



"Accountability"  
Glendale's Watchdog

Hanukah...a fight for freedom. The message of the prophet Zachariah: "Not by might, not by power, but by My spirit."



**Vanguard**  
Weekly News Vol III  
Week of December 2, 2007  
City of Glendale, CA Edition  
[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

## HEADLINES A Proud Time for the Media

### BREAKING NEWS! Birth

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

**A Special Message from Vanguard: We have added a news bulletin service that will be sent to those requesting breaking news that impacts our City. Just request: 'Bulletin' in the subject line when you reply.**

**As the end of the year approaches, make that tax deductible donation to Vanguardians. See #4 below**

Producers of Reality, News, Variety, Comedy programs – Glendale City Council offers free content. You don't need writers. Get your comedy and tragedy every Tuesday evening. Bring your own cameras and recorders to avoid licensing and royalty fees.

**THIS JUST IN:** [GNP](#) follows Vanguard's lead on airport commission being open to public

**THIS JUST IN:** Water Bills go up. Hearing on Tuesday. Accountability is more than a 'cute' word. Speak up!

**THIS JUST IN:** [Listen to Streaming Audio of the John & Ken Show Regarding Glendale's Tree Fines!](#) What would you do if [you got a notice like this?](#) Then click on 'Tree Removal Notice'

**THIS JUST IN:** Barry Allen quoted in the [Daily News about Bob Yousefian](#): "He really represents the people, the little guy," Allen said. "And I think his statement - to the effect that he stepped down from the mount and he no longer has to kowtow to the City Council or to city management - he can really do what he was elected to do, and that was represent the people. I respect that."

**THIS JUST IN:** [Glendale News Press](#) even thanks advocates: "... we should also give thanks for people who aren't afraid to question government and its policies. All they have is their sense of justice and the 1st Amendment. Armed with those, they keep government on its toes. We thank them."

**THIS JUST IN:** CM Drayman sent an email to John and Ken and CM Yousefian walks into the lion's den with a call-in to the show. They did well

**THIS JUST IN:** LA Times columnist Steve Lopez picked up on ["A Tree is Pruned in Glendale"](#) and the column hit over 400 comments the first day. Those comments should be staff reading for the City. Here is a sample:

1. This Council (including Drayman and Quintero) were the ones who pushed for these hefty fines and are now acting like the saviors of the public. What hypocrites. The only council member to bring this issue up was [sic] Bob Yusefian. The others wanted a scorched earth policy to anyone who trimmed any tree. Glendale has lost it's mind. Time to throw the bums out. Submitted by: Brian McAffree 1:52 PM PST, November 29, 2007

4. I am sure glad I don't live in Glendale. It seems that they are most interested in putting forth misinformation and contradictory statements in order to fine their residents and fill the city coffers...undoubtedly to raise their own compensation packages. It seems the city of Glendale is in the business of bankrupting their citizens in favor of trees, who after all cannot vote them out of office. Submitted by: vonvoncake 12:21 PM PST, November 29, 2007

6. As a Glendale resident for the last 6 years, I can attest that city employees treat residents like excrement. From the inspector who referred to the second unit on my property as a "crappy little back house" to the zoning dept. employee who explained that I couldn't replace the fence on my property with another 4' high fence because "we don't want the city to become dense and claustrophobic", city employees show disdain and a lack of respect to the very people that pay their salaries. My hope is that this couple will be able to sue the city for whatever reason (fraud?) and that our city officials will finally learn their lesson. Submitted by: Emilio 9:50 AM PST, November 29, 2007

**BREAKING NEWS:** The warm and fuzzies you get when you can see how empowering someone and channeling their energy can cause the planning for the birth of a new Homeowners and Neighborhood Association. Vanguardians provided the information, invited the press and an attorney to answer questions of a legal nature and facilitated the process. The concept grew on its own with more and more buy in from neighbors of all persuasions. If you are in the neighborhood of Glendale High School and want to be in on the ground floor of the formation committee, contact Linda Lalaian.

**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**

Great presentation by a GCC faculty member suggesting Council should avail themselves of the conflict resolution, problem solving and HR skills classes.

**Weekly Council Scorecard**

Council	11-27	Overall	
Drayman	B	B	<a href="mailto:jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us">jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Najarian	C -	C	<a href="mailto:anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us">anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Quintero	B	B	<a href="mailto:fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us">fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Weaver	B	C	<a href="mailto:dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us">dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Yousefian	B	B	<a href="mailto:byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us">byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
			<a href="mailto:SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us">SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
			<a href="mailto:Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us">Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>

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**

**An empowered community with local volunteers,** owning their own 31 year old 'retired' apparatus, save their homes in Malibu. The real heroes.

