



"Accountability"  
The Government Watchdog

*Learning from the past is our  
responsibility*

*Enhancing the present is our mission*

*Providing for a better future is our  
vision*

# Vanguard

News Service Vol V

Week of December 13, 2009

[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

818 243 1502

## VANGUARDIANS BOARD MEMBER TAPPED BY WHITE HOUSE

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



**WHITE HOUSE FORUM:** Vanguardians Board Member Dr. John Kraft was selected by White House Staff to convene a COMMUNITY FORUM ON JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. If you are interested in participating in this critical program please email [info@vanguardians.org](mailto:info@vanguardians.org) with your contact information.

**HE GOT OFF CHEAP:** The FPPC accepted CCM Weaver's penalty settlement of \$9,000 at their December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**THANK YOU!** Vanguardians thanks a generous contributor, who wishes to remain anonymous, for a 7 passenger van that we will use to get people to meetings and to spread the possibility of an informed public and an accountable government.

**HELP WANTED:** With your generous financial help we can have a more involved and engaged public, a public that is aware of, not only the problems, but the solutions. Whip out that check book and send your contribution to Vanguardians, POB 11202, Glendale CA 91226 or go to our webpage, [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org) to make a contribution by credit card.

**REAL VOLUNTEERS:** Under the management of Glenn Steiger, the GWP encourages their employees to volunteer on their own time according to several GWP workers staffing the Salvation Army kettle in front of Virgil's. GWP management treats volunteering as volunteering without pay something that Fire Department management discourages. When firemen take millions of dollars of city equipment out on the street to raise money for whatever cause, they are on-duty being paid, some even are getting overtime.

**HE WON – THE FIGHT IS ON!** [Assemblyman Paul Krekorian](#) won the special election to fill the vacant Second District seat on the Los Angeles City Council. He captured 10,810 votes or 57 percent to defeat opponent Paramount Pictures executive Christine Essel's 8,304 votes or 43 percent, according to unofficial figures released by the City Clerk's Office. Krekorian will replace Wendy Greuel, who became city controller in July. He will serve through June 2011.

The Second District includes the areas from Mulholland Drive in the Hollywood Hills to Big Tujunga Road in the Verdugo Hills. It encompasses the communities of Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, North Hollywood, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sunland, Sun Valley, Tujunga, Valley Village, Valley Glen and Van Nuys.

**WAS IT INTENTIONAL?** City pulls the December 7, 2009 TPC video from the Web site after a contentious meeting over preferential parking districts. A select committee of Commissioners made a decision on how to handle preferential parking. Their solution may be one way to keep vehicles off the street so those oversized fire engines and trucks can navigate the narrow roadways; made narrower by vehicles parked on both sides. The meeting was scheduled for the Council Chambers but moved (with or without notice) to the MSB.

**BYE, BYE EDITH, THE KING HATH WON:** New Rules for zoning hearings... Zoning Administrator Edith Fuentes will be assigned to paper pushing under the New Rules for administrative hearings for zoning variances. Zoning Hearing Officers will be assigned to hear variance requests. The practice has been questioned by those close to 'Business Friendly' Glendale. If there will be no noticeable change, why do it? When Council and Management said that a change in the Utility Users Tax would be revenue neutral, they lied. Why believe this change will have no financial or user affect?

## December 18 FRIDAY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Join us for the last meeting of 2009

We have helped direct people to the appropriate resources, empowered them to engage with their local government, and from those who have attended, given them hope and some good humor. This is an excellent way to start the weekend.

SEE YOU AT FOXY'S AT 7AM WITH A DISCUSSION ON .....



**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.

Laurel is working on content for the dark period at City Hall.

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

#### From the Publisher... CITY COUNCIL IS DISMISSIVE OF FPPC SANCTIONS



The only thing we didn't hear on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> was, that to further sanction CCM Dave Weaver for the settlement he made with the Fair Political Practices Commission would make him subject to double jeopardy covered in the US Constitution, something I would have expected from CCM/Attorney Ara Najarian. Najarian would have thus saved himself the embarrassment of making all those robocalls in 2007 to support a vote for Weaver campaign.

