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# Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI  
Week of December 5, 2010  
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## INVESTIGATE ANALYZE EXPOSE PUBLICIZE -- BRIBERY CORRUPTION FRAUD GRAFT

**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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Vanguardians just says 'No' to breaking the law with regard to the use of the LA County Voter Database. In recent weeks there have been three requests for the database and the answer is still, 'No'.



**Washington DC** – Vanguard accepted by the Library of Congress: 12/3/2010 Dear Publisher: This is your official notification that the following ISSN assignment(s) have been made under the auspices of the U.S. ISSN Center at the Library of Congress. Please print or save this notification for your records. Vanguard (Glendale, Calif.) ISSN 2158-7280

**Glendale CA – City Attorney gives Vanguardians 6 months to start legal action against the City.**

**Maywood CA** -- Rising costs of policing Cudahy quietly drained Maywood of more money every year. By 2009, its \$5-million reserves were gone and the budget was in deficit. A city consultant discovered that the contract was actually losing Maywood \$1.1 million a year.

Maywood's insurer, and its city staff, urged the council to sign a more lucrative contract with Cudahy that would have rebuilt its reserves. But the council delayed. Members wanted to study forming a regional police force with Bell and other cities.

Instead, Maywood lost its insurance, forcing the city to hand over the reins to Bell.

"It's an incredible story if you think of a community with a small budget throwing away" money like that, said Paul Philips, Maywood's interim city manager in 2009 who noticed the contract's problems and left when the City Council ignored his warnings.

Today, Maywood struggles to remain a city at all. [Read more.](#)

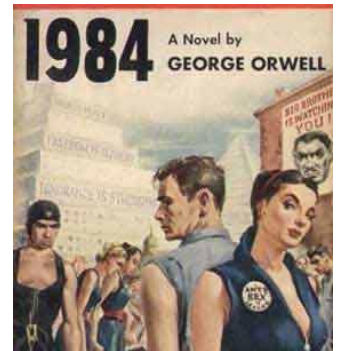
**Calabasas CA** -- Critics of the city's crackdown described officials' actions as "Orwellian" and "shameful." Homeowners complained that the proposed beefed-up building code could force them to obtain city permits to change light bulbs or wallpaper a room if enforced as written.

"We have this huge erosion of trust that has occurred in this city," asserted Mary Hubbard, who heads one of the community's largest and oldest homeowners associations in the Malibu Canyon area. "We're looking for checks and balances in power we feel have been abused."

The crowd of about 50 residents occasionally groaned as officials defended the changes they've recommended for the building code. State requirements call for municipalities to update the codes every three years.

"It's ludicrous that we're sitting here rewriting it on Thanksgiving eve," Jody Thomas, president of an Old Topanga Canyon homeowners group, told the council.

Councilwoman Mary Sue Maurer asked that the city set a "higher standard" for shutting off property owners' water than it did in July, when drinking water was cut at Smith's Stokes Canyon ranch and the property's fire hydrant was capped off and locked. [Read more.](#)



**Bell CA** -- Several communities in the San Gabriel Valley, including Pasadena, plan to review their relationship with a firm that audited the city of Bell in the wake of a critical report from the State Controller's Office. Officials in the controller's office are evaluating the firm of Mayer Hoffman McCann to see if it adhered to generally accepted auditing principles and government standards while auditing the city of Bell, said Garin Casaleggio, a controller's office spokesman. The results will be released next month, he said. "They gave Bell a clean bill of health," Casaleggio said. "It's hard to imagine that any CPA firm could miss the problems that the controller has uncovered so quickly. I won't speculate on what went on, but our audit will detail those findings." [Continue the Pasadena Star News story.](#)

**EL MONTE** - Though only 17 city employees here have base salaries over \$100,000, 108 of the city's 278 employees - nearly 40 percent - received wages topping that mark last fiscal year. Costly overtime and supplemental pay have nearly doubled some employees' salaries and given others tens of thousands more in annual wages, according to a compensation report recently released by the city. In total, the city spent more than \$4.2 million on extra pay and overtime last fiscal year, amounting to 8 percent of the city's \$51 million general fund budget. [Continue the Pasadena Star News story.](#)

**San Diego** -- City leaders approve significant pay and benefit increases for workers without identifying a way to pay for them. A mayor leaves office under duress. A switch to a strong-mayor form of government. A crushing [pension deficit](#) that threatens to overwhelm city finances.

All of the above describe the [city of San Diego's](#) fiscal crisis, but they also describe the circumstances that befell Prichard, a suburb of Mobile, Ala.

The end of Prichard's tale hasn't yet been written although the city has filed for [bankruptcy](#) twice in a 10-year period. The city's latest move is of particular interest to some in San Diego because Prichard officials are trying to do something that has never been done anywhere in the [United States](#): Reduce vested pension benefits through municipal bankruptcy. [Continue the story here.](#)

**ALAMEDA** -- The company seeking to redevelop the former Navy base here is seeking more than \$100 million in damages against the city of Alameda because it says local officials acted in bad faith in a bid to sideline its efforts so they could redevelop the site on their own.

SunCal Companies announced today that it was amending the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, where it accuses Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant and other city officials of "seeking to destroy a development that will significantly enhance the environment and add value to the community."

SunCal officials say they spent \$17 million over the past three years toward redeveloping the former Alameda Naval Air Station before the City Council decided in July not to extend their exclusive negotiating deal. As a result, SunCal says the city or another developer now will benefit from its plans and research because they will have received the information essentially for free. The suit also alleges that Gallant sought to enrich herself in a fraudulent scheme at the expense of the developer and Alameda's citizens.

SunCal wants approximately \$117 million in punitive and compensatory damages, as well as for what it says are lost profits.