**WHEN the City decided to provide rescue ambulance (RA) service to replace private business, it did so to profit from illness and life threatening health issues. In the original premise, the GFD wanted to take back medical response so that the cost of calls could be offset. Overly optimistic projections proved to be a fiscal disaster. The GFD Management was embarrassed over this mismanagement and failed to report to Council on a timely basis as it missed on cost vs. revenues. Today the RAs are no longer an enterprise account designed to be profitable. Instead the GFD sells an insurance policy to help you pay the \$1000+ in EMS and transport fees. Watch the continuing report on the new model for fire departments presented by Retired Police Chief Bruce Philpott every Tuesday evening.**

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

**Just a reminder to the GFD: You have a responsibility to inspect the Rose Bowl Float when it is parked by the Alex. There is a first time for everything. See #3**

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

**HEADLINES**

The media did its job and a number on the City of Glendale. John and Ken on KFI, Steve Lopez in the LA Times and the Channel 2 11:00 News. The portrayal of the Collards as victims of an uncaring bureaucracy for assessing \$347,000 in fines for tree trimming, a City Manager and a Mayor that wouldn't pick up the phone to call the radio station and explain what happened, why it happened and what would be the resolution. CM Drayman stepped up and sent an email to John & Ken. CM Yousefian, that terrible person that got a vote of no confidence because he stood up for the little guy by reading the Oppenheim letter that all the Council, no doubt to admonitions from Management that everything was under control. Staff is putting together a report to shift blame...instead of working to solve the issue for the future.

**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](http://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** You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.

The City of Glendale has the best employees? The public knows they're the best employees because they get more money than does the private sector for similar jobs. We see daily examples of their customer service – the use of an old database to mail notices to residents in Glenoaks Canyon; the signing off on official staff reports that are inaccurate; the failure to audit the Dreaming of Roses bank account (the Parks and Rec Department Head is a member of the Board of the Rose Float Association and gives up \$90,000 of tax money for the float and has yet to demand an accounting); the handling of the tree fines – a matter that should have come before Council the week after CM Yousefian read excerpts from the Oppenheim letter; the failure to post a disaster plan; the failure after 16 years of not having an ADA plan. Even the failure to return phone calls. It is time that the Council holds the City Manager

accountable for these issues. Of course, the City Manager is busy along with the City Attorney with pulling the 'fat out of the fire' for certain Council members. With the writers' strike the dysfunction in the Glendale government is cannon fodder for the media in dire straits for content, A Mayor that needs training in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment; a Council member in need of civility, ethics and sexual harassment training; a man-of-the-people Council member that is willing to step down from the lofty, bullet-proof position of governance to be with his people, a modern-day Moses, a resonant speaker who knows how to resonate with the public and the strategic thinker. Only thing missing is the 'love interest'. Then there is the additional cast of over 2700 employees that have their own stories of survival until the pensions kick in.

**School District President Greg Krikorian** showed up at the TPC meeting complaining about more students and parking and no money and downtown development and more enrollments and how they want to be good neighbors. Here is what the future City Council candidate did not say:

- There is declining enrollment.
- We will move the GHS portable classrooms we don't use.
- The GUSD gets lots of tax money from the new development.
- The new development downtown with apartments and condos does not bring as many new students as does single family residences.
- With the money the GUSD receives they could build a 200 car parking structure for less than ½ million dollars.
- They could put shields on their ball field lights that would aim the light down, not out.
- The District receives 42 cents per square foot for commercial building and \$2.63 per square foot for residential construction. The fee is applied to any building and/or alternation that is more than 500 sq. ft. except exempt organizations, i.e. churches, government, schools. A reduced fee is also mandated for senior housing.

Of course this requires critical thinking and strategic planning.

**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.**

**CORRECTION:** "I need to correct you on something. You noted that the Airport Commission appointment includes a junket to Hawaii. This is inaccurate. The appointment brings with it junkets ALL OVER THE WORLD - for those commissioners who choose to indulge. Past examples have certainly included Hawaii. But they've also included Edmonton, Canada, New Orleans, the Virgin Islands, Washington, D.C., resorts in Mexico, Orlando, FL, etc. Indeed, one former commissioner took her mother along (at airport expense) for a trip to France on airport business.

Another commissioner took the first-class tickets issued to he and his wife, converted them to coach tickets for his wife AND their children - and then upgraded ALL of them back to 1st class again with "airline upgrade stickers" purchased by the airport. Full disclosure: The Public Integrity Unit of the LA County District Attorney's office was able to later compel that individual to repay some of the funds, but chose not to prosecute for misuse of public funds because "airport staff" was aware of the transaction and approved it.

