ALLEN**

Next week Questioning, Challenging and Debating

"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: AUDIT MEETINGS NEED THE BLISSFUL LIGHT OF DAY



Ignorance is bliss. But, structured ignorance is bliss to those who spend taxpayers' money without accountability. To those who receive a city government check, there is nothing quite like two hundred thousand souls kept ignorant of the city's finances.

Once again, the meeting of the audit committee had no Glendale residents present other than three of the five potential voting members. That's not a surprise. Official city committee meetings are little more than a charade of make believe.

These charades make you believe that the city's charter is being fulfilled. It makes the city council members appear engaged as they nominate friends, acquaintances, benefactors to these commissions. To keep the best public appearance possible, these commissions are sprinkled with just enough capable people to help their image. The unspoken rule seems to me that those who become commission members and care to make a difference will

always be in the minority. They, by themselves, will never form a quorum. Heaven forbid that they may start asking for accountability.

And so it is that the Audit Committee meets once every three months. If you were not at a meeting a few steps from Parcher Plaza between the hours of 8:00 am and 9:00 am last Monday, you would've missed it. The next one will be months from now.

Think about it. The city now has a budget exceeding 800 million dollars, more than twice the size from ten years ago, and the periodic financial accountability is relegated to an obscure day, in an obscure building, at an obscure hour, announced with the least of publicity required by law. Where was the Glendale News-Press? Where was the city Treasurer? Where were any of the councilmen? Where was the public? Where was the televised session?

The answer respectively: Absent, absent, absent, absent and nowhere. The city is spending 800 million of local taxpayer money, Federal money, county money and borrowed money, and we can't find a couple of accountants in this city who might be interested in checking in?

Conservatives are spot on in questioning runaway government spending, waste and abuse. They should have much to worry about. Taxpayers would not be so careless as to leave their wallet or purse unattended in a public place. I feel sure that they are not joyfully writing those property tax checks twice per year. I feel sure that over 20,000 people, mostly tenants and people with fixed incomes, are grumbling every two months when they get an electric bill they can hardly afford. Yet no one showed up.

I know a couple of city council members that have said repeatedly that if the public was so concerned about city policies, they would show up to these meetings. That's just peachy. Hide the meetings. Make them inaccessible. Put them at the most inconvenient time. Don't advertise them effectively. Don't televise them. Then conclude that the public is just happy with the way things are.

Ask any businessman, any businesswoman, and they'll tell you that normally employees won't give you what you deserve, they give you what you measure. Leave the employees to run the register unsupervised and you'll be out of business really quick. But in city government, if the cash tray goes empty, they'll just tack on the shortage to the taxpayer.

Let's hold the city management accountable. Let's demand transparency. Ask that the Audit Committee meetings be held monthly at city council chambers, televised, and at an hour when most cable channel 6 viewers can check in. After all, that's your money they'll squander if you are not watching. I guarantee it. Herbert Molano

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



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.

Welcome back, Christian
5 homeowners in Glendale filed for Bankruptcy today!

Total Number of Current and Active Glendale Foreclosures as of OCT 23, 09
are: **915**

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.



Come on Barry, The longer you report on the abuse of political service the more you sound like them. In the past you have been very good at selling your issues with an element of intellectual humor. I know you to some extent and you always have that silly smile. So I want you to know what I think of the above quotes from the October 16th Vanguard. This is not funny! It is stupid, but not funny.

The fact is medical marijuana defies Federal Law and as a State's Rights advocate I enjoy that fact. I also oppose the use of marijuana however, as I now approach retirement and God knows how damned much everything hurts, I do believe the time will come that I will actually try marijuana legally as means to relieve pain and nausea. So now the conundrum, Steve Cooley seems to think he needs to close down the dispensaries and I disagree with that and there seems to be a lack of interest in street dealers that can in no way be described as advocacy. Stop that! [ED – See 7 re: Obama Administration will no longer pursue MMD.]

By the way it appears you have improved your respect for the subjunctive mode and your writing has improved, it is just your good humor that missed this story.