The amended lawsuit follows SunCal suing Gallant and City Clerk Lara Weisiger in Alameda County District Court in September, when the company accused them of deliberately withholding e-mails and other public records that it needs for its legal challenge. [Read more.](#)

**Alhambra CA** --The City of Alhambra took the top prize for cities over 60,000 population in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Eddy Awards competition sponsored by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation as the "Most Business Friendly City". Glendale didn't make the cut. [For more, click here.](#)

**Sacramento** -- It looks like CalPERS is finally owning up to its huge pension liability; actually it isn't CalPERS' liability, it's the California taxpayers. Last week Camden, NJ laid off 50% of its police force and 33% of its firefighters. Unfortunately, it's most likely coming to your city as well. Read on.

#### **[California Pension System Hits Local Governments With 55% Rate Increase for Next 19 Years](#)**

by [Gwilym McGrew](#)

Last week [I calculated](#) that CalPERS would increase its pension charges to cities, counties, and the state of California over 30% to regain massive investment losses over the last decade. My [initial estimate](#) was drawn from a presentation by Kung-pei Hwang, CalPERS Senior Actuary, which I recorded mid November. My [report](#) also detailed the gimmickry that CalPERS used to hide the 50% shortfall in their planned assets. However, it looks like my estimate was way low because we now have new video of the CalPERS board stating in their own words that the costs to cities, counties and the state will increase a GINORMOUS 55% by 2013 and the increased rate will need to be in place for at least the next 19 years.

And, this will only provide a 50/50 chance of getting to where they need to be to fulfill pension obligations for municipal and state workers. In aggregate for all municipalities and the state this could equal a \$4 billion a year drag on the economy of cities and counties as each spends less for local government functions. Many cities and counties are already struggling to meet the current pension costs. The new rate threatens to put many governments into serious financial trouble. For the City of Los Angeles alone this means an increase of \$340 million each year in payments to CalPERS!

Listen at the 57 minute and 37 second mark of this video as a board member adds up the financial hit cities and counties in California are about to take.....

In addition, CalPERS admits earlier in this video that they have not built into their forecast the fact that restrained government budgets will likely result in layoffs and/or early retirement which will further strain the pension system. Less municipal & state employee's means fewer payments made into CalPERS to refill its underfunded coffers. Their financial model does not reflect this reality.

Calper's board met this November and recorded the two day conference in 8 hours of video they posted on their YouTube Channel. You can view all 8 hours of this meeting [here](#). California bondholders beware.

**Compton CA** -- Three Compton residents are suing the city under the California Voting Rights Act, contending that the city's elections are stacked against Latino candidates. [The complete LA Times article can be viewed here.](#)

**Lawrence CA** -- A Lawrence resident who'd lost his job in the current recession might have been miffed to read about city employees getting a "longevity payment." And a fan of fiscal responsibility might have felt a flicker of disbelief when he read that this lagniappe was to be paid for by dipping into the city's savings account. Discussions dwelled on what a good job city employees were doing given the challenges they've faced, among which "cuts" and "scrutiny" were mentioned. Perhaps these challenges were deemed more onerous than those which workers in the private sector have endured.

One commissioner gingerly raised the issue of rewards for mere longevity rather than performance. Another allowed that relative to other area cities, Lawrence is "pretty much the most generous of anybody around." Beyond that, the apparent consensus was that city employees are special and are entitled to benefits that the rest of the nation's workers don't enjoy.

If Lawrence were a business operating in hard times, the bonuses would be history. But governments aren't run like businesses. Different rules apply. This isn't to single out Lawrence, however. Longevity is the standard by which

public service employees everywhere are rewarded. Municipal and state governments nationwide have been making extravagant wage, retirement and health care commitments to their employees. Taxpayers are left holding the bag. [More](#)

**Glendale** – Concerned residents start a GWP oversight committee.

**Vernon** – State Assembly will have legislation introduced to erase city hood. [Click for the LA Times article.](#)

**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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**IN TIME FOR Christmas** – Got a spare car around you can't decide whether to fix it or sell it? Adrian's Auto Works will send out a technician to help you make that decision. Sell it, Give it for a tax donation or fix it. No obligation. And it's a local call. Call BRAD at Adrian's Auto Works now...818 745 8524 make an appointment



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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



I have had an ongoing discussion with a Vanguardians advisor on whether we should concentrate getting potential voters to register or to spend the effort on educating voters. Seems as if I am winning the argument that we need to educate voters, although voters lost out on the Utility Users Tax because, apparently, they couldn't get their heads around the fact that reducing the tax rate while increasing the taxable universe would bring in more of the users money. Actually the City lied when they said the UUT would be revenue neutral. It shows me that the 5 council members are working for the city employees instead of the voters...but that is an issue of voter education; for voters to understand that those five people on the dais are dipping deep into your pockets for the money necessary to pay for their excesses.

Is it any wonder that they will do anything to keep the employees happy no matter how much it costs you?

Tuesday evening when Council received the staff report on a tree ordinance. The \$100,000 employees that worked on the ordinance took THREE years to do it and they left out an important issue having to do with licensing of tree trimmers. Something that was brought out by a civilian. Each and every council member praised this less than mediocre work that took three years. When I was a CEO I would have fired the lot.

We all heard the Council say there was no way they would lay off any employees. As we reported the City hired more people to replace those who left. Rather than let a GPD Captain go completely to retirement they let him retire and then gave him an \$88 an hour contract to work for them. That was a decision the Council could have changed and so could the retired police captain. He could have said that seeing as the City was so generous as to award him a pension in the \$150,000 range he would volunteer his services. A great idea for the firemen, too. Retirees could replace firemen working overtime. That could cut overtime costs about \$10,000,000 a year.