We all have heard the animus from Mayor Quintero about Mr. Weaver especially about coming clean with his Dreaming of Roses business that he forgot to add to his Statement of Economic Interest. The public doesn't know if Weaver profited directly from DoR as his Treasurer David Small erroneously claimed that the IRS 990 form is confidential.

Mr. Drayman's comments were absent as well even though he would call me and stay on the phone complaining about how Weaver did this and Weaver did that. And how disappointed he was with Weaver. There is more. However, I have learned as an investigator, "Don't divulge the details."

Mrs. Friedman, the latest addition to the City Council, didn't share her recent warning from the FPPC for the failure to include her business interests in Glendale. She was able to make an amended filing after all the clues I dropped at City Hall, the Planning Department, the City Attorney and the City Clerk.

Dave Weaver said it was stupidity on his part which is quite an admission. Weaver has run in many elections and should know that the FPPC gives a training to candidates and their treasurers before each election; he also knows that the chances of the Glendale City Election being audited by the FPPC are rather remote. What he did not realize is that members of the public can provide a written and signed complaint to the FPPC who then notifies the alleged violator that a complaint has been filed, by whom and what it is about.

Most long-time elected public officials know how to circumvent the financial disclosure process. One method is to loan money to yourself; another is to accept cash contributions...there are many more but I don't want to give ideas to those officials who are clean.

Weaver and Quintero have been around the longest, followed by Najarian elected in 2005, Drayman in 2007 and Friedman in 2009. The longer one is around the more secrets they acquire and the more baggage they acquire. Weaver was one who hired City Manager Starbird; Quintero wanted to get rid of him; Starbird protected Weaver from each of the sexual harassment charges; Ask yourself, is that why Weaver never questions a staff report?

Today there is a troika running the Council with constant ongoing support from the other two. There is no longer a chance for transparency or an open government UNLESS there is active participation by the real stakeholders in government—YOU!

To that end, Vanguardians is training people to review and to research public documents and to investigate issues that are found, just as we have done with Weaver, Friedman and Drayman. This is your City and you have a stake in it. Become a part of the solution by engagement and involvement.

The question to ask is, 'whether those who chose to avoid the Weaver issue like Drayman and Friedman or being unclear in their message as was Quintero or leaving it up to the voters as Najarian suggested, are concerned



that Weaver may have traded his secrets for a lighter settlement? The FPPC can penalize at the rate of \$5,000 per violation or in this case the penalty could have been as large as \$220,000. That amount is an attention getter.

BARRY ALLEN

PS: Numerous people have asked if I am available to make presentations to groups...the Answer is YES! Call me at 818 243 1502.

PPS: I have been invited to many gatherings in SoCal. First question is, after lot's of pats on the back, "How did you catch Mr. Weaver?" Followed by..."We've got someone like him in our City...what can we do about him?"

PPS: Welcome to the newest Vanguardian, **Gabriel Lynn Green**, a first edition of Jeffrey and Tamara Green of Toledo, Ohio. Gabe was born on the 5<sup>th</sup>. His parents and all the grandparents are doing well. Nu, when is the bris?

The four stages of Vanguardians "**First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.**"  
Mahatma Gandhi describing the stages of establishment resistance to a winning strategy of nonviolent advocacy

"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money" - Alexis de Tocqueville

**Insanity:** doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. **Albert Einstein**

### COMMENTARY: THE CITY MANAGER'S SCORECARD - A REFLECTION OF THE STATE OF THE CITY

#### Part 2 of 2



If local communities could come together to develop a common vision on the future of their city based on shared values, they could then set about defining them and measure progress periodically to achieve them. When those values are not clearly spelled out, we can't develop a budget that will support them. As such, we can't hire a city manager that will direct his efforts to accomplish them. Instead, his focus will be subject to the pressures of the day, or the influences of the month.

