



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

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

Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of December 12, 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!

The end of the tax year is upon us. Take advantage of your donation to Vanguardians to sustain our work for accountability. There are special plans available for high wealth non-traditional families.

"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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Glendale CA – Barry Allen to appear on Charter Channel 386 on Sunday at 6PM with Rafi Manoukian to talk about the City of Glendale spending more than \$1Million for 'Performance' bonuses.

Glendale CA – Fifty Fifty Leadership, a sister charitable organization, has five new mountain bikes for sale that were donated by a national chain. The proceeds will be used to promote the third annual Women of the World Awards in 2011. Call 50-50 at 818 243 2322 for details,

Washington -- Congress has little authority over, or responsibility for, state and local public-employee pensions. But with pension liabilities increasingly stressing state and municipal finances, the prospect that the problem will end up in Washington's lap has some academics and politicians urging that the federal government move preemptively.

The latest wrinkle: A bill introduced last week by three prominent House Republicans to deny states and localities the ability to sell tax-exempt bonds—the lifeblood for many governments—unless they report their pension-fund liabilities to the Treasury Department. The federal tax-free status of interest on municipal bonds helps generate demand for the bonds and lowers government borrowing costs. [Read more.](#)

Glendale CA – City's finances show as of June 30, 2010 that the unrestricted reserves dropped to less than \$50,000,000. Officials refused to answer activist Mike Mohill when he asked for the current amount of the unrestricted reserves. The City Attorney offered this suggestion: [The information you seek is published annually in June. It is available online at: http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/admin-svcs/cafr_2009.asp.](#) If you would like to pay for the cost of producing the record in advance of the regularly scheduled time, please let us know, and we will calculate those fees. **Basically the City hasn't a clue as to the state of the Charter-mandated unrestricted reserves.** The City will be hard hit when the employee lawsuits are adjudicated along with the necessity of returning the water transfer to the GWP.

Pasadena CA – Pasadena is seeking a \$30M water bond. The bond documents disclose that Pasadena is very vulnerable for the return of the annual \$4M transfer to the General Fund and hopes that no law suit will be filed to compel the return of the money. [Page 55 & 56 of the document].

Glendale CA – City Attorney says the city finance department doesn't maintain a payables aging list.

Sacramento -- Millions in cuts made to legislative pay and benefits last year by an independent salary-setting commission are being challenged by a veteran Los Angeles lawmaker.

Assemblyman [Gil Cedillo](#), arguing the cuts were illegal, is seeking retroactive compensation for all 120 legislators. Cedillo claims the reductions by a seven-member panel of gubernatorial appointees were timed and targeted to pressure the [Legislature](#) into making concessions in tense budget talks.

"We can't put legislators in the volatile position of worrying that if they make a decision it could put their families in a difficult situation," he said. "It's the ultimate leverage."

The claim challenges separate 18 percent cuts made last year to lawmakers' fringe benefits and to their salaries, dropping the latter from \$116,208 to \$95,291 per year. [Read more.](#)

New York -- [The Shocking Selloff In Muni Bonds That Has Investors Running Scared](#) Wednesday saw a massive selloff in the broader bond market, but the muni bond situation may be the most alarming.

The threat of the end of the Build America Bond program looms large, and it is scaring investors into selling out of the muni market.

It could be the next black swan looming, ready to cause an even larger problem for states already overburdened with debt.

Just check out the down move in the Muni bond ETF today. It may be off its lows of the day, but it still doesn't look good.

Glendale – Councilmember Dave Weaver was able to pay a \$9,000 penalty to the FPPC for money laundering yet bounced a \$525.00 check to the City for reimbursement of expenses for his wife and dog that joined him on a city paid excursion.

Washington DC – US Federal District Judge from Louisiana impeached by the US Senate and removed from office for kickbacks and lying to the FBI.

[Transparency In Local Government: Protecting Your Community Against Corruption](#)

In Bell, an organizational culture existed that tolerated, or even supported, the pursuit of self-interests over the public's interests. This, along with weaknesses in the system of traditional checks and balances against abuses of power, led to a scandal of such magnitude that it affected every local agency in California.

What can local officials and their communities do to prevent such a culture from taking hold? What can they do to make sure that such abuses of authority do not occur in their communities? Proactive strategies include:

- Understanding and applying public service ethics laws and principles;
- Encouraging the public's active engagement in public agency decision-making; and
- Supporting an ongoing exchange of information within communities that keeps both officials and the public abreast of what they need to know to make informed judgments.

These strategies get to the heart of what makes democracy work at the local level. Together they constitute a community's civic infrastructure, which is no less vital to the health and well-being of a community than conventional physical infrastructure.

Such approaches offer leaders the tools to focus exclusively on pursuing the public's interests and also provide critical checks on the efforts of officials who might put self-interests ahead of the public's interests.

