



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

**If you're
not outraged
you're not
paying
attention**

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of November 14, 2010
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WHERE IS THE CAFR? DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

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

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

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

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Former risk manager for Fullerton arrested on grand theft, other charges LA Times

Year after year, during a period marked by record salaries, illegal taxes, loans to insiders and arbitrary fees on businesses, the city's outside auditors, Mayer Hoffman McCann, gave Bell's financial record a clean bill of health.

And Bell is far from being alone, according to a Times review of state and local records, which found that the independent audits that public agencies in California are legally required to obtain frequently fail to flag cases of fraud and mismanagement.

- Many cities that have been troubled by public corruption or mismanagement during the last decade — including San Diego, Compton and South Gate — got clean audits, even in cases in which public officials were later sent to prison.

- There has been a widespread failure by auditors to make sure that cities are properly spending hundreds of millions of dollars in redevelopment money. Each year, approximately 100 of the state's 391 municipal redevelopment agencies fail to file annual reports as required by law. Auditors are supposed to flag that failure as a major audit violation subject to review by



the attorney general's office, but auditors catch the problem in fewer than 20% of cases, according to a recent report from the state Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes.

- Firms that deliver negative audits risk being replaced. Cities pay the auditors, and some officials have responded to negative findings by hiring new auditors. In at least one case, the new auditors gave Victorville a clean rating after the previous auditor found a raft of problems.

"The audits of municipal governments in California ... are more creative than reality" based, said former San Diego City Atty. Michael Aguirre. "They come in and help cover up what has been going on in a city so they can issue a clean financial statement, for which they are charging lots and lots of money."

Concerns about the quality of municipal auditing have been raised over the years by legislators and others. Even as Mayer Hoffman McCann issued audits that did not flag problems in Bell, the city won numerous awards for the financial reports signed off by the auditor.

State Controller John Chiang's office said state auditors were baffled by "how a CPA firm could miss the abuses the controller's office found, and found rather quickly." [Read the entire LA Times story.](#)

A note from an advisor: Don't you just love it when the city council raves about the wonderful annual audit, inferring that the auditor has vetted all sources of income and expenses? What b.s!

Oxnard CA – Vanguardians affiliate Marty Jones shares that the search warrants have been served. Documents have been seized. The Ventura County Grand Jury has given the City three black eyes over the golf course. More to follow.

[BELL, Calif.](#) -- Residents of the scandal-plagued city of Bell gasped in shock and disbelief Monday as state auditors told them their political leaders mismanaged tens of millions of dollars of the modest city's money, using much of it to pay themselves enormous salaries.

The auditors spoke at a hearing called by state Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, who said he wanted to give residents of the working-class city of 40,000 a full accounting of what had happened.

Some 300 residents sat quietly in a school auditorium, listening politely as auditors from the state Controller's office said Bell officials had collected \$6.8 million over the past three years by doing such things as illegally raising their property taxes, sewer assessment fees and business license fees.

The auditors said Bell officials also took money earmarked for street repairs and affordable housing and used much of it to pay themselves their huge salaries.

[Bell CA – Daily News:](#) The mayor of a scandal-plagued Bell says he's being overcharged for court documents as he fights charges that he and others looted his city out of millions of dollars.

Bell Mayor Oscar Hernandez disputes the \$712 charged by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office for copying documents and recorded prosecution interviews.

Hernandez made about \$100,000-a-year until a salary scandal prompted Bell officials to slash their pay earlier this year.

His attorney, Stanley L. Friedman, filed a motion Tuesday asking a judge to reduce the bill, calling it "billing on steroids."

Bell, CA – The State Pension system said that major players in the Bell scandal will not be getting the pensions they planned on. [Read more.](#)

From Vanguard of Davis -- [City of Bell's Lessons Unveil Larger Problem with Auditing of Cities](#) the LA Times article raises Questions That Should Be Asked About Davis' Audits - It is easy to ignore the lessons of the city of Bell and to chalk them up to an extreme example of inattentiveness, corruption, and public graft. It is far more difficult to treat Bell as it properly should be understood, just as Vallejo was for bankruptcy, as a cautionary tale. However, I believe Bell should be treated more than just a cautionary tale but as the canary in the coal mine. It is not that residents of Davis are going to suddenly wake up tomorrow to see city officials making...

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.