In 2000, 2001 and 2002 three documents stand out as living proof of the direction the community wanted. The city staff that participated in the creation of these documents demonstrated their dedication to public service. Those three documents were, the Blue Ribbon Report on the State of Parks and Open Space, the Status of Youth in Glendale, and the Quality of Life Indicators (QoL.)

What is to me an astonishing outcome is that neither the city council nor the city manager established any firm commitment towards achieving the goals set out on the first two documents, and virtually ignored the QoL indicators as a core document from which to create policy.

City manager Starbird has been at the helm for eleven years. During that time, the Glendale city budget has more than doubled, the debt of the city has tripled; with electric rates among the highest in California create an unsustainable financial burden on the stakeholders and the city's schools.

Perhaps some, if not most, of the results or lack of progress to solving the city's challenges are the result of the city councilmen we've elected to office. But clearly not all the problems can be pinned on them. The influence is bi-directional. That is why an annual assessment of the city manager is so essential.

Recently, the city council took on the task of evaluating the city manager, an essential task not performed in more than four years and perhaps only the second time in Starbird's eleven years at the helm. Was the city council up to the task? Should the evaluation have been postponed for the latest release of the 2009 CAFR due later this month?

Other cities that hold annual performance evaluations have standardized the criteria to evaluate a city manager, but there is a vast gray area where politics and administration meet where the city manager is only partially accountable.

City employee unions play in the political arena limiting the role of the city manager in controlling pay and pension issues that ultimately impacts the city budget. Major stakeholders such as big land developers also have a significant role in their impact on urban planning irrespective of the role the city manager plays. Their influence goes directly to individual councilmen.

Irrespective of these other influencing entities, the city manager has a huge impact in the direction a city takes towards improving the quality of life of its residents, control toward its finances, and responsiveness to the residents. A key indicator of his efficacy is in the selection of top departmental directors and the performance of their departments. Here is a partial summary and evaluation. The grading is not directed at each departmental performance, but rather at the role the city manager has played in their performance, direction, and accountability.

#### Human Resources (D-)

Increases in the number of employees far outpace the increase of city residents. By 2008 mid-management rolls increased by over 40% while population increased by 5%.

The one single measure of city employment trends – Full-time equivalent employees – a measure adopted by nearly every major and mid-size city is prominently absent from Glendale's reports and its dissemination resisted (CPRA requests declined by the city attorney declare that there are no such records).

The number of employees retiring on disability comprises 50% of retired GFD and GPD. Those trends either expose very vexing working conditions, or very lax acceptance of such claims.

Employee lawsuits appear to be constantly stemming from the police department in particular. Policies to correct problems such as sexual harassment, are not linked to performance outcomes. Programs are put in place, but the failure of those programs to stem the lawsuits does not bring any accountability.



Management compensation does not appear linked to performance. Comparative pay to equivalent positions other cities or governments is the norm, but comparisons to productivity are not included (Ergo the 40% increase in mid-managers since 1998) The Orange county Public Works department holds their management accountable to external performance measures. Glendale's doesn't. We have documentation on dozens of performance bonuses given to Administrative and Fire personnel, but we have neither transparency with regard to the amounts given nor any idea on the performance criteria that led to those bonuses.

A city that is continually funding projects such as major street reconstruction, new building construction projects such as the police building, or the seismic retrofit of the Municipal Services Building, require the highest of project management skills and best practices. Despite major cost overruns, Glendale management refuses to disclose the qualifications of project managers, and fails to establish a central office where projects are evaluated and best practices formalized. Without a PMO the city will continue to experience projects that go beyond the expected costs. Other well-run cities have clear objectives to complete projects on-time and on-budget at least 90% of the time. Glendale doesn't.