Understanding Public Service Ethics Laws and Principles

In public service, the pursuit of self-interest at the expense of the public's interest is fundamentally an ethics issue. Ethics is what one *ought* to do. Regardless of whether any laws were broken, the city manager in Bell *ought not* to have exploited his position of influence to secure such disproportionate salary and benefit packages for himself and others in the city.

An Emphasis on Values and Process

With respect to public service ethics, the goal is to foster a culture of ethics within a local agency. When such a culture is robust, decision-making criteria include such values as trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness and respect. The means by which worthy ends are pursued matter as much as and sometimes even more than the ends themselves.

For public servants, worthy ends never justify questionable means. In a democracy, the means — which typically revolve around processes designed to promote public input and information — are truly the ends, as both Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi observed.

Credits: This column is a service of the Institute for Local Government's Ethics Project, which offers resources on public service ethics for local officials. For more information, visit www.ca-ilg.org/trust. Special thanks to Burke, Williams & Sorensen for its support of this column.

Juli C. Scott, chief assistant city attorney, Burbank, and Rob Ewing, city attorney, Danville, also contributed to this article. ILG gratefully acknowledges the ongoing guidance and support of Santa Monica City Manager and former ILG Board Member Rod Gould, whose insights contributed to this 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.

Vanguardians Sponsor

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



Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians, Inc.* Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

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



As you can read in the Shout Box, a Glendale resident took us to task regarding a potential Eminent Domain (ED) case in Glendale. The Americana wants to buy property contiguous to the Americana and the City Council gave the parties 45 days to consummate the deal or the city will consider ED. If it goes to ED then the Courts will be involved and they will, hopefully, look at whether the properties are blighted. Like the City Council, the people elected the Superior Court Judges and we should have trust in our democratic system, right?

Representative Charles Rangel of New York was Censured by his Congressional peers for a number of ethics violations. When Rangel returned to his District his constituents gave him rousing rounds of applause. To them he did no wrong.

In the City of Bell when the voters and property owners found their City was overrun by elected and appointed officials who treated the City Treasury as their own piggy bank the public stood up and yelled and screamed until they got world wide media attention and then some follow-on civil and criminal investigations.

In Glamorous Glendale where for years we have heard the officials talk about transparency and open government, that we on the front lines see so little of as we fight for every morsel, every ray of sunshine and we find little transparency. As a case on point, the Merit Pay as reported in the GNP, was something we had fought for starting in 2008 getting bits and pieces. It took an Attorney letter to move it one more step forward. The GNP in supporting their best customer did not raise the issues as to

- 1) Why it took so long?
- 2) Why were certain names redacted?
- 3) Where were the forms the City Manager is required to use for these requests?
- 4) Why were rank and file employees given bonuses when the Administrative Procedure Manual specifically excludes them?
- 5) Why didn't they pick up the phone and ask for our reaction?



The LA Times is owned by the Tribune Corporation that also owns the Times Community Newspaper that in turn owns the GNP. The Times has assigned 2 investigative reporters to the ADI scandal and they have restarted their investigation into, as they reported in October, possible wrongdoing by Glendale officials. I know about this because I shared the names of the people that were, 'bagmen', for ADI. Rather than 'scoop', the Times we thought it to be in the best interest of the public to share.

Vanguardians has been involved since September 18th and has developed a list of all the parties involved which is a perfect seque...

If you were sitting on the Council and had clean hands you would be demanding that this matter be open to the public so that you would not be smeared by the actions of others. There has been no public outcry for accountability in this alleged multi-million dollar fraud.

The local newspaper has many more resources than does Vanguard and should be at the front of the line writing articles and editorials calling for full disclosure of the alleged complicity in the ADI affordable housing program.

Last weekend was a long weekend due to the number of people calling and asking questions and more people calling to offe evidence; to provide documents; to ask about getting paid for their work.

I can imagine that the ADI scandal will turn out with some legal punishment and a number of supporters claiming that those punished shouldn't have been caught or prosecuted because of all the good they did.

BARRY ALLEN

**NEXT WEEK: MORE ON THE REASONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUING FINANCIAL DEFICIT
WHAT WE SHOULD BE ASKING CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL – TRANSPARENCY STARTS WITH THEM**

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

E-X-T-O-R-T-I-O-N

To obtain someone else's property by the use of force or the threat of force, fear, or the color of official right.

The Hobbs Act – 18 U.S.C. Federal Sentencing Guidelines



If the reports of last week's Redevelopment Agency actions are accurate, the councilmen of the city of Glendale, sitting as self-appointed members of the Glendale Redevelopment Agency (GRA,) will attempt under the color of official right, (Eminent Domain,) to take the land owned by Ray Patel where his hotel - The Golden Key - is located nestled between the Americana at Brand buildings on Colorado Blvd.

That eminent domain action is being driven by at least three sitting council members who were the beneficiaries of a Caruso Affiliated Holdings sponsored Political Action Committee. That PAC spent around \$64,000 dollars to promote a slate of candidates favorable to the Americana. That slate included Ara Najarian, Frank Quintero, and David Weaver in the 2005 election year.