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1 COMMENTARY

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

From the Publisher... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT



We live in a wonderful city where the 5 elected city council members make sure we are all happy regardless of the cost. Council has hired almost the best city manager, the best costing more, and he has hired the finest staff, over 2000 of them (the true number will never be known) and augmented them with expensive consultants out the kazoo. Such as a consultant to advise the legal department on how to manage each lawsuit along with an outside law firm to litigate each case; another law firm was recently retained to find out what happened to the affordable housing developer, Advanced Development and Investment. Shades of El Tovar and expect another wordy, meaningless report that doesn't go far enough.

Let's examine how the stewards of our money have been operating:

- They transfer money from the tax-payer owned GWP to the General Fund to pay salaries, benefits and pensions while letting the infrastructure decay.
- They have borrowed millions of dollars and received Federal Taxpayer dollars for a smart meter system that will let the GWP turn off your power without the need to send a person to your house. By the way some older houses won't be able to use the system without a mandatory electrical renovation. Oh, the City did hire a consultant to figure out how to keep the questionable money transfers.
- Bought Rockhaven at a cost of almost \$9M and an annual upkeep of who knows how much. The purchase is now justified because the surface may hide water. That property may be removed from the property tax rolls.
- There was the purchase of the Star Ford property with its contaminated soil and now being leased to Trader Joe's. As groceries aren't taxable...guess what...there will be little sales tax revenue generated.



While the property is in the hands of the City it is generally tax exempt. However when it is leased then the tenant has a possessory interest and the property tax is the burden of the tenant pursuant to the lease. In the case of a tax exempt organization, it can apply to the County Assessor for relief from the property tax.



- How about the city-subsidized Neon Museum? The property was purchased as a tear down – it used to be a drug store paying both property and some sales taxes (drugs aren't taxed). The City gave the property away to the Museum that has, according to IRS documents that have been filed, always been a loser. The City Attorney refused to release details used to determine the financial viability.
- By the way the city decided the property on Salem Street to ADI even though they cancelled the project. If you go back and watch the proceedings on that property you could tell that hands were out looking to be filled. You may want to check out the staff report to the Housing Authority that fails to include the Salem property.
- Then there were the exorbitant prices paid for open space. In one case \$12,000,000 more than the property was worth.

- There are those of us that watched as the reserves lost more than \$300,000,000 and reported on it but many stakeholders were euphoric that their man was voted in to help drain the treasury which is down to about \$50M of unrestricted reserves.
- Interesting to note that now the City has replaced employee performance bonuses with credit cards and gift cards that cost the taxpayers about \$6,000,000 a year with little or no accountability as, for the most part, there is a self certification process.

Then, just like the State, the city is on the verge of creating Property Business Improvement Districts to shift the burden directly to the consumers from the General Fund so GF money can be used for the payroll and pensions.

BARRY ALLEN

PS: Just a quick word about Adrian's Auto Works - I have had a number of death threats many of which I just tossed off. Like the one that came from a fireman. I sort of became a believer when, on the way to a meeting, a wheel came off a Vanguardians vehicle, at freeway speed. Fortunately the driver is a graduate of a defensive driving school. Since that time Adrian's Auto Works installed a number of safety devices to mitigate circumstances before they occur. One that I will mention is the remote starter device that would detonate a bomb placed on the vehicle. The others, for safety and insurance reasons, I won't divulge.

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

BEYOND REPROACH – FOR A FEE, A WHISTLE AND A BELL



Flip through the first few pages of the financial reports of the City of Bell and you'll find displayed prominently a full-page testimonial of its validity: **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. So with this badge of honor on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR,) residents of Bell could be told, officially, that they did not have anything to worry about. They were clean as a whistle.

But we all know now that the financial reports for that city were cooked, spiced up, and served hot to the benefit of the city manager, the city council members, a select group of city employees and insiders. I can just hear the whistle of the pressure cooker as the city financial reports were overcooked into mush. Just eat it up folks. The report has an official stamp of approval from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA).

Likewise, the financial reports for the City of Glendale display such an emblem of excellence on page ten "X" of the introductory section. The city of Glendale pays a fee to the GFOA as do hundreds of cities across the nation. Why? I asked. Most cities, especially mid-sized and larger cities, use the services of national accounting firms. The layout of the CAFR is practically identical across the nation. But, watch any city council meeting when the budget is discussed and they'll mention soon after the opening that the prior year's CAFR received the Achievement of Excellence. There is nothing like a loud presentation of a badge of honor to introduce a report. It's the "Don't ask any questions" seal of approval. It's "Excellent" just line up the city manager for a hefty bonus each year.