Carl E. Atkinson, Jr -- Watching Glendale get better and better for 38 years

You and Molano have been trying to educate the dunderheads among the electorate for years about the financial burdens pressed upon the taxpayers for unsustainable pay, benefits and pensions. The dunderheads that lick the boots and sniff the a---- of officials need to offer you advocates for accountable government apologies and to come forward and support what you have been doing. It seems to me that once elected to office these miscreants start selling their souls to keep the money and power. When will this stop? GK

Good Vanguard weekly but I am not sure about Molano's novel. It takes up a lot of space and is a bit distracting in my opinion. PJ

Why do the Council and City Manager speak badly about Vanguardians? [ED – Let us count some of the reasons:

- Rather than just talk about it Vanguardians acts on the words
- We share our visionary ideas with those who are myopic
- Vanguard provides a safe and secure method of letting city employees speak out on issues that should have public scrutiny
- Our reporting comes from verifiable facts and our opinions come from those facts
- Our interest is in what is best for Glendale
- No official likes to be monitored and researched. One can draw the conclusion that if there is nothing to hide then there should be no concern about being watched.]

What was this about Quintero not shaking hands with Barry Allen at Pacific Park during the election? G [ED – At first Mr. Allen was chagrined but then realized that not shaking hands was an acknowledgement of the solid relationship and trust that Mayor Quintero has for Barry. Shaking hands in Medieval Days was a demonstration that the parties were unarmed something that is followed today. To not shake hands is then an acknowledgement of that security that Quintero must feel when he is around Allen.]

An open letter to Dan Evans of the Glendale NewsPress:

Dan,

Did you read his dismissive post of Glendale Residents who request information from city government?

Read the original blog post: <http://tastyedits.wordpress.com/2009/08/03/the-record/>

My reply follows:

So a city editor for a community news division of the Los Angeles Times questions, in his official blog, the merits of Public Records Act Requests (CPRAR) and labels it "Sometimes Weird" and leaving him scratching his head.

Behind the California Public Records Act is the essential need to keep a democracy vibrant, and the electorate involved and informed. It took an official act by the state legislature to correct the abuses of local governments by forcing them to disclose information to which councilmen and management would prefer to keep hidden. [ED and a vote by the electorate –Prop 59 to place the elements in the State Constitution.]

Why request the records for the electricity rates charged to the Unified Schools? Because if the Glendale Unified School District is charged just like the residents and commercial businesses are in Glendale, then the school district must be paying one of the highest rates in California. A study by the city of Roseville in June of 2008 found Glendale with the highest electricity rates for commercial establishments and the third highest for residents.

The GUSD complied with my request for records, and these records show rates that appear equal to or higher than those paid by commercial establishments. The total electricity costs for the GUSD is around \$4 million (Roughly 1/4 goes to So Cal Edison for the schools in the far North West) The rest goes to the GWP who then transfers millions to sustain the General Fund.

If the GUSD had utility rates comparable to the average statewide, we could be saving close to a million dollars. That would result in nearly 15 more teachers that could be hired thereby improving our educational system.

Here is the puzzling situation. The GNP is staffed too thinly to assign staff to do any investigative reports or analyses. If the GNP won't investigate city practices, how can there be time to investigate the public that is eager to hold government accountable?

For a city editor to question the practice by residents and stakeholders to ask for and review political contributions (Form 460) is nothing less than astonishing!

I'd suggest to Mr. Wells to review those contributions and then connect the dots to a developer who has contributed heavily under at least three of the names of companies that he controls. Then he can look up California Law with respect to how those forms should be filled out and ask if the contributor and the recipient complied with the law.

In every journalist's past educational experience, there was probably a class that mentioned the 4th estate and the role of a newspaper in serving as a watchdog on government.

Where I come from – Colombia, the number of newspaper reporters who've been assassinated in the last four decades is probably greater than those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. Such heroism in the name of transparency and accountability is rare in America. [ED – The US jails journalists who have refused to name their sources.]

I don't expect Mr. Wells to risk his life or his career in search for the truth. I just want him to serve the honorable objectives of his profession to perform to the best of his abilities and think of a professor in college who may have inspired him.