Now the same council troika is about to use eminent domain to attempt to wrestle the property of Ray Patel for the benefit of Rick Caruso. Some may call it strong-arm politics. I call it extortion.

The irony of this situation is that about five years ago, I sat at the council chambers when Mr. Patel went before the city council or the GRA and offered to build a ten story hotel in the same site where his two-story hotel is now located. If my memory serves me right, the councilmen did not jump up with joy. They looked dower as if they'd just missed the last number on their lotto ticket.



Not soon thereafter, the GRA moved to downsize the height limits of that zone to four stories. If my recollection is accurate, the move seemed to me designed to prevent Mr. Patel from investing and developing his property as he wished. No-one can seriously declare that his property is blighted. Some of the councilmen even commended him for the well-maintained building and grounds of his hotel. So why are they taking this action?

These three councilmen pose as elected representatives of the people, but now they show their true colors more frequently as virtual puppets of the special interests of the city. They've been there so many years that they may feel practically untouchable. We can now deduce the real reasons they sought a seat at the Glendale City Council. We could also logically assume to whom they are truly accountable. During the last week of the 2007 election, as Weaver was running out of funds to sustain his political campaign, he got a last minute infusion of \$12,500 dollars from The Americana at Brand LLC according to the campaign disclosure statements, added to the \$5,000 dollars he had received earlier.

If I recall correctly during the ABC referendum on the Americana, there was talk that Mayor Ara Najarian's wife was working for an entity that was running the referendum in favor of Caruso Affiliated Holdings. I'd like for the Mayor to answer that question publicly. Did his wife work for Caruso Affiliated Holdings, or any of the agencies hired to run the referendum in favor of Caruso? I for one would like to know the answer from the politician who sees nothing wrong with nepotism for commissioner assignments.

In 2005 when I still believed that John Drayman was a man of integrity, I used to visit his shop on Ocean View almost weekly. He knew well that I was opposed to the financial deception the city was using to justify the subsidy of 71 million dollars for the Americana – a figure that highly undervalued the land given to Caruso. To my chagrin, Drayman disclosed that he had paid a visit to Caruso at the Grove to gain Caruso's financial support. Apparently Caruso left Drayman cooling his heels in the lobby. To Drayman's huge disappointment, Caruso had already chosen his man for the 2005 election – Ara Najarian.



Most people don't bother remembering that far back. So the objective of journalists is to help the general public get beyond the official line or propoganda and prod their memories or consciousness. We gather information, piece together various events, and synthesize it to augment the public's general understanding of the issues of the day. Despite the apparent denial of city corruption today, there may be hope in the near future for a more enlightened voting population.

I've often compared Rick Caruso to Leland Stanford, the railroad magnate who controlled the California legislature in the late nineteenth century. Like all men who strive for wealth, power, and recognition, Caruso too will eventually die. The greed and immorality that have driven many to acquire wealth by any means is often tamed by the closing chapters of their last days on earth. But despite his ruthless approach to business and politics, Leland Stanford left us with a major endowment - Stanford University. What would Caruso leave behind?

I'd like to suggest that Caruso bequeath his wealth to the vision that he exercises well –Smart Urban Planning. We need a University where bright and conscientious young people can learn how to create exciting cities where people can thrive and where the improved quality of life its residents is the constant measure of urban success.

In the meantime, we must live with the recognition that Glendale's and America's politics are as corrupt as it is in most of the world. It's just that here it takes place at a higher altitude where most voters don't get to breathe that rarefied air. So let me spell our current political reality for you: C-0-R-R-U-P-T-I-O-N

Just go to the city council chambers on Tuesdays and watch the city council in action at the evening session or in the early afternoon at the GRA. You'll whiff it if you are a casual observer. But you'll get nauseous with the stench of it if you study their actions in depth.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

HOW TO BECOME A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE – HONESTLY AND WITH INTEGRITY

Ask the typical politician with whom they'd rather have dinner – Donald Trump or Nelson Mandela, and my guess is that they'll choose the Donald every time. There is something about our perception of success in America where, for many people, money seems to trump character every time.

People look in awe at the size of the mansion or the size of the diamond on the lady's finger, but never bother to ask if the displayed wealth was obtained honestly or through deception. I met the member of a family recently whose rise to wealth is something we could all admire.

Around 1980 a poor man came to America from Mexico where his shoe business had burned down and after fourteen years of struggling to make ends meet felt, he decided, that he could only make it in the USA. He moved to the U.S. with one of his older sons. Though they struggled here too, there was enough money to start bringing the rest of his family to America.

Once the family had settled here, they took their savings and bought a two-thousand square foot grocery market. The whole family sacrificed for one year to make it succeed.



That first year they never paid each other salary or wages. The youngest children came to the grocery store after school and helped out as much as they could. The store eventually succeeded.