If nothing else, the organization hosting that conference in Hawaii - if I recall correctly, I believe it's the IAAA: International Assoc. of Airport Administrators - actually conducts QUARTERLY conferences, typically in garden spots. One former mayor, council member and commissioner, Carl Raggio, has described these trips as well deserved "rewards" for hard-working public servants. So, get your facts straight.

You would have known these important details - and so much more - if you had attended my Dec. 6 show at the Colony Theatre in Burbank (It's a gorgeous, taxpayer-built facility inside the Towncenter Mall in Burbank). Not only would you have learned these and so many other important points about government in Burbank and Glendale, because 100% of the proceeds are going to "BTAC," your attendance would have supported the Burbank Temporary Aid Center, a 33 year-old charitable organization that supports the homeless and working poor in our region. Oh, wait. You couldn't have attended the show, because it isn't December 6 yet! You still have time to get your tickets, and to promote the event to other Vanguardians. I've attached material you are welcomed to forward, or to condense." **Will Rogers** [ED – Contact Vanguard for the attachments]

**Trees:** Regarding the tree fine fiasco of nearly a half million dollars, it is not enough that the city, and only after two months of doing nothing, conclude that it was not in its best interest to continue to prosecute the poor family that was the target of this ill conceived tree ordinance. Let's face it, without the aid of the broader news media, the city would still be in the enforcement mode. How out of touch can local government become? It was beneficial for Drayman and Yousefian to speak out on this issue even though they went against the advice of city manager Starbird, who obviously wanted to hunker down and try and see if it would just blow over. They were able to mollify the issue to some degree. The city now needs to compensate the family that was subjected to this horrible episode in their lives for their cost to hire an attorney. This came at a time when the wife was in an advanced stage of her pregnancy. She gave birth during this time of unimaginable emotional trauma. The city loves to create warmth and comfort amongst its employees and honor them at every opportunity, but it is unwilling to hold them accountable when they screw up in major proportions. TA

**Another fine edition.** One might think that these officials might be appropriately knowledgeable about and sensitive to the Brown act and regulations regarding not-for-profits by now. Especially the ones with law degrees. JS

**Good Job Mr. Weaver:** CM Dave Weaver did a good job in response to Barry Allen's request to hear about the qualifications of the latest appointees to Boards and Commissions. Must have been the 'A' he got last week. Unfortunately he did not share with the people that don't read the GNP his comments about the non-renewed [Vartan Gharpetian](#). JC

**Great commentary on volunteerism. This is what [Sandy Sand](#) had to say:** Pay me to volunteer, and I'll volunteer all day long, and so will every member of my family. Hell, I'll even "volunteer" the dog's services to be hitched to a supply wagon and follow me while we're being "paid volunteers." KM

## **CALLS**

Looks to me like the Mayor is getting advice to 'stonewall it' regarding the staff decision to display their arrogance in dealing with the public over tree fines.

Starbird needs to have his staff focus on 'customer service'.

Weaver is right. No staff member should have to come before Council and be yelled at for incompetency. The Council needs to blame their boss, Jim Starbird. After all he hires them in his image.

Attorneys Howard and Najarian got a good taste of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment from Professor Harry Zavos. It was interesting that Najarian finally acknowledged there was a meeting with the City Attorney and members of the public back in May about the appointment process and then he feigned ignorance when CM Yousefian brought this failure to follow the FPPC rules.

A simple acknowledgement that the system was flawed would have saved considerable embarrassment to the City. Did you know that Channel 2 did a news report on the trees?

Weaver knocked Gharpetian for his secret private company and yet he continues to stonewall on the Dreaming of Roses money.

**Time to call Steve Lopez or John and Ken to get the shades on the Moyse Field lights. President Krikorian would just love that.**

**I watched Yousefian on Larry Zarian Forum. Had I known how he had been lied to by the staff and the City Attorney, I would have come to Council and yelled at all those other idiots.**

**Mayor Najarian speaks and speaks and speaks at the local Republican group at Clancy's. Najarian was no match for the Clark Magnet School students. He couldn't field their questions. He may want to change Oral Communications at Council, only picking those to speak that he chooses. A part of his plan to cut our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights,**

**LINKS** [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber](#) [Open Government Guide](#) [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)  
[Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) For a free copy of waste of taxpayer money and much painful reading, go to [Piglet Book 2007](#) .