The City has taken in ARRA (stimulus) money that was meant to do needed infrastructure repairs and to put people back to work. However, the City can't tell us or the Federal Government how many jobs they created. Has the Council even asked about that?

So why isn't the Council addressing items like these? They were very quick to jump on the eminent domain wagon to buy more land for the Americana while they are foot dragging on other hot ticket items.

The Council has agreed to pay \$2.2 million for the Edgesoft Software (ESI) to

replace the KIVA system. The cost continues to escalate. In fact after the last infusion of cash ESI invited all the Glendale workers to a soiree at the Burbank Bar and Grill to celebrate. The Council in its role as policy maker just rubberstamped what management wanted.

Now Council is faced with another CalPERS increase of 55% coupled with the recent 35%. [See Gwilym McGrews report.](#)

[Advisor comment: I viewed all of the CalPERS tapes on the two day hearing. The 55% figure came from a board member who is an elected official for a north county. He said the new increases proposed by CalPERS will increase his county's pension contributions by 55%. Glendale's percentage could be lower, similar or higher. A recent PRAR stated that the city now contributes to CalPERS 24.3% of payroll for the sworn cops and firemen. The chief actuary of CalPERS, Alan Milligan, said that public safety will increase by 10 to 16% and miscellaneous employees will go up 6 to 10%. If you take the middle of the range of increase for public safety (13%) and add that to the current rate of 24.3%, you get more than a 50% increase. Adding the average of 8% to the miscellaneous employee to the current rate of 11%, you increase the employer's obligation by about 40%. (I am not certain about the 11% figure for miscellaneous employees, although that is a fairly standard number that has been thrown around).

It is important to note that Milligan also said that after this increase which will be imposed over the next three fiscal years, the pension contribution rates as a percentage of payroll will continue to climb for years beyond that.

He also said that because of the poor economic outlook, many more public employees are taking retirements earlier and those positions are not being replaced. As a result, CalPERS expects that the revenue stream coming from the employees will continue to decline. This will put further pressure on the investment portfolio to perform better (higher volatility) and also on the amount cities will have to contribute.

Milligan's parting advice to all local public agencies in California, "you need to plan now for the impact".]



Mayor Najarian was busy covering his tracks when he declared that he had no idea that the City Manager spent over a million dollars on unsupported bonuses to his favored employees. Najarian knew about the bonuses – he just didn't know the names or the reasons for them – but he could have asked for them. His hush money was a wading pool at Pacific Park. However Najarian who pledged to the ANC for their last election support of his campaign, that he would meet with them monthly to get his marching orders, isn't interested in anything other than moving to higher office. He wants to maintain the distractions like bonuses, water transfers in violation of Prop

218 and the possible transfer of the cost and operation of Rockhaven over to GWP where there is a search for water while the ADI issue that will haunt the Council in the coming months and years is ignored.

After many calls thanking us for the work on the performance bonuses I decided to comment after the PR puff piece in the GNP. First off the writer didn't contact me as the ED of Vanguardians for our input. After all we have been seeking the records for over two years getting a little bit here and a little bit there that has been reported in Vanguard and at the City Council. If Mayor Najarian claimed this is the first he heard of it, apparently the messages delivered by the public carry a different importance than the words of the ANC; or maybe he was playing with his Blackberry.

The GNP writer didn't question why Bob McFall got so many awards. Or Fire Chief Hinz who did away with the outside ambulance service adding over \$4M a year in taxpayer burden. Or Randy Adams who presided over some of the most expensive police employee lawsuits got 2 hits. So if you didn't take your vacation and sick days you could be rewarded and then cash in by spiking your pension with the days off with pay you didn't take.

Several people that weren't eligible for awards got them, no doubt as payoffs for keeping their mouths shut about things that were happening.

The writer didn't question where the CM-29 requests were or why the City refused to share the names of all the recipients of tax dollars. But then the GNP doesn't want to lose the several hundred thousand dollars it gets from the City. TSK, TSK



**BARRY ALLEN**

**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**

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### **THREE YEARS OR HARD LABOR**



Three years of hard labor is the work the unemployed in California have been through looking for a sustainable job since the start of the recession in December of 2007. But don't look around for any empathy from government employee unions and even less from their elected representatives.

I don't mean the union leadership. I've learned that they couldn't give a hoot as it is their job to extract as much money from the taxpayer. Their real representatives are the city council members, assembly members, members of the state senate, and numerous elected officials who owe their highest allegiance to these public employee groups first.

The unemployed and the underemployed have had a tough three years. I know. As a landlord in Glendale, I've been keenly aware of the struggles tenants have been through. Like the typical landlord in L.A. county, I've dropped my rents by over 15% in the last two years. I've accommodated my prices to fit the reality of the unemployment situation. But to the city government and the insatiable appetite of employee groups who want more pay and more benefits, the plight of the average resident means nothing. They are not connected morally or physically to the city.



Glendale is a city of tenants – nearly 70% of the population, and from my experience, they are one of the hardest hit economic groups in the city. When we hear the unemployment rate of the nation now at nearly 10%, we must add a few percentage points if you live in California. But the numbers are misleading. The unemployment rate includes city government employees who've been immune for the most part from the worst recession in our lifetime. If we were to remove the government employee portion of the economy, we could add another two percentage points to the real unemployment rate as they make up 20% of the labor force.

At a most basic level of analysis we can tell that the unemployment numbers are significantly underreported. We all know that those who've given up looking for a job are not counted. But if two people who used to hold two full-time jobs now hold one job between them as half-time employees, do we not have the equivalent of one unemployed worker? That unemployed worker is not counted.