**Diversity: (F)**

Many cities have a policy to have its staff represent the ethnic makeup of its residents. Though the GPD has made strides to correct the disparity, the GFD has the least compliance and highest resistance to multi-ethnic hiring with only two Armenians in its sworn positions putting the city liable to an EEOC corrective action. The lack of sufficient responders that speak the language of 30% of the population puts residents in peril in case of a major disaster.

Gender disparity and leadership is clearly evident as the city now has only one woman executive heading a city department. Couple that shortage with the numerous lawsuits the city continues to experience on sexual harassment claims, and we get a picture of a management in major deficiencies in that regard.

**Public participation and communications (D)**

We are all familiar with the numerous public-benefit displays of city employee participation. No meaningful charitable event is without a presence of city employees and a well-documented audio-visual or well-publicized summary of the event. Barbecues at Parcher Plaza, pancake breakfasts, participation at school fairs, chronic illness walks, plastic duck races all add to the image of concerned and empathic city employees, but not much substance.



The focus on public perception instead is not balanced by an equivalent focus on measurable performance outcomes. Such level of P.R. comes at a very high cost in personnel and ineffectiveness where public image becomes the end-objective. Such a P.R. focus supports the continuation of ineffective and wasteful programs that university researchers have found to be of little value. Programs such as D.A.R.E. and "Every Fifteen Minutes" are but a couple of examples of high cost, high public visibility events with no validation for effectiveness.

The city continues to seek awards from entities to whom issuing awards is an income stream. Hundreds of man-hours were spent in seeking the "Best Public Works department" in the nation, while our roads and infrastructure remain underfunded and without a strong strategic direction. The Certificate of Achievement for excellence in Financial Reporting given annually for the city's CAFR by the Government Financial Officer's Association is virtually guaranteed if the auditor has national recognition, but the lateness of the report (six months after the end of the fiscal year,) or the lack of comparative graphs to evaluate trends are ignored. The creation of a popular financial report that is easily understood by the general public is discouraged in Glendale. The city manager ordered the discontinuation of the budget summary, the closest document to a popular financial report this city has created.

The GWP seeks similar awards while the costs of electricity to residents and other stakeholders may be one of the highest in the nation and the percentage of residents with notices of discontinued service for non-payment is huge.

But what is pertinent to city governance is the public participation and input during formal commission meetings and hearings. Key commissions and committees, are often devoid of public participation, sometimes for years. Such has been the case with the audit committee, the GWP commission, civil service, the city treasurer quarterly investment review committee and others.

Few if any residents are aware of these meetings and others have scant participation. An open and transparent government requires a pro-active engagement with the public. That level of participation should be measured, reported, and improved.

Public awareness of pay and pension negotiations, as they are conducted, would play a beneficial role in stemming the influence of special interests and raising public confidence. An annual retreat where the city's direction is defined would give the government a higher level of transparency and accountability.

As we stand today, the lack of sufficient participation by residents is now taken by one councilman as proof that the residents have no qualms about the conduct of government. Efforts to survey public opinion and include the residents on long-term planning were either statistically suspect in its methodology, or highly orchestrated with the same stakeholders appearing at the various meetings and often populated with the city's safety personnel. But protests by residents on the high electric utility costs were dismissed by councilmen, and the Quality of Life indicators reports was difficult to extracted with high resistance by some councilmen. Clearly a city manager wishing to please a majority of councilmen would be constrained in his actions, but increasing the level of public participation at every commission, committee or board meeting must be made a barometer of management outreach and effectiveness.

**Capital projects (C-)**

Though most people associate municipal government with the maintenance of city services, street cleaning, waste disposal, traffic control, rental housing assistance administration, there is significant financial administration of capital projects such as Road reconstruction, municipal facilities, and upgrades to the power distribution systems. The proper administration of those projects that every year consumes tens of millions of dollars, is an essential responsibility of the city manager's oversight.



Here is where you find major deficiencies. Cost overruns appear to be the rule rather than the exception. Whereas some well-run cities set a goal to ensure that projects are completed on time and on budget, it is not unusual for them to expect

90% of their projects to meet those objectives. In Glendale it appears that few projects finish on time or without significant cost overruns.