Maybe then he will have renewed appreciation as to why the CPRA is one of the most powerful tools available to the press in California and to the general public when the press is uninvolved in promoting accountability.

May the spirit of Katharine Graham inspire him to greatness. Herbert Molano

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 – Yes.]

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
Live so that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town Gossip. Will Rogers

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO, What a Ride".

3 Public Information

"Just the facts"

Sales Tax Revenue from Board of Equalization from 1% Sales Tax and Use Tax

City	Last Year	YTD
BURBANK	22,715,842.33	6,213,515.79
GLENDALE	21,329,924.73	6,109,518.02
LONG BEACH	37,115,775.09	11,243,141.70
PASADENA	24,314,359.13	6,769,831.63

Los Angeles City & County, Torrance, Santa Clarita and Santa Monica also had higher revenues than Glendale. Glendale is the third largest city yet 5 smaller cities had larger Tax Revenues.

A question to outside Counsel: Glendale Charter sets certain officials as Officers of the City: Police Chief, Fire Chief and others. As an officer of the city is there a residency requirement? Charter doesn't indicate one way or the other Counsel's answer: Unless the charter says so, there is no residency requirement. That exists only for elected officials. And even for them it is very hard to prove they don't have legal residence in their district.

[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 26

North Community Plan Advisory Committee – 5:30 pm, Sparr Heights Community Center, 1613 Glencoe Way, 548-2140
Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm CH 548-3960

- Professional Services Agreement – Property Tax Information and Sales Tax Information
6:00 pm, City Council –CH 548-4844

Tuesday, October 27

2:30 pm Housing Authority --, CH 548-2060,
Redevelopment Agency –548-2005, **Joint Meeting** CH 548-4844 Council/Agency RE:

- Construction Progress Update – Adult Recreation Center
- Award of Contract – Downtown Environmental Graphics Manual

Wednesday, October 28

Zoning Administrator's Hearing – 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

Public Meeting – Draft of Wireless Antenna Ordinance – 6:30 pm, Pacific Park Community Center, 501 S. Pacific Ave. Inquiries may be faxed to (818) 547-3402.

Thursday, October 29

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

4 *Vanguardians*

- At the Vanguardians Friday Breakfast at Foxy's we discussed the 15 Gangs in Glendale; IVYGLEN in the news; Lack of ADA accommodations and how special interests get the lucre in the right hands. 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

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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.



It would be interesting if you could publish all the benefits that each council member and each executive on City Mgr staff receives. There are benefits that are unknown to the public and other employees.

Think about this Glendalians---The GWP general manager gets paid approximately \$250,000 per year. He spends his money outside of the City, pays lower rent, doesn't have to ration water, has cheaper electric, life and health insurance, auto allowance for his Mercedes car and a summer home in Arizona and a CalPERS retirement in four years. And makes decisions about what you are going to pay for your services and how to spend your money.

Cops are waiting for the green light to start issuing DUI tickets to a certain official. Something that is 10 years overdue.

Looks like City Management still listens or rather reads Vanguard. Your suggestion to use Redevelopment Funds for policing downtown didn't fall on deaf ears.

[A recent article in Newsweek explains a lot about Glendale.](#) It talks about Bosses with reputations as bullies. (A good chunk of Glendale Managers.) The article says that bullies are created by giving power to incompetent people. It's easy to tell the incompetent ones because they take credit for good work and assign blame for bad. (Does this remind you of your Council interactions?) Well the Council and City Managers traits are reflected down the entire organization. We are raising an entire organization of bullies to run the City!

Each of the 4 Directors, Planning, CDH, Development Services, and Parks, have been looking to expand their influence. When Madalyn left, the vultures pounced. The council, ie Laura and Drayman, were looking to have a single point person for controlling neighborhoods and picked Hassan for that. It's interesting that the City had a community action group the last time that looked at permitting. This time, even after they paid \$100k for a report on the subject, it was organized behind closed doors by the executives. How the new organization will ultimately look is anyone's guess.