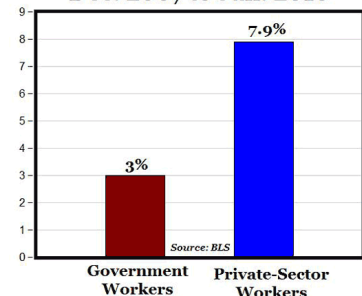
For an alternative point of view, I'd recommend the website Shadow Government Statistics ([www.shadowstats.com](http://www.shadowstats.com)) We need to look for alternative sources of information to get past the official and misleading lines. Such is the nature of our government today. It is even worse at the local level where very little scrutiny and oversight is possible. These are pseudo democracies.

The art of pseudo democracies like Libya, Cuba, Sudan, and all countries where those in power exercise an election charade, lies in keeping the public uninformed and their cronies rich. The government of the city of Glendale, California is not at the point of suspending elections and disappearing the activists, but they are on the same continuum.

For years we've been asking for the real pay and compensation of city employees. The most basic and elemental information about who is getting our tax dollars and how much they've pocketed has been impeded by numerous obstacles.

Yet despite our efforts to get at the information, disseminating it effectively to the general public has been ever more troublesome. The Glendale News-Press won't dare print the list of employees earning over \$100,000 or the titles they hold. They won't ever tell you what percentage of them live in Glendale. They won't ever do an analysis of their

**Average Unemployment Rate  
Government vs. Private Sector  
Dec. 2007 to Jan. 2010**



benefit package nor expose the gimmicks in the MOUs. The MOU is the most exquisite liars' document ever concocted by an employee group. It's the official city/employee union agreement. Never read it? Thought so.

So if you are reading this while unemployed. If you are sitting next to your more expensive utility bill and wondering how you'll pay for it with your diminishing pension, think MOUs – The Memorandum of Understanding. That's the dastardly agreements created by the city manager and subservient allies and approved by all the council members. A document for which there is little understanding by the general public. We have city council members but not a single taxpayer or rate-payer advocate representing our interests.

So we've had three years of hard work that we've had to endure just to find or keep a permanent job while our princesses at the city council preen and posture behind the dais.

It's sufficient discontent for me to dream of the day when their other misdeeds are exposed and find them with three-years of hard labor behind bars.

**HERBERT MOLANO**    Click here [Glendale Today](#)

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## **FIXING THE GLENDALE CITY BUDGET**

### **TWENTY COST-CUTTING IDEAS THAT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHER CITIES**

By almost any standard, the typical combined pay and benefits increase for hundreds of city employees is nearly double what it was ten years ago. Compare that to the average private sector employee and you'll see that disparity as a glaring and immoral reminder of how low we've sunk this whole country into debt and disparity.

But it's not too late to fix it. We only need to find the right minds and the right people of character to come forward and hold us to a higher standard – a moral standard.

Like the Federal government, the city of Glendale has put us into ever greater debt. Today we have hundreds of millions of additional debt (thousands per family) in just the last ten years. We have unfunded pension obligations also in the hundreds of millions. We have an infrastructure repair backlog also in the hundreds of millions. The elemental phrase here is - Hundreds of Millions. That's why the answer entails fixing the city budget in a major way, not some namby-pamby cosmetic concoction. Here are the doable and real choices we can make.

1. Rescind the Fire and Police pension approved in 2001 that allows up-to 90% of their pay as a life-time pension that was made retroactive to 1971. The retroactive portion could possibly be rescinded. Only employees hired since 2001 get to keep their diamond-level pension. All others get their pre-2001 pension under which they get hired. Approximate savings 10 to 20 million annually.
2. Dismiss all employees in the fire and police department hired since 2001 and replace them with county Sheriff and County Fire personnel. The areas north of the Glendale Community college could be set aside for that contract. Approximate savings\$ 5 to-10 million annually.
3. Replace all Glendale Fire Department Paramedics with Private Ambulance Service as the city had prior to 1999. Approximate annual savings 4 million. Long term savings in pensions in the tens of millions more.
4. Replace all Fire Department hazardous waste and fire inspectors with contracted services. Savings of about \$100,000 per employee in combined pay and long-term obligations.
5. Limit health benefits of all employees to the fee structure charged by Kaiser Permanente and split that cost between the city and the employees. Require the highest deductible possible. Savings of \$5 million, maybe more annually.
6. Reduce the MOU to a single page; single space 12 point font size. That means removing the countless gimmicks to boost pay. Remove all deductions not related to taxes and health benefits. Savings of over 10 million dollars annually
7. Cost of living adjustments should be limited to ½ of the CPI as employees have benefitted from employer paid health insurance, education and other costs to which they have been mostly unaffected. Annual savings in the future of about 5 million dollars.