**Redevelopment (D)**

When is a redevelopment agency successful? When it achieves its intended objectives. Redevelopment is charged with increasing the economic vitality of the city. An area that is not achieving its economic potential often was declared blighted so that future investment could be encouraged. Usually a dual purpose is expected with the attraction of further development surrounding the new development.

To this day, a proper accounting and financial return of the Americana at Brand has yet to be disclosed properly to the general public. The lack of transparency regarding the subsidy to Caruso Affiliated Holdings is now compounded by the lack of disclosure on the financial return in tax revenue that was projected at the inception for which we should have proper accounting 18 months following the inauguration.

The core comparative measure of redevelopment success - property tax, sales tax revenue, local job creation - continue to lag far behind Burbank and Pasadena, yet both of those cities have substantially fewer residents. Periodic reports on the effectiveness of redevelopment projects and programs are rarely ever presented to the public. We don't know the level of success in job creation. We don't know month-to-month the number of vacant storefronts, or the commercial vacancy rate. Few city initiatives are effective in measuring outcomes or in improving those circumstances.

**Strategic Planning (D)**

A slow departmental approach has started, but a comprehensive city-wide approach is missing. The best-run cities prepare such a comprehensive approach – often linked to firm performance outcome measures.

The end-result of all city budgeting, staffing, organizing and planning is the Quality of Life of its residents. Such measures are not only resisted today, but the lack of transparency and the increasing financial burden on residents and stakeholders with higher unbearable fees are salient indicators for a significant change at the top. My point of view in this matter is for the city council to search and find a city manager with a long history of affinity towards performance-based management such as Zero-Based budgeting, Management by Objectives, or the Balanced Scorecard.

**Summary**

The city manager's position needs to become more managerial and less politicized. That's why I encourage Council member Friedman's call for an annual retreat to re-establish the values to which the city must adhere, establish clear goals that address the community objectives, control the run-away expenditures, create a model for change, align the budget to those objectives and make all city departments and their directors accountable to results every year.

**Part 1**

- Police (D)
- Fire (C)
- Emergency Medical Service (D)
- Emergency preparedness (D)
- Crisis Management (C)
- Infrastructure (D)
- Finance (C)

**Part 2**

- Human Resources (D-)
- Diversity (F)
- Public participation and communications (D)
- Capital projects (C-)
- Redevelopment (D)
- Strategic Planning (D)

**Herbert Molano** [ED – The complete commentary can be found at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org) ]

***IT'S ONLY YOUR MONEY.*** The actuarial data keeps coming in, and as it gets posted, it changes slightly the annual amount required from the former employers. An important piece of data is the extent to which a city keeps current with its percent of payroll pension obligations. Some cities are current and many cities are lapsing behind. Many cities have been taking out long term bond debt to pay for them and other expenses that should not be paid with revenues from borrowing. In the LA Times (12-07-09) there was another article about the LA city budget in which people were quoted warning that the city's obligation to its DWP pensioners may go as high as quadrupling the current amount in just four short years. Bill Lockyer, the state Treasurer, was quoted yesterday saying that perhaps the quote made by CalPERS chief actuary, Ron Seeling, two weeks ago was a bit apocalyptic, but when the writer pressed him Why?, he could only say that CalPERS is facing unsustainable expenses and he has no solutions as to how to turn it around other than he knows the "stakeholders will continue to try and solve this problem".

You published something recently from a piece I did a year or so back that identified why cities were unwilling to acknowledge their financial crises. I cited the examples of corporations such as AIG and Goldman Sachs. We didn't know about their collapses until 24 hours before it happened. I predict the same will occur with local governments. The public won't know until it is way too late. This actually is not a bad strategy for local politicians. They can say staff failed to alert them to the problem and now they have no other choice but to impose drastic new schemes to pull money from local taxpayers to pay these huge and unforeseen costs..