6 Text Message Intercepts....On a Tuesday...

"vote Y on the subsidy look for 10G"
"Bring home a pizza"
"Tell that BM to shut up"
"Vote N on MOU it will still pass you will look good"
"I don't trust BA when I can't C him"
"Meet me Conrad's"
"Don't answer"
"She is hot – wud I like to meet her"
"Ditto for him, yumm"



New technology is great. It allows the monitoring of texting on Blackberry's, iPhones and other devices. It makes a reporter's job so much easier and a voter better informed as to who is selling him/her short.

Who texted these comments?

7 News Briefs from the neighborhood

[El Monte city manager could be axed over arrest](#)

El Monte City Manager Jim Mussenden's Thursday night arrest for allegedly trying to pick up a prostitute doesn't seem to be sitting well with those in City Hall and the El Monte Police Department. The City Council is holding a special meeting Saturday at 12:30 at City Hall to discuss: **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE** Consideration in closed session of performance evaluation of City Manager James W. Mussenden and consideration of employee discipline/dismissal/release. [ED – Typical of City Council's as they do a performance review. They should be calling on the prostitute for her evaluation of his performance.] This just in: [Former El Monte City Manager Resigns Another Post](#) as his arrest forced his resignation as city manager, has now also resigned from another post. [Read more here.](#)

More from El Monte: Veteran Police Officer Mechelle Marin sues the City for sexual harassment in an 18 page complaint. [ED – Maybe the time has come for civilian leadership in police and fire departments. It seems that being given top wages, top benefits and top pensions just isn't enough. These 'Public Safety' employees even have special laws setting themselves as a special government class, and they want more. This time has come to change from deifying people.]

LA: The City Council wants to create another internal watchdog for the Dept. of Water and Power (DWP) [ED – What is needed is an outside group with investigatory powers...even a toothful Grand Jury.]

[Four challengers take on three council incumbents](#) Vallejo Times-Herald By Jessica A. York In the first Vallejo City Council election since a unanimous vote for **bankruptcy**, voters will decide if three of seven candidates' ...

From PublicCeo:

[Fresh New Program Encourages Environmental Stability](#)

A select number of California cities are taking advantage of a fresh environmental stability program that rewards residents through an incentive-based contest. Find out what local communities are doing. [Read more here.](#)

[Time to Use Common Sense with Medical Marijuana](#) The Obama administration issued guidelines Monday officially reversing the federal stance on medical marijuana and ordering authorities not to arrest or charge any users and suppliers who conform to state laws. Recently, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steven Cooley announced that he intends to crack down and prosecute all of the county's over-the-counter medical marijuana dispensing collectives. Why the sudden aggressive action? [Read more here.](#)

[The List of the Most Misbehaving Mayors](#) The majority of mayors are intelligent, legitimate, hard working and honorable. Then, there's that other list of mayors who are remembered more for the controversies or embarrassing incidents that follow them. Here's a Top Ten list of the most misbehaving mayors. [Read more here.](#)

[California Communities Proposition 1A Securitization Program Update](#) The Governor signed SB67 on Monday. The text of SB 67 can be [viewed here](#). The bill will be chaptered as Chapter 634. The transaction will proceed as planned, based on the schedule [listed here](#). [Read more here.](#)

[City's Public Works Earns Projects of the Year Award](#) This city was awarded the Project of the Year Award for a project that eased traffic, created a pedestrian-friendly environment and helped improve ocean water quality. [Find out more here.](#)