8. Limit the number of full-time equivalent employees to no more than 1% of the city's population. That'll save over \$20 million annually.
9. Flatten the management layers to no more than: Department Chief, Business Unit Chief, and Supervisor. No supervisor to oversee fewer than 15 employees. Savings: over \$5 million annually.
10. Cut the employee steps to just two levels. If in two years an employee has not learned his job to his maximum potential, he should not have any further level benefits. Possibly more than \$2 million in savings annually.
11. Change the civil service rules to allow the firing of any employee who causes the city to lose more than the employee's annual pay as a result of a lawsuit. Given the city's history, we should experience fewer lawsuits. About three million dollars in savings annually.
12. Stop all low-income housing projects that exceed the average cost per square foot of newly constructed private multi-family residences. Savings of tens of millions to the federal government. Fewer projects and fewer city employees to oversee the waste.
13. Create standards for competitive bidding in cost-accounting, easy-to-evaluate terms. For example: Replacing 8" water mains not to exceed \$160 per linear foot (with fully absorbed costs of construction, management, insurance, etc.)
14. Freeze all additional borrowing. Debt financing of the city has been uncontrolled for the past ten years. Glendale should restore a pay-as-you-go style of governance.
15. Reduce city management by 40% - That's the amount of bloated bureaucracy added since Jim Starbird became city manager in 1998. Savings of at least \$5 million annually.
16. Freeze Police, Fire and Management pay for the next four years with increases of 2% maximum after that. The last ten years those departments and units have more than doubled in payroll expenses.
17. Outsource all building management and maintenance (Electrical, HVAC, etc) to a single outside entity. Savings about 50% less than current practices.
18. Establish firm city residential growth targets and office building targets. Firm targets allow for better allocation of city resources and improved planning. For example, limiting residential growth to 300 dwelling units per year (about .5% of the population per year) allows for clear resource allocation from building and safety, traffic planning, utility impacts and other essential planning resources. Savings in staff reductions.
19. Limit overtime to not more than 5% of the department's annual payroll. Manager's who can't meet that goal should be replaced, demoted, or furloughed.
20. Immediate unpaid furlough for all managers who've taken advantage of the "every other Friday off" payroll gimmick. Number of furloughs to be determined by the number of unworked days since the beginning of the recession in December of 2007.



There is more abuse and cost cutting that can be brought to bear with just prudent oversight and evaluation of performance metrics. We could possibly add dozens more options from employees who know where the abuse is being buried and who care about how far the city has strayed from good governance and good management practices.

I'd love to see the suggestions for a further exposé.

**HERBERT MOLANO** Click here [Glendale Today](#)

**EVERY TUESDAY AT THE LIARS' PARADISE**  
**A HISTORY OF WATCHING LIARS, CHEATS AND MEALY-MOUTHED POLITICIANS**

Glendale taxpayers and residents are in trouble. But you won't know it from a five minute glimpse of the city council on cable television. The city has undergone a transformation in the last ten years that taxpayers and rate-payers will bear for

a long time. But nobody will be applauding. By the time the typical taxpayer realizes what happened, the liars, cheats and mealy-mouthed politicians would have gone into a richer retirement.

I've watched hundreds of city council sessions from beginning to end, I've also followed up their claims with enough documents to fill up two full-sized file cabinets. I've read thousands of pages and analyzed over twelve years of financial statements from the city operations and supporting documents to their claims. Every single city council session contains significant and material deception of the public to sicken the stoutest of stomachs.

Council members and city management get away with their lies, misrepresentation, and outright deception because they control the dissemination of information, they contrive to keep city activists at bay, they manipulate the Brown Act to prevent an honest exchange or provide a candid answer.



We used to have public comments appear early in the council session agenda. That allowed those of us who've followed the council sessions regularly to pose challenging questions early in the program at around 7 pm when most folks would be watching on cable TV. But that changed about five years ago when the Americana debate was raging. Councilman Yousefian moved Oral communications to the tail-end of the Agenda because the people's business needed to come first according to him. They circumvented a fair dialogue and dismissed the public scrutiny.

But even then, those of us familiar with the topics on the agenda would come up to speak and would get a response from a council member. If his response did not address the issue, or if he misconstrued the questions, another activist would then come up and rephrase the issue and keep the councilman's misdirection in check.

That changed when Drayman became mayor. The city council would remain mum. There would be no direct answer to the speaker. Under his rules all members of the city council would wait until all agenda items and presentations would be completed and then at the very end of the evening, they would come out, pick a portion of the speakers' question, and proceed to spin it into an unrecognizable version of the original. Of course under this practice, there would be no rebuttal. Every mayor since has followed Drayman's lead. It's Nirvana for them.

That is the essence of the smoothest cheat that has ever been elected since 2001. It is a close second to Frank Quintero, but it is nearly a tossup on who lies the most among them. The level of deception verbalized with the smoothest earnest-sounding delivery is the hallmark of John Drayman. To me, he's the biggest scoundrel who's ever sat behind the dais since the days of the smooth talking multi-term politician of the 1980's and 90's.

But that is not a consolation to the rest of the city. The grading system on the Scoundrel Scale is off-off-the charts with each and every single member of this city council.



The misconstruction of facts and the misdirection isn't limited to the council members. Jim Starbird, the city manager has been a master of deception for many, many years. His signature lie is the misrepresentation of the property tax trends in the city and the twisted logic behind his attacks on proposition 13.

Walk into the city council and you walk into a liars' paradise. This December, like every December, we will get the formalized deception in the form of the city's CAFR - the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It's the official result of operations for the year ended the previous June. It takes six months to think through how to massage the numbers and the printed analysis so as to give the best possible spin on the conditions of the city.

You won't get a trend graph showing the last ten years of the city's mounting debt. You won't get an allocation of the city's employee's benefits to each department. Those figures will be stuck inside the Human Resources Department or spread out over so many funds that it can make your head spin. Instead of getting a report by department like the budget is laid out, we get a report by fund where you have to piece together the numbers spread out over the CAFR. Let's look for just the answer to just a simple question - What is the total cost for payroll and benefits to run the city's fire department? Or try to find what the full cost of an average police officer with all the pay and benefits included. Or ask how many employees the city had during the year - in full-time equivalent numbers. Good luck.

There is no sound reason why the CAFR should take six long months to produce. That's six months of council decisions where the results from operations can't be corroborated by the public. No other public entity on a publicly traded entity would be allowed by the SEC to take that long.

But this city council reigns in the liars' paradise. How much is the financial benefit to the city from the investment in the Americana at Brand? The city report was so full of omissions and contortions that it stands as one of the most deceptive documents the city has produced. Try to find a simple report on the cash coming in from property and sales taxes versus the cash the city spends on resources and interest payments on the bonds it issued to buy the properties. Good luck.