## CALENDAR

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

**Monday, December 3rd** at 7 PM The Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council will hold its December meeting at the First Congregational Church of Glendale, 2001 Canada Boulevard, at Wabasso. The speaker will be Peter Kavounas, Water Services Administrator, GWP. Mr. Kavounas will be discussing the proposed water rate increase and the Chevy Chase 968 Reservoir and pump station as well as other issues of current interest to the residents of Glendale & surrounding areas. Following will be a question & answer period. Guests are cordially welcome. No admission charge. Refreshments will be served. Ample free parking. For more information, please call 242-7334, or 626-300-4990.

### Monday, December 3

Glendale *Water and Power* Commission -- 4:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2107

**Special Meeting** – Planning Commission – 6:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

### Tuesday, December 4

**Special Meeting** – City Council re: Capital Improvement Program – 9:30 am, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-4844

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

**Joint Meeting** – Glendale City Council/Glendale Redevelopment Agency – 2:30 pm,

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

### Wednesday, December 5

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission – 3:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2000

Holiday Tree Lighting – 7:00 pm, Perkins Plaza (behind City Hall), 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2002

### Thursday, December 6

Glendale Design Review Board #2 -- 1:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, 548-2140

## 3 Open Government

**Request:** For the last 12 months, documents indicating the response time of the second responding engine on calls requiring more than one engine.

**Response:** The City does not publish a report that captures the response time of the second responding engine. To produce such a report, would require computer programming in order to gather the data. If you are willing to bear the cost of producing a copy of the record, which includes the cost to construct the record, and the cost of programming and computer services necessary to produce a copy of the record pursuant to Government Code section 6253.9, we will gladly produce the records. If you wish to proceed, please deposit \$1,100.00 in the office of the City Clerk, which constitutes the estimated cost of computer programming to construct the information you seek.

**Remarks:** The response time of the second engine is important to the public. The 4 firefighters on the first engine can't go into a burning structure (2 in and 2 out rule) because there aren't enough people on one engine. 1 FF is assigned to the hydrant, the Engineer is assigned to the pump control and it takes two to make an entry and two outside to back them up. Oops, that's 6. Fire response times are important due to the acceleration factor of a fire. It is a travesty that the GFD does not have this information. It is only your property burning

## 4 Vanguard

**Wants and Needs:** Besides operating cash, Vanguardians can use vehicles in running condition, Vista compatible software, a digital camcorder, and color laser printer with duplexer, office space.

# VANGUARDIANS

Please make checks payable to "VANGUARDIANS" Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226

If contributing by Credit Card call 818 243 1502

Checks are best -- the bank doesn't discount them

Contributions are tax deductible -- Rev. Proc. 92-85, 1992-42 I.R.B. 32 -- You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

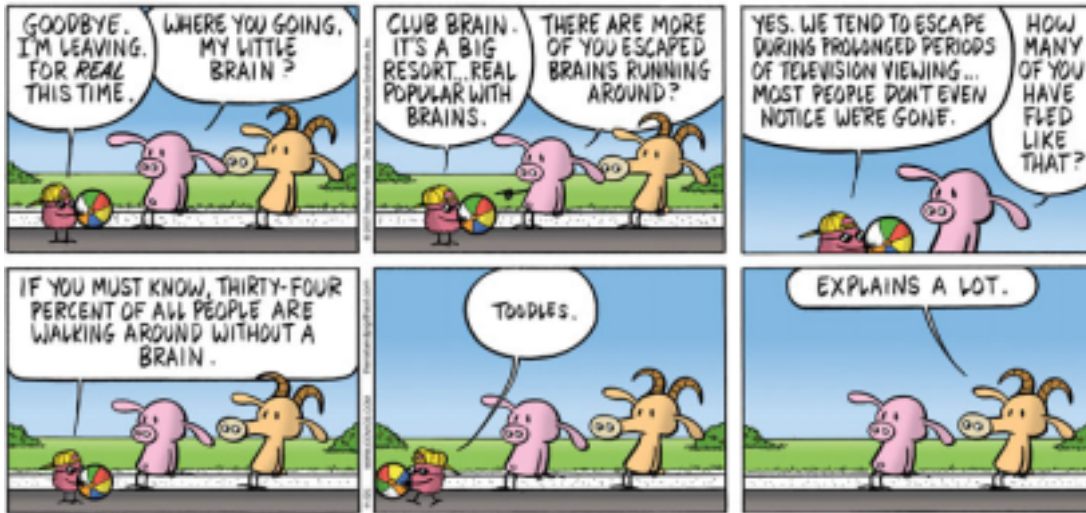
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## 5 Humor

### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



[CAST](#)

## 6 Next Week: Quality of Life program 2700 employees vs. Dr. Espiritu

City stonewalls on Blackberry use during Council meetings including messages from management to council on voting suggestions.

Small Business Advisory body

## 7 "First they came..." Martin Niemoller

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, engage and be proactive.