**THE TRUE MEASURE
OF A PERSON IS
DETERMINED BY THEIR
HONESTY, INTEGRITY
AND THE RESPECT THEY
GIVE TO OTHERS**

The patriarch of the family had a wish that eventually each of his children would have a store. Their savings were poured into a fifty thousand square foot store that soon became successful and was followed by many others through savvy investments, sweat equity, and

a joint effort driven by their common good.

Today Northgate Gonzalez markets is a grocery store chain with over 600 million in annual sales serving the appetite for good wholesome food at affordable prices for Hispanics and other families in southern California.

This is a success story where the sons of the founder have maintained themselves grounded in the reality of their beginnings. The young children who helped out at the small grocery store after school are now seasoned C-level executives, some with MBAs from local universities. Yet despite their achievements, they give you the benefit of their sincerity and humility.

This is the America that I love. Where the opportunity this country gives us is open to men who have a vision, took a risk, and achieve it without extortion or victims on the way to the top. They achieve it the old fashion way - They earned it through the sweat of their brow and a whole dose of solid family values.

I'd love to have dinner at their table any day.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

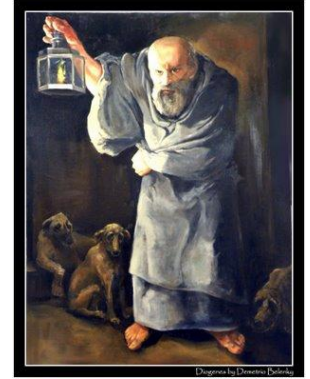
ANDROGENES' LAMP SHINES ON EAST COAST POLITICIANS

Don't laugh. The men I am searching for do exist. In the pursuit of honest government, a fair transaction, and transparent contracts, I've often found myself searching for the same man Diogenes did in ancient Athens. He was looking for an honest man. I am looking for an honest man in the Glendale City Government. But since I can't find one locally, I relish the moment when I find one at the federal level.

Like the man of Corinth, we are faced with the arduous task of locating men of integrity. In Athens time there were many politicians with their hand in the cookie jar. Locally, it seems as if everyone behind the city's dais is in it for himself. So many have their hands in our public cookie jar, that it would be wonders of all wonders to find a true man of integrity coming forth to tell it like it is. But I am not holding my breath. At a time when greed is taking this country down the rat-

hole of uncontrollable debt and bankruptcy, the very wealthy want governments at all levels to subsidize their projects or businesses. They are getting us into more debt for the sake of their four-percent tax break and locally, they manipulate city councils to do their bidding and give them subsidies.

For years I've admired Henry Waxman. I thought that this was a man who went to congress to truly advocate for the public good. In every major legislation, from which we benefit today, we have the thumb print of Henry Waxman guiding the efforts. From clean air legislation, to clean water, to holding tobacco companies accountable. Of course there are more moderate Democrats whose participation was essential in bringing us sunshine by helping to part the thick clouds of smog we lived with for so long. But champions for the common man (AKA the middle class) are rare indeed.



Today the Adogenes lamp would shine on Bernie Sanders in the U.S. senate. His rousing hours-long speech was as honest and uplifting as one could ever hope to find on the Senate floor. Its 'Mr. Smith goes to Washington' for our times. His speech (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5OtB298fHY>) clearly and forcefully depicts the state of our country today. To me, the audacity of the super wealthy is beyond the pale. This country must borrow hundreds of billions of dollars to provide the continuation of the tax break to the people who need it least.

Who then is paying for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan? How much debt can we pile on our children and grandchildren? The state of America today was verbalized by the Chinese in the Wikileaks disclosure of documents. To senior Chinese officials America is a fading power to their growing prowess, and the debt we owe them cannot be ignored. Today we give subsidies to the very wealthy, and then give them a tax break on their income by running a deficit. We go to war, but they won't help pay for their fair share of it. So we borrow and spend at all government levels. We do it at the city level, at the state level, and at the national level. We are spending ourselves into a third rate country and we elect charlatans who only do the bidding for the wealthy and the well-connected hoping to get a piece of the wealth for themselves.

But honest men are not limited to the Democrats or Jewish politicians of great merit. There is New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a politician who doesn't suffer from cotton mouth or forked tongue. Clear unabashed language holding public officials to accountability and holding unresponsive public employee unions to the damage they've caused. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_6Nv2aLEHk)

But if Adogenes were here today watching C-Span, he would have to travel east and shine the light on Bernie Sanders and Chris Christie. Their honest voices give us hope that reason may triumph in this country and that America won't be just a small asterisk in history.

HERBERT MOLANO Click here [Glendale Today](#)

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

2Shout Box

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, Vanguard News Service, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



- **Barry, what is this I hear about Glendale administrators getting one million dollars in bonuses? With what just happened in Bell, you'd think the LA Times would be interested in THAT! CHJ**

- I have been told by reliable sources to watch for an attempt by this City Council to enact Eminent Domain in a taking of the Golden Key Hotel for the enrichment of the Caruso organization.