So I asked myself: "Why would the city replace its auditors three times in the last ten years if it continually receives such an excellence designation in financial reporting? I called the GFOA two years ago and asked about the process. How many people are involved in evaluating the hundreds of financial reports? How many were submitted? Could I see the list of questions? Who evaluates the reviewer?"

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Glendale California

For its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



[Signature]

President

[Signature]

Executive Director

I got the answer. My conclusion: It's just fluff. Most of the questions are a laundry list of obvious facts. "Is there a title page?" (Question 1.5) "Does it include the name of the state under which the government is located" (Question 1.5d) "Is it signed by at least the Chief Financial Officer?" (Question 2.4c) "Did the independent auditor express an *unqualified* opinion on the fair presentation of the basic financial statements?" (Question 3.6) Then it hit me; why is this question important. If the auditors had reservations, why would they not want to qualify their evaluation? You'd expect that if they found something wrong, that they would report it – qualify their "clean health" observations.

If I recalled correctly, each evaluator would have just a couple hours to evaluate and stamp a city's CAFR with their seal of approval. The GFOA process is not much more than a "diploma mill," useless and damaging to the recipients – the residents of the city who need to have trust that a city's financial statements are true, accurate and truly reflect the results of the governance of the city. But city managers have not been the promoters of candid reporting as we learned from the city of Bell. According to a recent article by the Los Angeles Times, it seems as if we can't even trust the independence of the outside auditors and official financial reports. Go to <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-audits-20101112.0.6174157.full.story> for the story.

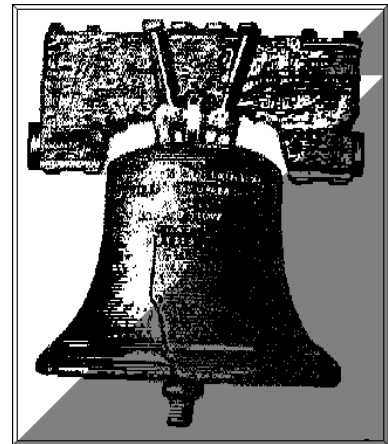
Do Glendale's financial reports qualify as clean and accurate? Not in my book. Three examples will highlight the deficiencies. The city of Glendale reports separately on the Glendale Water and Power – an Enterprise-type organization. For many years the GWP charged the City for street lighting at regular commercial rates of about 17 cents per kWh. But that all changed in 2002.

In 2001 GWP charged the city 1.6 million dollars for street lights. That charge was reduced to just \$17,000 in 2002 and only \$1,000 for all of 2003. By not charging the city's general fund the appropriate amount, the GWP took on the city's general fund expenses in its books – A virtual hidden transfer of funds on top of the 10% the city transfers officially. (Reference: Page 86 of Operating Statistics for 2003-2004)

The auditor's report and the city management's analysis fail to disclose that other cities have been sued or have settled their violation of Proposition 218 – The illegal transfers of Water Utility funds to the General Fund. If sued, the city could be liable for well over 10 million dollars.

But you won't find that disclosure in the latest Auditor's Report. It's sanitized.

The auditors also fail to acknowledge that the city's charges to the Glendale Unified School District with at a full-commercial rate of electricity that includes capital expenditures. That practice was challenged by the Los Angeles Unified and the State Attorney General against the DWP. The Utility settled. That means that our school district and community college are overpaying for electrical utilities to the city. Those overcharges, if rescinded, could allow the GUSD and GCC to hire several dozen more teachers each year. It also means that the GUSD could sue the city for overcharges going back several years.



In the report for 2003-2004 the accounting firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co., LLP reported that over 5 million dollars of revenue by the GWP had been inappropriately booked in the wrong year. They also reported that the pension system makes the assumption that for calculation of future pensions, CALPERS makes the assumptions of "no additional projected salary increases attributable to seniority/merit and (d) no post- retirement benefit increases." (Page 51 of the annual report) In other words, the city's pension obligation is much larger that it shows on the books.

