



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

HEADLINES
Pay Back is Hell

BREAKING NEWS!
No Conflict of Interest for Yousefian

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 activism

When WE are complacent THEY win!

"I don't make jokes. I just watch government and report the facts." Will Rogers

Clarification

Mayor Najarian alluded to the 'A' received by CM Yousefian in the September 30 issue of Vanguard and apparently assumed it was for Yousefian's outburst regarding City Management providing inaccurate information about the Glenoaks Canyon setbacks. Had the Mayor asked me, he would have been told that Yousefian was graded, not for his outburst but for his position of rejecting erroneous information provided by city staff and for supporting the Glenoaks Canyon Homeowners regarding their issues with city government. Council member Drayman also received an 'A' in the same issue and was not cited by the Mayor for getting 'bad advice or being combative'. Council member Quintero was issued an 'A' on other occasions. Archived issues are available at www.vanguardians.org for those interested in the weekly ratings.

THIS JUST IN: [Now several years old, the sprawling federal corruption probe of state Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata has spurred him to spend more than \\$1 million on legal defense, clouded his two decades in public life and swept up close associates and his adult children](#)

THIS JUST IN Los Angeles: [To cite just a few of the most recent, most egregious abuses of City Hall: City leaders approved an enormous, nearly \\$300 million pay hike for bureaucrats at a time when revenues are falling flat and may even decline, and the city can least afford it. They have sponsored hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies for downtown projects, and support building a half-billion dollar, overpriced police headquarters. Having squandered the treasury, they admit they failed to invest in basic infrastructure, and warn of service cuts, while offering nothing to make L.A. a better city.](#)

THIS JUST IN: Glendale makes no effort to stop GFD abuse of lengthy response time

Breaking News

City changes meeting agendas to comply with the opportunity for public to speak on closed session items and forgets to put the time the meetings begin. In a letter to Vanguardians, City Attorney acknowledges there was no conflict of interest for CM Yousefian to vote for his appointment to Airport Commission.

Politics: [Megabucks Inc. is sponsoring a bill in Sacramento](#) that would save it millions of dollars in taxes and regulatory fees and give it a huge advantage over competitors. But for the bill to pass, the company must buy the support of the Assembly speaker, so it gives his reelection campaign \$7,200 -- the maximum amount allowed by law.

[California's lead political watchdog](#) won't mention names, but he strongly feels that the way some Sacramento politicians are raising and spending special interest money is plain wrong.

[2007 HJTA Legislative Report Card](#)

Only when WE are vigilant are THEY accountable!

If you have issues with the City and you fear retaliation or intimidation, bring them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council

Weekly Council Scorecard

| Council | 11-06 | Overall | |
|-----------|-------|---------|--|
| Drayman | B | B | jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| Najarian | C | C | anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| Quintero | B | B | fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| Weaver | C | D | dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| Yousefian | C | C | byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| | | | SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |
| | | | Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us ; |

Criteria: Responsiveness to the community, knowledge and understanding of the issues, placing the needs of the public first and attentiveness and accountability.

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenagers' *P.J.O'Rourke*

Fire Department

GFD management and union have worked together to keep operations staffing at less than required for proper day-to-day staffing, not including vacation coverage. There are only 165 people to fill 180 positions, not counting vacations, sick leave, disability and more. This necessitates \$5,000,000 in overtime instead of adding 50 more personnel. But then the Bruce Philpott plan has a different method.

[Click here to read a dialogue between Bruce Philpott and the fire fighters union.](#)

[Bruce Philpott, New Fire Models, Segment 5: Core Evidence of Delayed Emergency Responses](#)

[Bruce Philpott, New Fire Models, Segment 6: Core Evidence of Delayed Emergency Responses \(continued\)](#)

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. - *George Bernard Shaw*

HEADLINES

Airport Commissioner Bob Yousefian received a vote of 'no confidence' by his colleagues on the Glendale City Council. The issue of his performance on the Airport Commission wasn't even discussed as he was being paid back by several colleagues for 'conduct unbecoming' a Council member. CM Weaver complained that Yousefian accused him of lying and of battery. CM Quintero just wanted to get him off the airport commission. Mayor Najarian and CM Drayman wanted to teach Yousefian a lesson. Margaret Hammond, Lenore Solis and Lila Ramirez spoke from a prepared document about his demeanor and his ethics praising Mayor Najarian and not mentioning the ethics violations of CM Weaver for his use of City property and services for private gain nor an unreported loan to Mr. Weaver as reported by Will Rogers in his column. Quintero called for Yousefian's ouster from the Airport Commission a job that both Weaver and he covet. To the victor go the spoils. Quintero may become Mayor in April and Weaver to the Airport Commission. Najarian made a not so veiled mention of Vanguard and its ratings as a reason for Yousefian getting in with the wrong people.