The lies and deception are enough to make a grown man sick to his stomach. But leave it to Weaver and other city council members to spin the absence of an activist from the city council sessions. Next thing you'll know, they'll be telling the public that my absence from the Tuesday show, like the absence of the general tax-paying public is evidence that I approve of their dastardly ways. Gotta go. Need to rush to the rest-room.

**HERBERT MOLANO** Click here [Glendale Today](#)

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## TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED – SHARE VANGUARD – VOLUNTEER

### 2 Shout 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.



Thank you for getting the performance bonus list from the City. It is brave organizations like Vanguardians that supports the citizenry that is afraid to speak out for fear of those we have elected that do the bidding of the City Manager. How did we ever get in this position of 5 council members that go out of their way to screw us little people that pay their salaries and their pensions? PM

[ED – I can answer that. In 2005 Pauline Field ran for City Council and instead of voting for someone who was interested in how she could help the community the people voted in Ara Najarian whose interest is in helping himself; In 2007 there was the opportunity to vote in a most knowledgeable person, Herbert Molano, who has a handle on the financial and management issues and you voted in John Drayman whose interest is, and as you shall see, in feathering his nest; In 2009 there was the opportunity to vote for retired Pasadena Police Chief Bruce Philpott who had direct experience in City and Public Safety Management and who had a viable plan to rein in expenses and people voted in Laura Friedman who is now part of the problem, not the solution.]

So what is happening with the ADI investigation? I understood that Glendale politicians are involved; that there were bribes and hundreds of thousands of dollars paid out. Are Weaver and Drayman complicit?

[ED – Good question. Our suggestion is to go to council and to ask publicly while remember that Weaver lied to everyone about the money laundering until it was in the minutes of the FPPC meetings.]

Can you help? I am a City employee and heard that you have a good reputation in supporting us when management retaliates against us. Anony Mouse [ED – We get several calls a month like that and we suggest that they call Barry Allen so as not to compromise them. Barry advises and counsels them.]

Well it has been a long time since I would call you at midnight and chew your ear off about how cheap these other council members are and the shoddy bargain basement clothes they wear. Ugh. Why should you care if some of us exact the pay that we deserve for doing the City Manager's dirty work? \$40K isn't a lot of money when we have to put up with the bullies that come to us and demand we beat up their neighbors. It isn't easy to make ends meet since the wealthy guy on the Council wanted to cut even more the amount we could legally get for our campaign. You know that I am doing this to benefit someone who is very close to my heart, A Nut.

The Merit Pay to management in Glendale is disgusting. To think that Battalion Chiefs not only receive tens of thousands of dollars a year in overtime but also get rewarded with large cash bonuses for only doing their job simply gags me. And on top of this they still get two weeks of paid management leave in addition to holiday pay and generous vacation time??? Shame, shame, shame.

Just look at the other names and positions too. This was the city manager's and executive staff's means of taking care of their own pet employees. Repeatedly we see the Fire Chief, Assistant City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Police Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Police Captains, and other favored pet positions already receiving inflated salaries. Unreal! Thank you for exposing this scam. And I just wonder if they didn't get to add these bonuses to their retirements????

[ED --We believe the bonuses paid during the retirement year were compensation and went to spiking. We also believe that those that got it for not taking sick, holidays or vacation days cashed them in for retirement. We haven't finished with the PRA yet.]



Why is it that Vanguard knows what is going on and the city council doesn't? It seems to me that you people are more aware than the elected officials or management? KG [ED – Easy answer. We care, they don't; They know and then lie about not knowing; They have a financial interest, we have the interest of the community.]

I was looking at the City document Responsible Budgeting – Investment in your Future and saw that Human Resources Department took 5.1% of the budget while the Fire Dept took 7.4%. Then I read that the City Attorney, City Clerk, City Treasurer and Finance only took 2%. Couple that with Library and Information, that totals less than HR. It appears that these numbers are bogus. Is there an explanation? GP [ED – The document is produced as a special message to the community from the city council. I suggest you go to the next council meeting and ask.]

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## 3



### Public Information



"Just the facts"

The City has refused to provide the names of all the people that the City Manager gave bonuses and the City failed to provide the CM-29 forms the CM is supposed to use in order to give a gift of tax dollars. The reason for that is there would be no way to put the reasons in writing. Certain classifications are not eligible to receive the gifts, yet they did. Was a gift given to keep several complaints from being filed against a CCM for sexual harassment, or not getting a DUI? Did Randy Adams get a gift for helping the Americana with a letter with the Chief's letter head?

Meanwhile the City has been holding back on other records that may take a Court Order....

"All truths are easy to understand once they have been discovered; the point is to discover them." - Galileo Galilei.

#### 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, December 6

- **Special Time: Water and Power Commission** -- 4:30 pm  
CH 548-2107

#### Tuesday, December 7

- Housing Authority -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency -- CH 548-2005
- **Joint Meeting** –RE: Proposed Broadway Lofts and Entertainment Development at 200 E. Broadway – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844
- **Joint Meeting** –RE: Glendale Urban Art Program – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844
- City Council -- 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

#### Wednesday, December 8

- Planning Hearing Officer -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
- Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

#### Thursday, December 9

• Design Review Board #1 -- 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140  
**This meeting to be aired live.**

- **Special Meeting** – Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960

**This meeting will be taped for airing at a later time. Please check GTV6's Program Schedule for days/times.**

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## 4 *Vanguardians*

Vanguard archives are available by clicking - [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)

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](http://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