The Los Angeles Times article is right on the money. Cities throughout California compromise the integrity and arms-length relationship that an independent audit requires. The frequent changes of auditors in Glendale may be just such an indicator. Don't ask any questions folks; don't you see we have a Certificate of Excellence?

What the state controller needs is an augmented budget to systematically review the financial reports of all cities and start with the City of Glendale. In the mean time, we need employees to whistle while they work, become whistle blowers, or just ring a Bell.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

FRIEDMAN

The shtick of a lame liberal in a licentious city

There was a time not long ago when Democrats were Democrats. They'd tax, spend and cared for the underdog. The Republicans were fiscally frugal, except when it came to men with guns. Life was simple then. Today, we have these concocted politicians that don't seem to fit any mold except debauchery and recklessness with government spending.

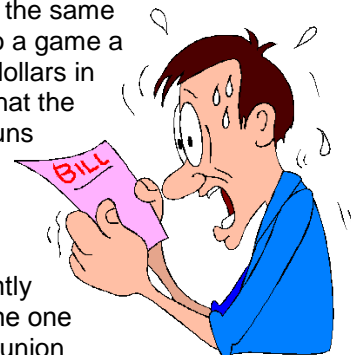
What national and local politicians have in common is an ingrained distaste for accounting for results. No performance measures are needed, no accountability need be assigned. Just assume that how much you spend is the only true measure of policy success.

There was a time when a Liberal would show concern about unfairness and the plight of the disenfranchised or the powerless. You would imagine that a declared and avowed Liberal like Friedman would speak out when city reports show that tens of thousands of residents can't afford their utility bills. So what does our prominent Liberal do? She handed city utility rate payers yet another rate increase and mentioned nothing about that impact on the unemployed and struggling families. To this new-age Liberal, driving a Prius or riding a bike is the hallmark of the good and conscientious Democrat.



But where is the extra money going? Well, just in the last year and a half the Glendale Police Department had their 11% increase in pay. In their contentious beef with the city's Fire Department, who have nearly doubled their pay and play the underworked "Maytag repair men," the city police union gave a swift kick to the Glendale taxpayers and rate payers who are footing their overtime and huge pensions.

Why wasn't council member, Laura-the-Liberal, concerned? It turns out that she desperately wanted the official endorsement by the GPOA at last year's election – The police association's blessing needed to be purchased. The same police department that had a member run a porno site from within city offices is the same department that had women sue the city for abusive sexual harassment. There is also a game a foot by other members of the GPD who'll sue the city at the drop of a hat. Millions of dollars in taxpayer money has been funneled in court judgments to say nothing of the millions that the city's external attorneys are reaping from this debauchery. But who cares if the city runs out of money? It's tax and waste time. Last Tuesday it was her clear objective to kick the utility rate payers in the rear liberally. Our Liberal trio of Drayman, Freedman and Quintero split their vote.



Finally we had a vote by Friedman that did not match Drayman's. Drayman conveniently reversed course from all the other rate increases he's approved in years past. He is the one who in his first year gave the official blessing for city managers to formalize their own union representation with the city. Now with the campaign endorsement time upon us, Drayman is letting Friedman carry his baggage and load up on the ratepayers' cash.



The unofficial rumor in Glendale is that Laura Friedman ran for office to ensure that her husband's landscaping business would thrive from the favors of developers doing business with the city. There were no indicators that Friedman had a real interest in city governance. She never attended any budget hearings before being elected. She never showed up to discuss the quality of life indicators of the city. She never talked about traffic congestion or pollutants to air quality. Children, after school programs, families at risk, problems with the elderly, childhood obesity, and other public concern issues that make up the list of Liberal causes were never her public concern before running for office.

Just drive a Prius or ride a bike to make a visual statement for the environment. Apply a left-leaning image liberally, give the city employee associations more money, and carry a big shtick.

HERBERT MOLANO [Click here Glendale Today](#)

CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT – THE INITIATIVE WE ALL NEED STOP THE BACK-DOOR TAX!

Find me a Glendale Resident who is ticked off about the utility bills, and I'll find you someone who is not making a six-figure income or is not working for the city. The hapless rate-payer is probably the merchant down the street, or the tenant who can hardly meet his monthly rent obligation.