I would like to know if you have learned of this and if you are planning to publish the details. You may recall I wrote to you regarding the proposition rejected by the voters a couple of years ago that would have made this a crime. I am soliciting your help in an effort to make this immoral act a public event where the majority of voters in Glendale are asked to take interactive steps to encourage Council Members to let integrity guide them away from this travesty.

On another note, I have been using the Senior Center for the new exercise equipment and found that they have no relationship with the Library. I would think parking would have been a normal consideration when planning this facility. Someone told me that the library also has a validation machine in the branch but the senior center does not. It is my suggestion the City make better arrangements at the senior center for shared parking including reconsidering the wide access on the east side of the center, restricting staff parking to the parking structure across Harvard, using the non-parking space on the Colorado side for the electric vehicles and the department truck and providing extended validation for the structure across Harvard. I have been told the Parking Commission is taking steps to remove the No Parking

Anytime from the short strip from the driveways on Louise to Colorado. That should open another two or three spaces. Finally there should be improvements made for better access to and from the lot 10 parking west of the library

Carl E. Atkinson, Jr

- **An Advisor writes: IJ Trains California Property Owners to Fight for What is Rightfully Theirs**

See <http://alturl.com/ke4a9> or <http://alturl.com/73jev> In February, more than 30 threatened property owners and activists joined IJ staff members in Long Beach, Calif., for a Castle Coalition activist workshop.

IJ's Director of Community Organization Christina Walsh equipped attendees with effective and practical grassroots and media strategies that residents from Long Beach immediately applied by forming a new coalition, Long Beach Citizens against Eminent Domain Abuse. Officials there recently reauthorized the city's power of eminent domain, putting more than 5,000 acres of homes, businesses and churches on the chopping block for 12 more years. The city is taking advantage of a huge loophole in Prop. 99 (the very weak eminent domain reform tax-hungry government officials sponsored last year to detract support from more robust reform) by requiring new homeowners to submit to ongoing inspections of their property and to meet absurd criteria in order to be exempt from condemnation.



IJ Washington Chapter's Executive Director Bill Maurer explained this convoluted abuse of power in his talk on preparing for legal action in California, where the state's complex redevelopment laws are nearly impossible to traverse and, as demonstrated by Long Beach, open to manipulation by the powers-that-be.

Attendees also heard from Marko Mlikotin of the California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights and Cruz Sembello, a leader of an activist group in Baldwin Park, which successfully fought the seizure of more than 100 acres for private development by using strategies outlined in the Castle Coalition's *Survival Guide*.

IJ will continue to train and equip activists across the country to fight to keep what they have worked so hard to own until every person's home is once again their castle.

I always read Herbert Molano's writings and think that about half his suggestions to cut expenses are viable but he did not address raising revenue via Public-Private partnerships. Can he address that? GJ

- **This New York Times article makes a case that state and local governments are intentionally hiding their pension and other long term debt from the public and I agree with it. CalPERS announced it will impose between a 40% and 50% or more increase on local government employers (cities and counties) required payments over the next three years. This will have devastating impacts and in many forms. [Mounting State Debts Stoke Fears of a Looming Crisis](#) BP**

- I watched in horror last night as the Civil Service Commission approved yet another high salaried fire manager's position, a Deputy Chief. It was my understanding those "second in command" positions had been eliminated a few budget years ago. How on earth can the city justify bringing it back? That department is not that big and seems to have plenty of well paid chiefs.

To make this even more irrational, just read their benefits in the MOU on the City's web site. This well paid top manager will also be eligible for overtime, and in spite of that will receive 80 hours of management leave, and will then also be eligible for a 13% shift differential because the poor guys have to work a 40 hour week. 13% on top of that salary just for working a typical schedule? If there is no shift assignment for a classification, why pay a shift differential? That's literally absurd. Nothing less than a well devised scam to spread the wealth even further and increase retirement benefits dramatically. And then there are the education pay incentives on top of all that. If the candidate needs to have the education to apply, why pay extra to them when they get the already high salaried position?

Last but not least, why would these people get 288 hours of vacation when all the other managers in the city receive 160? Am I missing something? That's more than 3 weeks more paid vacation than anyone else including the city manager and more than 7 weeks total each and every year.

I see no justification for these inflated benefits set forth anywhere in the MOU and have never heard any argument for them when these MOUs go before council. They seem to simply be rubber stamped and the dollars thrown at these people with absolutely no regard for the public's interest.

It may be time to force the city to get a cost estimate from the county to take over our fire stations. **RC**

Response from Advisor: I agree with everything he says. He is absolutely right on his understanding, but the idea to go to county fire is not realistic. **BP**



3



Public Information



"Just the facts"

Provide payables aging list showing the name of the business owed, the amount, the date the debt was incurred, the number of days the debt has been on the books and the additional interest, late fees and other similar charges for April through June 2010 and July through September 2010.