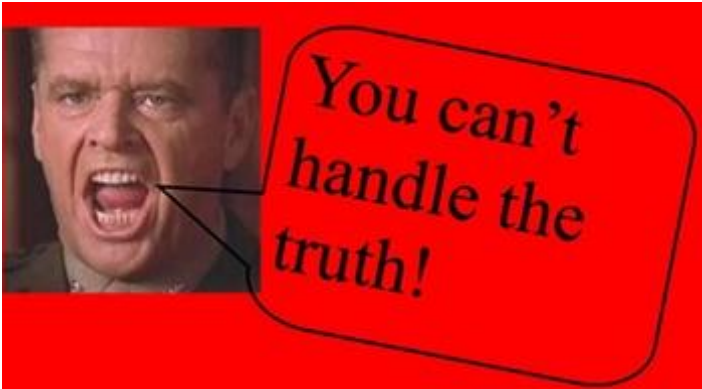
**Advisor speaks out on Merit Pay:** I did some quick calculations:

1. Starbird gave his personal secretary a total of \$16,675.

2. The total amount from 1999 to 2008 was \$1,079,000. Just over a million. The largest yearly amount of \$228,000 was given in the last year the program was allowed (2008), when the city, state and country were already in a massive financial crisis.

Bonuses in local government were very common prior to the recession. Cities moved in and out of such policies. One decade they have it, get hammered by those who were not on the receiving end of the bonuses, and then rescind the policy, while other cities were beginning the cycle anew. Half of the policy makers say it boosts morale and the other half says it hurts morale. I lived under those policies and I fall on the side that thinks it isn't a good idea. It has much greater application in the private world, bureaucracies should avoid them. They are divisive to most. When a BC told me about his


bonus, he did with disgust. That is typical of how government employees feel about the program.



But I also find that Starbird allowed a payout of bonuses in 2008 of \$228,000, doubling the annual average amount of \$108,000 in a time when the city already knew of the financial meltdown with property values and jobs disappearing. This is extremely irresponsible. I strongly suspect that he gave numerous department heads large bonuses during their last year. A bonus of \$10,000 to Chris Gray would actuarially amount to an added \$300,000 in his lifetime. I wonder if you add up all of the last year bonuses and factor them into the calculations for retirement, it

would add up to well over another million dollars these department heads will receive in the retirement.

You may want to do a records act on the named employees, all department heads for their date of retirement. You can then check the year against the retirees' last year and see if they got a bonus. You can notify the CA that unless you hear otherwise from the city, you will assume that any bonus paid to a retiring department head was included in his last year of compensation for retirement calculations. BP

**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.



Now that the Merit Pay info has been posted, it's confirmed that this was just a slush fund for Starbird to buy loyalty from executives and GMA board members. The list of managers in charge of programs that are

mismanaged and rife with poor morale is astonishing!! These are Glendale's baby Bell issues coming to light. Get real, every year giving money to McFall and his secretary?

The \$2.2M Edgesoft system sucks because the City had no idea what it wanted before it bought the system. Then the process in selecting Edgesoft was corrupted and McFall waived the safeguards required in the RFP to ensure that Edgesoft would still be in business to service the system. Now the City has a system that doesn't do what it should and may never do what it should. The City seems to think that by paying Edgesoft more money, the system will get better, but it won't. It's now a throw away system that will need to be replaced in a few years.

**Things at the GPD aren't looking up. A new federal judge was assigned to the lawsuit involving the five police officers and the suit was removed to Orange County. The Judge ordered Chief DePompa to be added as an individual defendant which would indicate he would have to hire his own attorney.**



**Meanwhile it looks like additional plaintiffs will be joining in the suit as it expands.**

**And a well known Police Sgt is having his city issued credit card purchases examined to show connections with his former boss, Randy Adams.**

**Watch for a transfer of the cost of Rockhaven and the operating expenses to the GWP.**

## 6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS



Council questions for management:

- Where is the CAFR?
- Where is the Prop 218 report?
- What's going on with the ADI investigation?
- When will we get back the land we transferred to ADI?

Questions for the council:

- Mr. Weaver...How do you think you will ever repay the tremendous multi-million dollar debt you are carrying?
- Mr. Drayman...Do you actually have a real paying job and did you really have a flood at your condo?
- Mr. Quintero...When you go to Florida do you stay free at Kosti Shirvanians' hotel and then vote on Komar issues?
- Mrs. Friedman...Does your husband really have the landscaping contracts for ADI and ASLA?
- Mr. Najarian...Do you hide clients under attorney/client privilege?



*"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

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## 8 Skeptic.Com interview with Governor-Elect Jerry Brown. Part 4 More next week

**Skeptic:** Let me see if I can interest you in a deal. You be the liberal Democrat, I'll be the conservative Republican. I'll scare the hell out of businesses by saying that you're going to raise taxes, and you scare the hell out of the unions by saying that I'm going to reduce their benefits. Don't you and I have jobs for the rest of our lives where we don't really have to work? Isn't this a little like professional wrestling?

**Brown:** Right. That's what it is. It's a game. There are turf battles, however. There's the Praetorian Guard that has to be fed. And then there are the congressmen and their staffs. And then there are the reporters who report on them. It's becoming a semi-autonomous court, maybe like the court of Louis XIV or the Tsars of Russia. They throw a few bones to the people. They scare them with the hobgoblins of terrorism and underclass criminals. All of this is highly exaggerated. Much of it is created by the very corporate allocation of jobs and income, which then creates the dislocation and breakdown of the family, crime, and child abuse. All this generates the fear that keeps the same power mongers going in their decadent game of democracy abuse.

**Skeptic:** Now go back in time and put on your old hat as a working politico. I want to run for Governor of California. I'm hiring you as my consultant. How much will it cost?