Since Jim Starbird came to Glendale, the city's budget has turned ugly. We went from a city budget of less than \$400 million per year to over \$800 million annually. But our population grew by just 3.5% in the same eleven years. We have increased the city's debt in the hundreds of millions and transferred road construction money and water main replacement money into huge pay and pension obligations. Where is the money coming go pay for all this benefits excess?

There is not enough money from property taxes to pay for the huge benefits Starbird, Quintero and Weaver have concocted in the last ten years. There is not enough money coming from sales taxes. There is not enough coming from increased city fees. Our employee-endorsed council members and public officials had access to our money via the back-door – the water and electrical utility transfers.



A study made by the City of Rosemont, California two years ago showed that Glendale had the highest public utility rates in California. Apartment owners and the Unified School District are paying electrical rates around 50% greater than surrounding cities. But it is not the residents and stakeholders who are the beneficiaries of the extra money the GWP is charging.

There is a level of unethical audacity to take the most essential of services we need in a modern society – water and electricity, and use those essential resources to hike up the city employees' ultra-high pensions and benefits. We need to restore decency in governance, prudence in compensation spending, and affordable utility rates for all residents and businesses.

The answer is a charter amendment to remove all paragraphs in the city charter that allow the transfer of money from the city's GWP utilities to the general fund.

The city has had huge increases in its property tax base as it has grown 40% since the days when proposition 13 was enacted. The high-rise commercial sections of the city now bring in millions more in property tax revenue. Thousands of single family homes that paid little in annual taxes were sold to build multi-family residences. Increases over 1000% percent in tax revenue were not uncommon from the same parcels of land. Yet that is not enough to stem the drive of city unions who want it all for themselves if they could.

Retire at age 50% - sure no problem. Retire with a pension of \$180,000 per year for life? Sure no problem. Increase in medical premiums by over 500% in the last ten years? Sure, no problem. College classes for free to get a bachelors or Masters Degree? Sure no problem. The list of abuses is so long, that we would need a whole book to list them on the ballot. Residents need an effective and streamlined public utility where performance, reliability, and cost control are the designated strategic objectives. We need to have one of the lowest utility rates in Southern California. Families need a break from the abuse and local businesses need to breathe a sigh of relief when they see their utility bill.



We need a charter amendment to close the back-door the city's managers and employee unions have used to get at our money. We need a charter amendment to stop all the money transfers from the GWP, restore the utility to infrastructure health, and give our residents a utility rate they can truly afford.

Stop the back-door tax! We need a Glendale taxpayer / ratepayer association.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

The following was prepared by a Vanguardians advisor.

It should be noted when presenting the figures that the "salary" figure does not include numerous "bonuses" that average 10% of unreported total income before the overtime gets tallied. The time and a half overtime pay is calculated including the bonuses. For example, half of the personnel in the firefighter rank get an extra 12% to 16% of their base pay. Most union contracts have a list of bonuses that within a few years, most firefighters, including the rest of the sworn ranks, received at least 10% more than is reported by the state controller. But when you scroll

down the final amount paid for tax purposes, the average firefighter is receiving 75% above his base pay at the end of the year. The numbers are there for anyone to see for themselves.

Comparative Fire Department Salaries for Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena (rounded to thousands)

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Firefighter	\$85,000	\$212,000
Glendale	Firefighter	92,000	188,000
Pasadena	Firefighter	81,000	185,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Engineer	\$100,000	\$191,000
Glendale	Engineer	105,000	181,000
Pasadena	Engineer	92,000	169,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Captain	\$117,000	\$219,000
Glendale	Captain	124,000	284,000
Pasadena	Captain	108,000	217,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Battalion Chief	\$136,000	\$220,000
Glendale	Battalion Chief	155,000	226,000
Pasadena	Battalion Chief	142,000	227,000

Police Salaries for Sworn Ranks for the Cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena (Calendar year 2009 -- rounded to thousands)

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Officer	\$83,000	\$145,000
Glendale	Officer	96,000	208,000
Pasadena	Officer	80,000	152,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Detective	\$95,000	\$150,000
Glendale	No rank	N/A	N/A
Pasadena	Corporal	90,000	183,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Sergeant	\$107,000	\$164,000
Glendale	Sergeant	123,000	230,000
Pasadena	Sergeant	107,000	184,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Lieutenant	\$124,000	\$185,000
Glendale	Lieutenant	147,000	184,000
Pasadena	Lieutenant	139,000	200,000

City	Rank	Salary	Highest Paid with Overtime
Burbank	Captain	\$165,000	\$221,000
Glendale	Captain	178,000	210,000
Pasadena	Commander	161,000	213,000

Source: State Controller's Office

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.