Leadership Circles are forming. Want to find out how to tap into and hone your leadership skills? If you are female and between the ages of 15 and 105, click below to email us to be notified of the next Circle:

[Leadership Circles](#) or call us at 818.243.2322

Fifty-Fifty Leadership www.fiftyfifty.us is a non-profit organization 501(c)3

Our Mission: To transform the culture within which we live to one that naturally includes women on an equal basis in the selection of leaders



Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians*, Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city's departments, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

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1 **Commentary**

A disconnect at City Council regarding the pay back for CM Yousefian not following the party line when he stood up for the public and then the Council decided to give a vote of no confidence for issues having nothing to do with the Airport Commission. Meanwhile Council ignores the use of public property and services for private gain by Council member Weaver, the use of a non-profit bank account for, as Weaver would say, whatever. His belligerent attitude that resulted in a lawsuit against the City. That is OK with the City Council. They decided not to pursue a complaint filed by Vanguard over ethics violations and allowed the complaint to be escalated to the LA District Attorney. There is a disconnect with the public as well. There was no outcry over a \$17,500 contribution to Weaver from Caruso Affiliated. It is time to set aside the pettiness of the Council and deal with the real substance before we see indictments for wrong doing

There is confusion over the use of activists (activism) and advocates (advocacy) by local mainstream media. Activism is a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue. E.g. marching in the streets, demonstrations, blockades. While advocacy is the act of pleading or arguing a case or a position; forceful persuasion. Advocacy tends to attract the more intellectual.

It took Moses 40 years to bring the Law according to legend – it takes the FBI only 5. There are reasons for that. Writing the law is more time consuming than the enforcement. Enforcement agencies like the FBI take their time to build an irrefutable case against the accused, a case that will cause a plea bargain and no need for a trial protecting the complainants and witnesses. When the evidence is presented there is a chilling effect on the accused, often recordings from the phones, copies of bank accounts including checks and the source of deposits. It takes time as it has in the case of Sheriff Carona. The information on Speaker Nunez was developed by the press and I am quite certain will be followed by the FBI and the IRS.

The City Attorney works for City Government, Not the public. They protect information that should be included in public documents that demonstrates the public does not come first. Information is withheld even though it should flow through to the public without the need for multiple requests and lawsuits. Why would Glendale, for instance, refuse information about the disaster plan when LA City and County provide it readily?

Management works for the city employees, not the public. As an instance, office hours are for the benefit of the employees. If employed members of the public need city services, a building permit, a tree trimming permit or even a dog license they must take a day off work to do those things. Private employers are reluctant to give their employees off every other Friday. Extend the hours one or two days a week and add a half day on Saturday. Trade days off and start and stop times instead of overtime. Different departments and CM Weaver tell the public to be the eyes and ears of the city and yet when the public does follow those directions they get sued and the City turns a blind eye to their plight.

Integrity starts with the individual

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2 **Announcements – Letters – Calls -- Calendar -- Articles – OP-ED**

Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.

Arrogant Mayor

I watched the entire Council meeting from home. Had a pizza, a couple of beers played some cards and the happenings at the Council meeting. We never did find out what that expensive software was going to do for the fire department or for us citizens. And then Weaver didn't want to have the information given. That Starbird pre-empted him again. Your suggestion that the street sweeping follow the trash pickup was excellent. The Mayor displayed his arrogance once again with his comment for everyone just go out and clean up after the trash pickup. Dr. Espiritu was a trip with his parrot. The last of the meeting wasn't on the Internet. What happened? DJ [ED – Check with City Clerk]

Conflict

I noticed your comments about Mr. Haney not having a conflict for receiving his PERS salary. I have to agree that his retirement would not be a conflict. However, since retiring, Mr. Haney works as a financial advisor for current City staff including Assistant City Manager Bob McFall. He then regularly votes to uphold disciplinary actions taken by Mr. McFall without identifying his obvious conflict. **AE**