**Brown:** It depends. Are you known or unknown? If you're known, you need a lot less. When I ran in the late 70s it took a couple million. My sister ran in 1994 and spent \$22 million and lost. But you could do it on a lot less.

**Skeptic:** Where does the money go?

**Brown:** It goes to television. Your opponent is going to say that "You are a dog molester." Then you have to put on ads saying, "No, my opponent is a cat molester." And it goes back and forth. If you're not, as they say, "up on television," people will ask, "Where are you? Have you dropped out?" You could be running around the state campaigning 10 hours a day. You have an electorate of 14 million in California. You can't reach that many people face-to-face in a hundred lifetimes. You can only do it through the corporate media. And they charge as much as \$30,000 per minute for a prime time ad in a major media market. So you're talking about a million dollars a week to play in the

game. Can you do that for \$7 or \$8 million? I think you could if you had a good campaign. You could do it for less if you had a real popular movement.

**Skeptic:** Do you, as the consultant, get commissions or rebates (i.e., kickbacks) on media buys and mailers?

**Brown:** You can get it on all of them. It all depends on what deal you cut or take. Today it's much more "professional." The consultants commission everything from the art work to the postage. They're clever people. Consultants can be strategists or they can act as general contractors who haul in subcontractors. But it's simple, straightforward stuff. You take a random sample and do a telephone poll. Then you produce your TV ads. Hollywood is crawling with film makers who want to sell their services. It's a simple business. Some people have the knack for the game, just like some people can play football.

**Skeptic:** OK, I'm running as the Skeptical candidate. I'm skeptical that capital punishment really deters potential murderers, that increased school spending actually better educates students, that commuter lanes actually reduce pollution. My skepticism is such that I don't think government ought to do anything unless there's a clear and present danger if they don't, and only after they have considered the unintended adverse effects of their policies. Do I stand a chance?

**Brown:** No. The whole government is part of the big corporate global economy. Without government policing everything from trademarks to highway congestion to pollution, the whole system will break down. If you just leave it to the corporations, everything will grind to a halt. Under the present system someone has to protect the property, the investments, and the border. All that is managed by the government-corporate-media system.

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## 9 News from the LUNA Playhouse

A new theatre company has taken up residence at Luna Playhouse and is staging plays and other entertainment events.

The SKYPILOT THEATRE COMPANY'S first presentation is:

**Yes Svetlana, there is a Grandfather Frost**, the West Coast premiere play set in 1950's Soviet Union. You may have read the very good reviews about it. [Here is one from Glendale News press.](#)

Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$12.50 in advance. The play will continue until December 19, Fridays and Saturdays @ 8pm, Sundays @ 7 For further details visit [www.skypilottheatre.com](http://www.skypilottheatre.com)

### Luna Playhouse's CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR programs & events

1- Do you have a **CAROL SINGING** group? Any choir of Carol Singers or organization planning a concert may do so at LUNA PLAYHOUSE free of charge. Days available are: **Monday December 20 to Thursday 24th**, at any time. Just call and confirm the date. Use this opportunity to entertain your members with good Christmas cheer or as a fund-raiser for yourselves.

### 2- Թատրոն և Նոր Տարվա Հանդես -

Օսքար Ռուայլդի ՄԱԼՈՄԵ ներկայացումը հետո իրախճանք

King **HEROD ANTIPAS**, Tetrarch of Judea is inviting you to a **New Year's Eve** gathering (in honor of the visit of the consul of Rome), at his Luna Court, where he hopes his favorite step-daughter **SALOME** will enchant you all (and himself particularly) with her **Dance of the Seven Veils**. The events are planned by the scribe known as OSCAR WILDE, a man of great passions and (not always appropriate) humor.

All subjects invited are expected to contribute 1300 shekels (\$65 in US money) per person or 2000 shekels (\$100) per couple, to take part in this sumptuous dinner, with wines from many regions that will enhance the great glory of the reign of Tetrarch and will show those Romans that citizens of Judea are not cheap.

Dec. 31st, from 8 pm. Dinner From 9 pm, Theatre Entertainment 10 pm, Celebrations and dances from 11:30 - late.

### 3- Boxing Day Ghost Stories - Sunday, December 26, 7:30 pm

You probably know that the British call the day after Christmas (December 26th) BOXING DAY. There are various traditions associated with this day. One is telling of Ghost Stories. I let the curious among you research (or as it is common nowadays "Google") all about this official holiday. Suffice it to say that we'll have a Ghost Story Telling Event at Luna Playhouse on SUNDAY December 26th. We'll gather from 7:30 pm, enjoy some hot drinks and snacks and then tell one or two ghost stories to see if we'll be able to experience a pleasant shudder or two up the spine...

4- Also soon, **Jazz and other music Every Thursday & Friday and Late Night Shows and Movies Friday and Saturdays Late.** Շուտով՝ Երաժշտական երեկոներ, Էստրադային և այլն...

5- Այժմ ունենք նկարչական և նման ցուցահանդեսների կարելիություն Լունա Թատրոնի նախասրահում:  
Did you know that you can now have art exhibitions in the lobby of Luna Playhouse?

6-Չարլզ Դիքենզի A Christmas Carol-ի ընթերցումը հայերեն:

Aramazd Stepanian (818) 450-4801 Director

Luna Playhouse (818) 500-7200, 3706 San Fernando Road "Atwater & Los Feliz Adjacent" Glendale

Ticketing Service [www.itsmyseat.com/Luna.html](http://www.itsmyseat.com/Luna.html)

Our Website(s): [www.LunaPlayhouse.org](http://www.LunaPlayhouse.org) -- [www.ArmenianTheatre.org](http://www.ArmenianTheatre.org)

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