I thought you would be interested in what happened to my 12 year old flying home from boarding school. A politician was seated next to her on the plane so he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

Danielle, who had just started to read her book, replied to her seat mate, "What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the congressman. "How about global warming, universal health care, or stimulus packages?" as he smiled smugly.



"OK," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The legislator, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which my 12 year-old said, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss global warming, universal health care or the economy, when you don't know sh-t?"

And then she went back to reading her book. ZA

- What is going on with the affordable housing scandal? Is there really an investigation? Who are the investigators and what are they investigating? DJ
Vanguard Response: There is a lot going on. We have our own investigation team working on this, developing more connections to Glendale. In order to reduce the daily phone calls for information we have added a password protected area on www.vanguardians.org on which we place reports from our team so they are accessible by other agencies.
- Why does it take so long for the City to produce the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report? GJ [ED- That is a good question for the City Manager to answer. Maybe the books didn't balance or there is a shifting of accounts. We'll never know unless the public conducts a hunt for the records.]

3



Public



Information

"Just the facts"

The City Investment Portfolio ended the first fiscal quarter at \$400 million, down \$48 million from the \$448 million at the end of the last quarter in June. The bulk of that difference was the \$25 million prepayment of the PERS assessment. The Treasurer did not include in his report the amount of the portfolio that represents the unrestricted amount of the total.

An investigator's report dating back to March 2009 indicated that the brother of an elected official and a retired Glendale Fire Captain conspired to spread false and malicious lies about a candidate. The official is an attorney and he should have told his brother and his mother not to suborn a lie. As an officer of the Court and an elected official he should take this opportunity to offer his mea culpa,

Thanks to State Controller here are some numbers for Glendale public safety – 2009

Fire:	Rank	Salary	Highest Pay Received in Rank with Overtime
	Firefighter	92,000	188,000
	Engineer	105,000	181,000
	Captain	124,000	284,000
	Batt. Chief	155,000	226,000
Police:	Officer	96,000	208,000
	Sergeant	123,000	230,000
	Lieutenant	147,000	184,000
	Captain	178,000	210,000

Glendale Community Meeting

From the number of calls we have been getting regarding the state of Glendale our Board has decided to hold a community meeting for interested stakeholders. Many want to know what is going on and what can they do to help.

Vanguardians is looking at the Friday after Thanksgiving as a date. The location will be chosen after you tell us how many will be in attendance.

Our intention is to have a minimal charge to cover the expenses.

If you want to attend the meeting, please reply with "meeting" in the subject line with your name, phone and email address along with the number attending.

Board Member Feedback: As for the mayor and all the other ne'er-do-wells, I remain virtually stupefied that after all these years of watching public officials getting caught doing bad things; they continue to do them as if they themselves never will get caught. How can grownups be that crazy? I'll look forward to hearing about his perp walk. Jeff Stadnik

"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, November 15

- Parks and Recreation Commission – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2000

Tuesday, November 16 2:30 PM CH

- Housing Authority –548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency –548-2005
- **Joint Meeting –RE: Program Planning for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 CDBG, ESG and HOME Annual Action Plans, 548-4844**
- City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, November 17

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

- **Special Meet.** -- Planning Commission – 4:00 pm, MSB 548-2140
- **Joint Meeting** – Planning Commission/Transportation & Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, MSB 548-2140 or 548-3960
- **Community Meeting** – For Applicants of Habitat for Humanity Geneva St. Project, 7:00 pm, Police Community Room, 131 N. Isabel St., Glendale. (626) 387-0899

Thursday, November 18

- Arts & Culture Commission – 2:00 pm, CH 548-2000
- Design Review Board #1 – 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



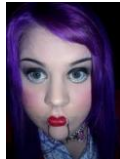
5 **the Insider** is written by city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



The GPD has a secret file on Barry Allen and several other activists that were compiled at the request of CCM Dave Weaver. There are others who were involved. Weaver would make the requests through the PIO. Two GPD officers are in trouble. One for a DUI and the other being charged with assault with a deadly weapon in a road rage incident.

