



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog



HEADLINES

We Need Your Help NOW!
Click above; Read below

BREAKING NEWS! **Yousefian Says No!**

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:

1. The GFD means the Glendale Fire Department
2. The term 'abuse' about lengthy response times for GFD is documented by their official 'writings'
3. GFD overtime was \$6,000,000 not \$5M
4. Re GFD taking up collections for injured FF's. They are covered under the public safety benefits of the state workers' compensation system, the most liberal benefits given under the state system. They are not in need of additional donations from the public. The taxpayer has already made the very generous contributions by way of taxes to fund the system.

THIS JUST IN: Throughout the years, it's always been interesting to see what City Council members find important enough to address and highlight during council meetings. Patrick Azadian

THIS JUST IN: Nascent Neighborhood association asks for a Vanguardians presentation on the use of the 'Sunshine Laws' to enable them. The Sunshine laws are The Political Reform Act, The Brown Act and the California Public Records Act. There will be an attorney to answer relevant questions.

THIS JUST IN: Glendale Property Owners Association head Vartan Gharpetian may become the subject of an investigation by the Glendale City Attorney. More

THIS JUST IN: Rick Caruso of the Americana gets a judgment against nemesis Glendale Galleria in the amount of \$90M. Glendale has been good for Mr. Caruso. It's time to ask him for a contribution to Vanguardians for accountable government before the GG appeal.

BREAKING NEWS:

Council member Yousefian stepped down from the Airport Commission, as Chair of the Redevelopment Agency and SCAG. Yousefian stepped down from the Mount and stood with his people (the public) saying that he was now unencumbered and could stand with and for the public he represents, the voters. He no longer was hostage to the City Staff or his colleagues.

The GNP had this to say: "Community activist Barry Allen accused the council of hypocrisy for focusing on Yousefian's actions and ignoring what he said were unanswered accusations of impropriety for Councilman Dave Weaver's use of city resources for the Miss Asia Pageant and Rose Bowl float program. "We really have to listen to the message we're sending our children," Allen said. "It's OK to take things that don't belong to you, but don't use bad words."

Vache Mangassarian, a fixture on local Armenian cable television, defended Yousefian as the only council member to read all of the city staff reports and therefore be informed enough to call out potential mistakes. While Yousefian might "lose his cool," Mangassarian said the council was being unreasonable when it decided to "gang up on him, falsely accuse him and assassinate his character. You should be ashamed of yourself, all of you," he said."

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

Another night made in heaven for drama aficionados. CM Yousefian's public resignation from several offices, Vache Mangassarian's confrontation with the Mayor and CM Weaver, Barry Allen's comments about the lack of financial stewardship in continuing to lease space for the GWP instead of using existing space given to the employees credit union and to the fire department union and the failure to use the old police building. Allen also chastised the Council for giving more credence to words instead of the actions of CM Weaver for using City resources for private gain as well as the Council has chosen to overlook the fact that Weaver is being investigated by several enforcement agencies.

Then there was the Oral Communication by Vartan Gharpetian the founder of the Glendale Property Owners Association LLC and a DRB member attempting to explain the actions and goals of his organization followed by CM Drayman's indictment of his actions. Mayor Najarian taking cues from City Attorney Howard attempted to stop Drayman who was like an out-of-control freight train speeding on a steep downgrade and couldn't be stopped. Prior to this drama the Mayor requested to put 'decorum' on the agenda for another evening.

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	11-13	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	B	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 attitude, attentiveness and accountability.

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

Fire Department

Fire Chief Job Opening











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

Engine 23 had only 66 runs in summer of 2006 compared to 755 for Engine 25 See #6 JUMP

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

HEADLINES

Accomplishments through Public Advocacy:

-  Greater ADA compliance and awareness
-  Smoke abatement compliance
-  Saving taxpayers almost \$500,000 in just one mistake we uncovered in the Budget and brought to the attention of the Council
-  Greater accountability in City fiscal responsibilities
-  Empowering the public to speak out on Issues
-  Putting on a backburner a \$41,000,000 bond issue for two fire station replacements that have provide no public benefit
-  Creating an atmosphere of public debate and discourse
-  Exposing the violation of the public trust by an elected official
-  Advocacy for Accountability at City Hall
-  Reduced rates on utilities for the disabled

As Vanguardians is a 501(c)3 organization, we can neither support nor oppose a candidate financially or morally; however, we can report on candidates, rate them and provide educational material to the public.

New programs include the weekly breakfasts at which we will host elected officials and senior staff; programs for the School and College Districts to teach advocacy; Town Hall meetings to allow for open debate on public safety, downtown development; a green community (water reclamation and energy plants) prior to spending another borrowed \$200,000,000 in the next two years and other urgent issues.

We need your financial support to maintain this aggressive and meaningful program for accountable government Call Barry Allen now at 818 243 1502 and give your support. You can send checks to Vanguardians at POB 11202, Glendale 91226.