The City Attorney responded by email, "Per our discussion, there are no records responsive to your request" and orally:

Vanguard responded with this email: "Is this an accurate portrayal of our discussion yesterday that the CoG Finance Department maintains no payables aging list or schedule. That the Finance Department pays bills within a week of their submission by the various departments and those departments don't submit those vendor bills for payment until the department is satisfied that when the contractual obligations and terms and conditions are fulfilled they will then submit that bill or invoice for payment? Also that at no time does the finance department know what the total of the submitted payables to the various departments is? The Finance Department doesn't have or use a payables aging system."

Here is an example of a payables aging system:
A typical accounts payable aging schedule consists of 6 columns:

1. Column 1 lists the name of each your suppliers with an outstanding bill.
2. Column 2 lists the total amount you owe to each of the suppliers.
3. Column 3 is the current column. Listed in this column are the amounts you owe to your suppliers for purchases made during the current month. Amounts listed in this column aren't past due yet.
4. Column 4 lists the amounts you owe to your suppliers that are 1 to 30 days past due.
5. Column 5 lists the amounts you owe to your suppliers that are 31 to 60 days past due.
6. Column 6 lists the amounts you owe to your suppliers that are over 60 days past due.

The number of columns can be adjusted to meet your reporting needs. For instance, you might prefer listing the outstanding amounts in 15 day intervals rather than 30 day intervals.

The following is a sample accounts payable aging schedule from Fortmann's Hawkeye Haven:

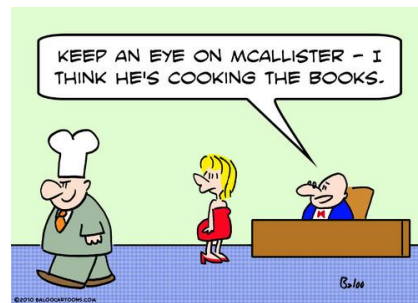
Accounts Payable Aging Schedule Fortmann's Hawkeye Haven December 31, 2009					
Supplier's Name	Total Accts. Payable	Current	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	Over 60 Days Past Due
Hove Advertising	\$1,600	\$1,600	----	----	----
Citizen Press Daily	2,800	2,600	200	----	----
Jansa Distributing	1,000	600	100	300	----
Bradley's Bookkeeping	600	300	300	----	----
TrueBrew Unlimited	2,000	1,100	500	400	----
Enneking Insurance Co.	400	400	----	----	----
Roth Office Supply	600	600	----	----	----
Handy Hardware	350	350	----	----	----
Total	\$9,350	\$7,550	\$1,100	\$ 700	----

The accounts payable aging schedule is a useful tool for analyzing the makeup of your accounts payable balance. Looking at the schedule allows you to spot problems in the management of payables early enough to protect your business from any major trade credit problems. For example, if Jansa Distributing was an important supplier for Fortmann's, then the past due amounts listed for Jansa Distributing should be paid in order to protect the trade credit established with this supplier.

The schedule can also be used to help manage and improve your business's cash flow, especially when [projecting your cash outflows](#) for a [cash flow budget](#). Amounts listed in the current column will need paying

sometime in the near future — possibly 30 or 60 days. The accounts payable aging schedule gives you a good indication of the amount of cash needed to cover your expenses during the same time period. Using the example schedule above, Fortmann's Hawkeye Haven will need to generate at least \$7,750 in income to cover the current month's purchases on account.

Last year the outside auditor, McGladrey & Pullen cited the City for control deficiencies for unrecorded liabilities which are "fundamental in producing accurate and reliable financial statements..."



Vanguardians is still waiting for the following records that are overdue:

Provide documents demonstrating:

1. the Federal Stimulus (ARRA) money received;
2. the projects for which it was received;
3. documents describing the number of jobs created by that Stimulus;
4. the amount of money left or unspent at this time.

Submitted: 110810 due 111810

Provide documents relating to Advanced Development and Investment Inc., and related companies, developer of affordable housing projects on South Brand and on San Fernando Road at Glendale, (Vassar) specifically:

1. Invoices submitted to City
2. Sub contractor agreements
3. Proof of insurance
4. Correspondence from City employees and consultants and to David Pasternak the Court Appointed Receiver
5. Reports from and to David Pasternak the Court Appointed Receiver
6. The report from the Receiver to the Court as provided to the City
7. Construction photographs sent to Chris in the Inspection Department or in another department during October 2010

Submitted: 110110 due 111110

Provide documents showing the tow contract cost recovery fees and all other fees turned over to the city since April 1, 2010 through and including October 2010.

Submitted: 112210 due 120210

"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, 2nd Floor at 613 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.
Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

Monday, December 13

- Historic Preservation Comm. – 2:00 pm MSB 548-2140
- Comm. on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, CH 548-4844
- City Council – 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844
- **Community Meeting** – Winter Storm Update for Burn Areas – 7:00 pm, Center for Spiritual Living, 4845 Dunsmore, La Crescenta) 548-2000

Tuesday, December 14

- Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
- Redevelopment Agency – 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005
- **Joint Meeting –RE:** Final Approvals for the Proposed Mitaa Plaza Mixed-Use Development, 435 W. Los Feliz Road, including Design & Entitlements – 2:30 pm, CH 548-4844.