Now that the City has posted Starbird's contract on line, it's interesting to see two of the big differences that he has over the rest of us employees. First, the City pays all of his PERS contribution and second, he gets an additional 6% deferred compensation. That's like an extra \$35,000 a year. And both are not affected by the contract forced on GCEA members. It's also a sweet deal to have a year salary for a severance package when the rest of us can be out the door on the whim of any manager with nothing to lose.

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS



Mayor Najarian forgot where and when he first heard the pundits proffer the concept of buying and renovating apartment or condo buildings. Individual units were going for \$200K to \$250K. The people would save 50% of the cost of new construction. Of course it would have precluded the opportunity to pad the bill so the taxpayers could pay for it.

"You can't win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot" Kraft

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

7 STIMULI

FOR Sale: 12 year old California "C" Corporation

Vanguardians ThinkTank has evaluated several ideas to stimulate growth

- One with appeal to car and RV dealers;
- Another that would appeal to free standing buildings in commercial zones for DIY auto repairs;
- Yet another that would provide early warning of brush fires in remote locales

Contact Barry Allen @ 818 243 1502 regarding STIMULUS

8 Skeptic.Com interview with Governor-Elect Jerry Brown. More next week

Skeptic: I got my introduction to politics when I was a high school student passing out flyers. At the time, I thought what I was doing really mattered. Then local boss told me, "Kid, elections are won by money and votes, in that order!" Was he right?

Brown: Sure he was right. Money pays for the tasks in politics. These include everything from producing and showing TV commercials to hiring individuals to work in the community as pseudo-grass-roots leaders, organizers, and neighborhood activists. Without the money, the modern American political machine grinds to a halt. We don't have active participation, we have spectatorship. Turnout is down to just above 50% for the presidential election, more like 33% for an off-year congressional election, and even lower in many local elections. So what we have is a theory of democracy, a mythology of citizen power, of "We the People." But the reality is the manipulation of the people through sophisticated computer-generated letters, TV ads, or what is called astro-turf organizing efforts. Astro-turf is a metaphor for organized person-to-person activity that many campaigns engage in, either by phone or less frequently door-to-door. But all of it is paid for and organized professionally. This is in complete distinction to a system of real volunteers flocking behind the banner and platform of a candidate and then going out to help get him or her elected.



Skeptic: Was that grass-roots, rather than astro-turf, style of politics ever the case in America history?

Brown: American history certainly started out with the political process being a monopoly of white male property owners. It then broadened under the Jacksonian reforms to include more people. Then the Big City bosses introduced the trading of jobs for votes and "taking care of people" and the corruption that came with them. In the South they had Plantation Politics, Jim Crow Laws, and a whites-only single party politics.

American political history is a real mixed bag. We can't look to the past with rose-tinted glasses. Yet there was popular mobilization. Not in the 1920s when the Democratic candidates were more conservative than the Republicans. But with the Depression, FDR and the rejuvenation of

the labor movement, there was real activism. Something was at stake — jobs, unemployment insurance, CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps]. There were real tangible rewards for political participation for ordinary folks, including poor people. Today the rewards are principally for the wealthy, the corporate representatives, what some would call the elite. And their participation is close to 100%.

Skeptic: The counter argument is that many people don't vote because it really doesn't matter. It takes a depression to generate that level of interest and participation. But those circumstances can also throw up revolutions of either the right or the left. Maybe the beauty of America is that we're not over politicized or polarized.

Brown: No. That might have been true in the past. But prior to the 20th century there were turnouts of 75% to 80%. That was before women and African-Americans were allowed to vote. What you have now is the increasing manipulation of the people by the elite based on fear — fear of crime, of terrorism, and before that, of communism. We have the development of a garrison state and an invasive central power. Ironically this is often fostered by Republicans as well as Democrats under the rhetoric of "less government." But the power of the government is getting greater and greater because it acquires newer technology and more money.

The non-participation of the people is really a misconception. The people are participating by their acquiescence. Consciously or not, they are being manipulated into demanding more and more police, surveillance, and incarceration, and the channeling of more money into the military and the corporate control of the economy. This is gradually diminishing the power of people, the strength of communities, the integrity of families and neighborhoods. We're getting an almost ocean-to-ocean homogenized mass consumption culture that is kept in line by corporate advertising on the one hand and the police surveillance and incarceration of the few percent that can't fit in on the other. More next week

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.****

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