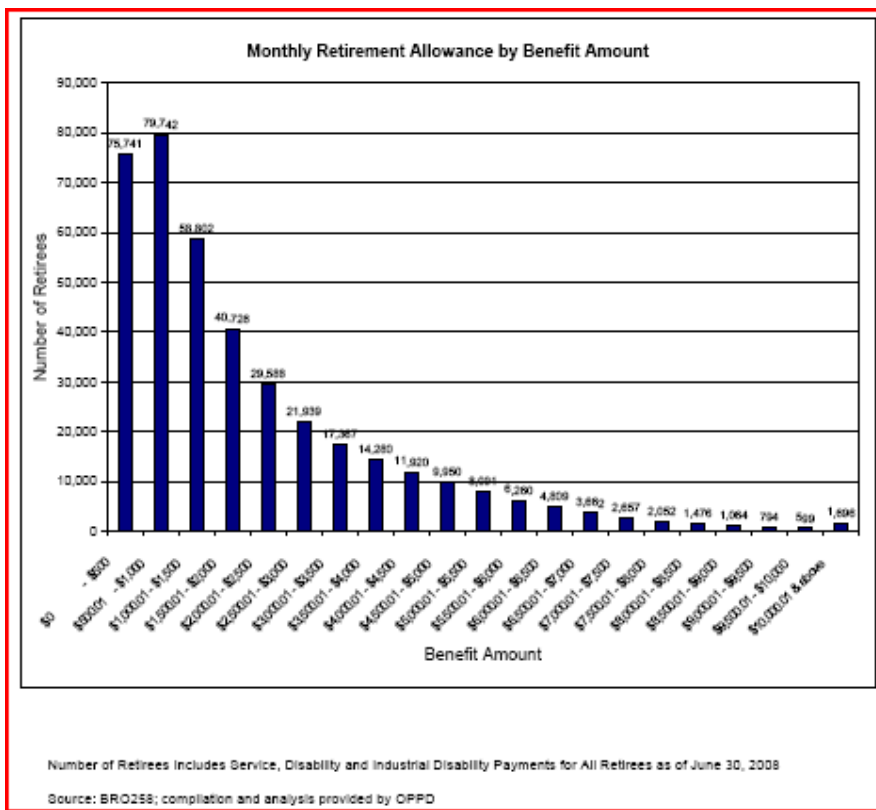
Judge Halts Slashing of In-Home Supportive Service Program A federal judge announced Monday an order that will have big impact for California counties, as Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland halted the state's plan to cut or reduce caregiver services for 130,000 disabled and low-income seniors as of Nov. 1. [Read more here.](#)

City Manager in Hot Water Over E-mail Comments City Manager **Steve Kimbrough** was given a five-day suspension resulting from conduct he displayed in e-mail communication. [Read more.](#) [ED – Council in Glendale would never take this kind of action.]

Public Employee Pension Issue Rises The public employee pension issue is gaining traction. Results from the recent Field Poll indicate that voters are becoming concerned with the potential cost to the taxpayers as a majority of those polled support changes to the government pension system. Polling the public on pension issues has hardly ever been done. [Read more here.](#)

FPPC to regulate YouTube, Facebook and Twitter? The internet is becoming an unique and inexpensive tool for candidates to send out messages through YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Now, The FPPC (Fair Political Practices Commission) wants to regulate these internet based medium and will solicit input to "further define agency's role and possible regulation." [Read more here.](#)

There was an article in the LA Times titled, Officers approve contract. The city of Los Angeles is beginning to cut back on the bonus pay. Besides cutting overtime by \$45 million this year and \$70 million next year, the contract also cuts the amount spent on foreign language bonuses. It also reduces the pay for newly hired officers. The movement has started to reform the over-generous gifting to public safety personnel.



In its quest for good PR CalPERS provided this chart. Our experts provided the following explanation:

The high numbers of lower pension payments are the older group of retirees who retired 20 to 40 years ago and are in their latter years of life and will die from an actuarial standpoint in the near future. Those that are just now retiring are the ones who are skewed toward the lower end and are smaller in numbers, but as the lower paid older ones die off, the large payees will advance to the left side of the chart and eventually represent the pension recipients who are making the larger figures. Right now, those making over \$90,000 a year are only 7,282, but give it another five to ten years and watch the numbers grow for the higher paid ones. This chart is very misleading and probably was put together through pressure from the public safety group in an effort to alleviate taxpayer fears.

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.** Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 charitable non-profit corporation Contributions are tax deductible. Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. **To ensure you receive Vanguard,** please add our email addresses info@vanguardians.org, vanguardweekly@gmail.com and ba@fieldworks.net - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. **Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue** Copyrighted materials used with permission. ©2009