We are interviewing candidates for the Vanguardians Board of Directors. If you subscribe to our vision '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', we want to talk with you.

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.**

CONTENTS:

- 1) **Commentary**
- 2) **Announcements - Letters- Articles – Links - Calendar**
- 3) **Open Government**
- 4) **Vanguard**
- 5) **Humor**
- 6) **Jump**
- 7) **First they came**

1 **Commentary**

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

Campaign Finance Reform has become a mainstay issue. There are about 86,000 registered voters in Glendale with a population of 207,000. About 24,000 of those voters actually vote during City Council elections. If voting is important the candidates should communicate with all the registered voters, not just those that vote consistently. Candidate Forums don't connect with all the electorate. The Vanguard forum connected with about 150 attendees and had the added value of distributing candidate questions and responses to about 5000. Using the US Mail seems to be the best way to present the issues and platforms as an educational tool and 'vote for me'. This will cost about \$50,000 for the list, the design, printing and mailing which is a prohibitive cost that requires public contributions. While the homeowners groups vote, they don't make major contributions to candidates.

Before there are campaign fund limits we need to investigate councilmanic districts. Seven districts set geographically and demographically that would allocate about 12,000 voters per district. Then add a two term limit so the job doesn't get tiresome, boring or become an entitlement. At that point, campaign finance reform will be mostly unnecessary. However a cap of \$1,000 per contributor and quarterly reporting would limit perceived abuse. No contributions from City employee unions or associations (GMA, GFFA, GPOA and GCEA) as they are able to use their clout in getting Council approval of pay and benefit increases. It is difficult, albeit impossible, for a politician to see someone every day, take their money and say 'no' to giving them more money and benefits even when the money is that which they are entrusted. The employee unions differ from developers in that developers are investing in Glendale and unions are taking out. Revenue vs. expense.

- 1- Seven Councilmanic districts
- 2- Term limits – 2 terms
- 3- Maximum contribution \$1,000 per person and \$5,000 per business
- 4- No contributions from employee unions or associations
- 5- An elected official who is a candidate for another office must resign prior to running.

Don't stop your community involvement based on a single lawsuit. Vanguardians have an edge in that there is protection from liability in a lawsuit (such as a SLAPP suit) as a defense under California and Federal law called the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997. Section 5231 of the California Corporations Code has some potential contextual ambiguities that we are working out with Assembly Member Paul Krekorian. Additionally, we are exempt from the Private

Investigator licensing law under the provisions of section 7522 of the B&P Code. Before you 'back-off' remember we are here to support the public. Our new Board of Directors is forming. Check the Bylaws. This is your opportunity to become an advocate for accountable government. Speak up and speak out. We are filling the Council Chambers each week and more people are watching on GTV6.

Decorum is what Mayor Najarian wants. The question is it for the public or for those on the dais? The Mayor has indicated that he would like to have secret (closed) sessions for discussions with the GUSD and has indicated to insiders, who have requested anonymity; he doesn't like the open discussions that have been a mainstay of CM Yousefian and CM Drayman. These exchanges are important to the observer allowing a look into the thought process of the Council. My fear and that of others is that the Mayor will want to challenge the 1st Amendment rights of the speakers. For decorum of those on the dais, he can have cell phones and Blackberry's held by the City Clerk to remove a major distraction. If there is an emergency in their family or the wrong rank of a brother-in-law is given, the caller with the urgent message can contact the Police and they will radio the ever present Police Officer. Decorum also means that censuring Council for breaches of the public trust is in order. Decorum of the Council continues to be an issue.

Financial Doldrums: News media are all reporting the deficits in budgets - \$10B for the State, LA will lose \$270M from utility taxes on telephones and Glendale will lose revenue on the same issues. In Glendale another utility rate increase (duh Matilda, I didn't know that). A Mayor that wants more police and more fire protection; more staff and more raises without even asking the question of the results of more employees. He has never said no to a raise for municipal workers. We have so many workers Glendale has to rent office space rather than use the old Police Building, the space where the employees credit union is located or the GFFA offices at the main fire station.

I dropped by the City Clerk's office to pick up the Council packet last Friday and lo and behold there was no time listed on the agenda for the Closed Session, an issue I bought up to the FPPC and to which the City Attorney quickly reacted and produced the wrong result. I reported this to the Assistant City Clerk and left. The City Attorney opined that there was a correction and it was posted. There wasn't a whisper of thanks to the accountability watchdog.

Integrity starts with the individual

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED -- READ VANGUARD

Mortgage Company breathing down your neck for late or no payments?
We can help.
No equity – No problem. Call today to discuss your options.
The sooner you call, the greater the options. Call Today 818 694 0588



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.