Wednesday, December 15

- Planning Hearing Officer – 9:30 am, MSN 548-2140
- Building & Fire Board of Appeals – 2:00 pm, MSB 548-3200
- Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

4 Vanguardians

A SPECIAL MESSAGE....

We're watching, and we need you to watch with us. We have to be more than political spectators when it comes to changing the corrupt culture of government across our cities. Vanguardians is *committed to supporting and empowering you and thousands of other conscientious citizens with the tools and information necessary to responsibly demand better government.*

I am writing to ask for your support through a year-end financial gift to help us move forward with a robust agenda for 2011 to:

- Restore the long-term financial health of our cities in a fair and honest way;
- Protect taxpayers from unwarranted financial burdens;
- Highlight the impact on individual lives when government works for politicians and not the people; and
- Provide residents with basic and crucial government-backed services in an efficient, transparent and affordable manner.
- Provide voter education materials and programs.



Asking the Hard Questions

Through deep journalistic investigations Vanguardians will ask provocative questions, investigate the quality of government services and the people who deliver them, and report on the good and bad practices of government.

Engaging Stakeholders

Vanguardians teaches the basics of watching government. From learning how to read government budgets to filing a Public Records request, our Watchdog Program empowers people to be informed, to oversee how their civic leaders identify and meet community needs, and to demand high performance in strengthening government policy and management.

Getting Results

Building on its investigations, Vanguardians proposes and advocates for responsible change, new laws, and greater oversight practices. We share our findings - good and bad - using various communication and media tools - and engage the public in calls-to-action and other informed civic activities.

We need your help, especially in the coming election year....

Sincerely, Barry Allen, Director

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 to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, you can call 818 243 1502

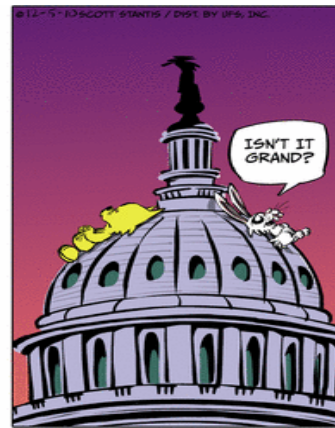
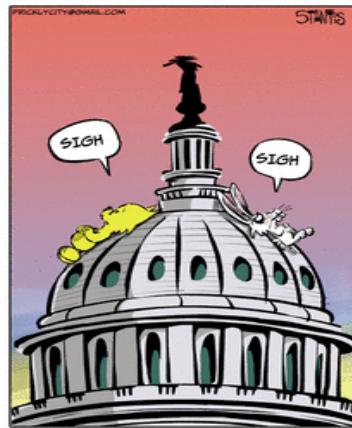
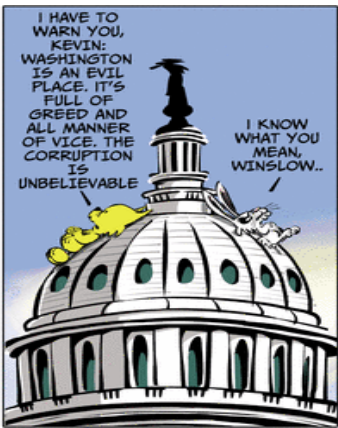
5

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



In light of the Bell issues, it will be interesting how the Council reacts to the bonuses Starbird was giving to certain managers at the same time he was asking the Council to give them pay raises. Especially since the Council claims no knowledge of the bonuses.

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS



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



The Lie-O-Meter moves from week to week showing the official telling the most outrageous lies.

When did it begin?

Weaver*	Quintero	Najarian	Drayman*	Friedman
1997	2001	2005	2007	2009

* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

A three way tie this week because of the 'CONCEPT' of Eminent Domain. It is difficult to be a change-up pitcher when the script has been written.

7 STIMULI

FOR Sale: 12 year old California "C" Corporation

Vanguardians ThinkTank has evaluated several ideas to stimulate growth

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

Contact Barry Allen @ 818 243 1502 regarding STIMULUS

8 Skeptic.Com interview with Governor-Elect Jerry Brown. Part 5

Skeptic: Well, couldn't you then at least whittle it down to just the cops and military?



Brown: Only if you whittle down the corporations. If you go back to the village, you could. But when you operate a global economy, bringing in tens of billions of dollars of merchandise from China, somebody's got to keep all that straight. Who is going to police the people in China who copy CDs? That takes government. If you don't police them, they'll be selling them here in the U.S. We are ground into a world where the state is the integral element of the modern economy.

Skeptic: Would the public go for my platform, regardless of whether it's practical?