Unrestrained Jungle

It just never seems to even slow down, never mind stop. I'll get mine. Fear-mongering. What's the point of public service in one can't get rich at it? Side-step the law? Say one thing while doing another? Give legitimacy to featherbedding? This isn't citizenship -- it's an unrestrained jungle. Why not save everyone a lot of time and trouble and money and simply declare the government disbanded? **JS**

View Entitlement

I saw this petite brunette with a very, very short skirt at a City Council meeting. She spoke about 'view protection'. The next time I saw her she was wearing jeans. Totally obliterated my view. Should I be entitled to my view? Who do I complain to? **ZP**

Conflict – Yes or No?

I have been reading the 'Law' as it was delivered by Moses last week and I have a question after I make a statement. It is my understanding that a conflict of interest is based on a financial conflict, not a moral or ethical one. When the issue of the Montrose Collection was on the Council agenda, Mayor Najarian recused himself because he had a financial conflict. CM Yousefian and Quintero recused themselves because on a conflict based on how they had spoken against this issue publicly. This was not a financial conflict and will they recuse themselves on this type of conflict in the future, for instance when they have made a stand like being against any hillside development? I was also surprised that the City Attorney did not indicate Quintero and Yousefian didn't have a conflict under the FPPC rules. But then the City Attorney does not represent the public, only Council and Management when he pulls their fat out of the fire. **JC**

Starbird Wins

Yousefian questioned the competency of Starbird's staff and watching the vote of no confidence it appears that Starbird won this contest especially when the entire debacle was so well orchestrated. Not one speaker or Council member spoke to Yousefian's work on the airport commission, just on how his frustration with City Management got to him. I also wonder why Quintero and Weaver didn't ask to have Yousefian's dismissal next week instead of in three weeks. They certainly couldn't contain themselves over their 'issues' with Yousefian. When Weaver wanted to get rid of Solis and Masihi, it happened in one week. Commissioners serve at the behest of their masters. RM

CALLS

Send \$\$

I was surprised to see the GFD is collecting money for injured firefighters. I know that they are covered under workers comp that pays for treatment and time off work. Is this another way they hoodwink the people? **DF**

Decorum

Mayor Najarian speaks of decorum. Is it decorum when he makes a statement that we are scamming the children when the issue of impact fees came before the Council? Did he make any change when he voted to pay 450 employees over \$50,000,000 per year? Then there is the decorum of Mr. Weaver who challenges people to sue him to secure their First Amendment rights; to tell people they are the eyes and ears of the City and to report issues to the City and then deny the protection of the City on a SLAPP suit. BL

Articles

[Berkeley to finance solar arrays for homeowners](#)

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber](#) [Open Government Guide](#) See www.vanguardians.org for more

[Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#)

CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 12

Federal Holiday – City Offices Closed

Tuesday, November 13

2:30 Glendale Housing Authority & Glendale Redevelopment Agency + Glendale City Council/Glendale Housing Authority

6:00 PM Joint Meeting – Glendale City Council Glendale City Council/Glendale Redevelopment Agency

Wednesday, November 14

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Special Meeting --- Planning Commission – 4:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Community Meeting – Future of Montrose Shopping Park – 7:00 pm, Sparr Heights Community Center, 1613 Glencoe Way, Glendale. 548-2140

Thursday, November 15

Design Review Board # 2 – Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140



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3 Open Government

In response to requests for the City's disaster preparedness program we are told that 1) we may be terrorists, 2) it is being revised, 3) the fire captain is no longer assigned, 4) no one is assigned – a reasoned conclusion is that the plan does not exist even though we have had this requirement on the books since 1984. This is indicative of a failure of management in the fire department. LA City and County make their disaster plans available and they are certainly more vulnerable

Even though OSHA allows the public to view injury reports, Glendale resists show and tell. Our requests for injury data, location and nature of injury of GFD and GPD personnel, with the individual names being redacted, are still refused by the City Attorney.

4 Vanguard

[The Future of Glendale](#) is an online presentation -- certain to get your juices flowing about our favorite City.

VANGUARDIANS

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Email Vanguard1@charter.net 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 your advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.

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