Listen to me – Not the facts Don't try to muddy the water with facts. My study is better than your study. Even if you can prove that three is as good as four, I still want to run in the park if I want to, and on your time. And I still want my \$200K, too. So don't tell me about your facts. Furthermore, no, you may not have access to legally public information. That wouldn't suit our purposes, but you can trust us to tell you what's best. If you can't trust your city officials, then who can you trust? (he said, with his tongue planted firmly into his left cheek.) **JS**

Appointments: If Yousefian is booted from the Airport Commission, Council should not appoint Weaver or Quintero to the Airport Commission so as to give them the spoils. Someone from the community should be appointed. The Mayor next April should be John Drayman so as to level the playing field for non-incumbent candidates for Council. **BH**

The Hat Lady: I saw the picture of Margaret Hammond standing next to Mayor Najarian at Adams Square Park dedication. Certainly not a surprise after she praised Najarian and skewered Yousefian, who I believe was the person who said, "change the park, give the residents what they want." I certainly don't condone Yousefian's behavior but those with short memories should check to see who stands up for them. **GK**

Open Letter to GNP: Your article and the words of Mayor Najarian at the Glendale City Council meeting of November 6, compel me to write this letter. I am the Executive Director of Vanguardians, Inc., a non-profit organization that publishes the weekly Vanguard News. One of the weekly features is a rating of each City Council member's performance on the dais. The criterion for the rating is: Responsiveness to the community, knowledge and understanding of the issues, placing the needs of the public first and attentiveness and accountability.

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.

Elected officials and senior staff are among those receiving Vanguard each week. On occasion I have received communications regarding content and the ratings from them. Never once a communication from Mayor Najarian, about the ratings, even though he cited in his statement 'groups that rate Council members', The ratings are a result of communications from between 10 and 200 City Council watchers and are compiled each week.

Allegations about bad advice and ratings are unfounded. Vanguard does not give advice. Indeed opinions and editorial content published is from direct input of the weekly Vanguard readers. It would be unfair to find fault with a performance measuring system instituted by the public and provided by Vanguard, a system similar to your request for feedback from your readers.

Should Mayor Najarian, any city official, or any member of the public wish to discuss, critique or improve upon Vanguard's performance measurement system or its general content, I will be happy to oblige, after a meaningful discussion,. Barry Allen

CALLS

Council needs to direct staff to respond the following week to their staff comments rather than waiting forever.

I didn't realize that the fire engine in my neighborhood [E23] doesn't go out. It is surprising how many times I see E25 go flying right past that station. Who do I ask about this? [Interim Chief Biggs]

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](#)** **This service is absolutely amazing – you will want to check it often to find the world's trouble spots**

CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 19

Special Meeting – Environmental Planning Board – 12:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Special Meeting (Postponed from November 12) – Glendale Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers,

Tuesday, November 20

Glendale Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2060

Glendale Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2005

Glendale City Council -- 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-4844

Wednesday, November 21

No Meetings Scheduled

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices Closed

Friday, November 23

Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices Closed



Don't trade in that running car or truck -- gift it to Vanguardians in exchange for a letter to the tax guy (IRS) based on book value. Offer good in California and Oregon. For more, email info@vanguardians.org or call 818 243 1502

6 Jump

Fire Department	Unit	# Dispatches	Av. Enroute Time (min.)	Av. Onscene Time (min.)
Glendale				
July,	E21	776	1:13	4:14
August	E22	549	1:20	4:09
September	E23	66	1:09	5:28
2006	E24	235	1:20	5:22
	E25	755	1:26	4:38
	E26	643	1:22	4:47
	E27	527	1:07	4:24
	E28	163	1:13	4:37
	E29	258	1:19	4:40
	RA21	1,080	1:07	5:03
	RA25	933	1:07	5:09
	RA26	909	1:13	5:47
	RA29	411	1:16	6:26
	T21	197	1:08	5:15
	T26	221	1:23	5:42
	T29	56	1:21	5:51

E = An engine company
 T = Truck Company (Hook & Ladder)
 RA = Rescue Ambulance
 Dispatches may be cancelled
 Times are averaged

This information is taken from official published documents.

Note E23 had only 66 runs. It is based at 3303 E Chevy Chase. Instead of E23 responding with the closest RA25, E25 takes the runs. Station 25 is located at Chevy Chase and Verdugo. The question we must ask is: Is Station 23 the last stop before retirement? At least one of their firefighters has had two 'injuries' in 25 years. Station 23 gives a false sense of security. We deserve an answer!

7

"First they came..." is a [poem](#) attributed to Pastor [Martin Niemöller](#) (1892–1984) about the inactivity of German intellectuals following the [Nazi](#) rise to power and the purging of their chosen targets, group after group.

When the Nazis came for the [communists](#),
 I remained silent;
 I was not a communist.

When they locked up the [social democrats](#),
 I remained silent;
 I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the [trade unionists](#),
 I did not speak out;
 I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the [Jews](#),
 I remained silent;
 I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me,
 there was no one left to speak out.

Speak up and speak out – support your community – take on an issue – we'll help. Don't wait until you are the last one. Become involved, be engaged and be proactive.