Brown: No, because without government you wouldn't have Social Security. People would die of food poisoning at some fast food joint. People want an answer. "If there's a problem, let's have a solution." That is the media background music. If there's child abuse, then thousands

of people are arrested and millions are fingerprinted. It doesn't matter that a few years later half of them have to be let out because they weren't guilty. The war on drugs requires spending money in Mexico, Peru, Panama, and Colombia. And the money often goes to some of the same people working with the drug dealers to get the drugs in here.

The system is running out of control. It's big, it's hard to watch, and a lot of people would like to go back to simpler days. But they do like going to the mall and loading up their car with all the stuff. We live in an age of guilt-free consumption.

Skeptic: How about requiring TV (since that's where most of the money goes) and radio stations, which have to be licensed to serve the public interest, to provide substantial free time to qualified candidates to use as they please?

Brown: That's fine. I proposed that 20 years ago to the FCC. They never answered me, to this day, though some of the networks are now talking about it. You could create a public forum through television where we could have a vital, democratic process. But real reform will require more than just new rules for TV stations. It will require a change in attitudes that will produce a change in the structure of government. The financial incentive, which is the heart of capitalism, is now turning into an out-of-control engine that is destroying everything from the family to democracy to human freedom.

Skeptic: Originally, our legislatures met for only a small amount of time. They would then go home and lead a real life. We live in the age of high tech — internet, teleconferencing, telecommuting. Why do legislators have to be physically present to participate in debate and to vote? Why couldn't they be given the option to do both remotely from their home office? This would allow voters in the district to see their representative far more frequently and make it much harder for a lobbyist to work all of them in one day. Why don't we use technology in government more?

Brown: First, there is a fear of technology. Second, the players want to get together to establish their relationships, the mafia brotherhood. And they want to deal with the lobbyists to raise the money. They want to play in the game. The myth is the power of Washington, the power of the state capitol. That is the symbol that there is a deliberative process, a representative mechanism.

When politicians meet in official chambers it creates a ritual of government. Why do people have to go to church? The government is a church of a sort. The legislators voting in the Capitol is a way of ritualistically reconfirming the mythology that there is a democratic process to which the people are connected. The reality is very different.

Skeptic: As skeptics, we regularly hear from individuals who have left cults or fraudulent faith healing acts, and the comeback we always get from their erstwhile fellows is, "These are the people who have left. These are the sour grapes." So, why shouldn't we be skeptical of what you're saying now?

Brown: Well, I said many of the same things when I was running for governor. I sponsored the Political Reform Act. If you listened to what I said at that time, it was not particularly different from what I'm saying now. But of course I didn't really follow it.

Skeptic: What was the light that struck you on the road to Damascus?

Brown: Getting older, seeing the breakdown of our society, the increase in the number of homeless and poor, the quadrupling of incarceration — principally of poor people and people of color. And then seeing the growth of special

interest money at the same time, the increasing professionalization and manipulation of the political process. All of that is making the political enterprise more and more unacceptable, at least to me.

Skeptic: From where you sit now, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of our republic?

Brown: I would say we face grave danger. Personally, I still have a certain optimism. That's why I'm still involved.

9

An Editorial from the Los Angeles Daily News regarding Eminent Domain and the City of Glendale...

In a classic example of a David and Goliath situation, the city of Glendale has come down firmly on the side of Goliath.

In this case, the Goliath would be developer Rick Caruso, who recently announced he'd like to expand his Americana at Brand - right over land currently occupied by a hotel and a vacant sound studio.

The Glendale City Council gave the two property owners an ultimatum: Redevelop your property. Sell to Caruso. Or we'll force you out for Caruso.

Not much of a choice.

The council gave the property owners just 45 days to come up with a plan to redevelop their property, which is a pretty aggressive time frame for even the most savvy developers. That leaves only two realistic options: Sell their property to Caruso or the city will take their property using eminent domain.

And since Glendale leaders have already sided with Caruso, how are the property owners supposed to get a fair selling price? The city has taken their negotiating power.

Ray Patel, whose family has owned the Golden Key Hotel since 2000, is understandably shocked by the ultimatum. Imagine being bullied into selling your family business by the very city leaders who are supposed to be protecting your interests as a legitimate, tax-paying enterprise.

This is what redevelopment has become in California.

Traditionally, eminent domain was used to take property that was needed for public works projects - freeways or schools - facilities that served the greater good of the community. Now, cities acting as redevelopment authorities can be the henchmen of developers, ousting one business for the benefit of another.

Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian told the Daily News: "We feel that a midlevel motel is not the best use for that land."

Really? Since when do city officials get to decide how private property owners should use their private property?

This isn't a crack house. It's a clean, affordable hotel in a central part of town. And the owner deserves better from Glendale's leadership.

Americana at Brand is a good project and it has been beneficial for Glendale. And expansion of the shopping center may even be a nice addition to the existing 15.5-acre mega-mall. But that should be a standard property sale negotiation between a wealthy mall developer and private property owners.

This is not how redevelopment was intended to be used.

The city's willingness to roll over long-standing small businesses at the behest of Caruso is troubling.

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