Employer Plan	2009	2008	2007
MISCELLANEOUS PLAN	11.519%	11.681%	10.866%
SAFETY PLAN	24.0%	24.252%	24.172%

For employer rates of other cities, you may click the following link:

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/index.jsp?bc=employer/actuarial-gasb/contrib-rates/rates/home.xml>

**An Old Friend**

**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good women & men to do nothing**

Sacred cows make the best hamburgers. Abbie Hoffman



Total Number of Current and Active Glendale Foreclosures

as of Dec 11, 2009 are: **905** Thanks to **Christian Arbid** for the up-to-date information

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The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with. [ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

"Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many" -Eric Hoffer, 1902-1983

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character. [Margaret Chase Smith](#)

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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, this publication, 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.



### **WILL STARBIRD GET A RAISE NOW THAT THE SANTA MONICA CITY MANAGER GETS**

**\$285,000?** I enjoyed Molano's article on Starbird's performance evaluation. I doubt that the Council used those criteria. Probably the evaluation was made to justify a substantial raise. After all, Council is beholden to him for finding the money for their pet projects. JG

**WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?** Quintero's Statement of Economic Interest no longer shows his multimillion dollar stock portfolio. What happen to the money? [ED – You need to ask him.]

**I LOVE MOLANO!** I thought the Molano piece was exceptional and look forward to part 2. [ED – This theme was echoed by our many readers.]

**WHO IS DUMB HEADED NOW?** I got It! Finally. Now I understand what Drayman meant when he accused the angry, baldheaded guy of beating up the actor instead of the author. Drayman is the actor and if he does something wrong or dumb headed you should blame someone else. DJ

**YA DID IT...WEAVER FINALLY GOT CAUGHT!** Keep up your great work as it is proving not only meaningful, but essential in the fight for open government and reform in our community. So many people in La Crescenta have commented on your successful effort to expose the fraud, greed, corruption and mismanagement of Councilmember Weaver. Like most pimps, he was only caught when his actions became so brazen as to offend just about everyone. His case points the way to shine your high-beam spotlight on the rest of that bunch. It is long overdue. NAJ

**A PAYING JOB:** Just noticed that the Metropolitan Water District has a new Director, Laura Friedman, who was appointed by our City Council. This is a very nice paid position and benefits that go along with this position. Interesting it was not put out to the public for a community leader to apply for this position. ER

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST?** Is it permissible for the City Attorney to provide any legal advice or assistance to an elected official being accused of violations of Political Reform laws or being investigated for the same? [ED - In my opinion, those such as Weaver, Friedman and Drayman, would not be entitled to the City Attorney's assistance...other than to suggest they hire an attorney to represent him or her.]

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When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty.  
**Thomas Jefferson**

**Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.--Aldus Huxley**

**I am a legislator. I write the laws therefore I can wrong them. Throckmorton P. Aardvark III**

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# 3



## Public



## Information

"Just the facts"

We thought you'd like to know that First Amendment Coalition website contains the internet's most complete legal resource on the [California Public Records Act](#), including our own [primer on the law](#), [FAQs](#), a [model request letter](#), [a video presentation](#) by leading media lawyers, [Attorney General Opinions](#), and the [current text of the law](#). Check [www.cfac.org](http://www.cfac.org) for references to all the sunshine laws.

### [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)



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 14

Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, CH  
548-4844

6:00 PM City Council –548-4844

#### Tuesday, December 15

2:30 PM - CH Housing Authority –548-2060;  
Redevelopment Agency –548-2005; **Joint Meeting –**  
RE: Proposed Pacific Park Pool Development

#### Wednesday, December 16

Zoning Administrator's Hearing – 9:30 pm, MSB 548-2140  
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

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Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.  
**Thomas Jefferson**

Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech. Benjamin Franklin

**Live so that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town Gossip. Will Rogers**

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# 4 *Vanguardians*

- Hot topics this week included; what does the GFD do for 24-hours; Attorney Najarian advertising for fire clients; New Rules and does he or doesn't he... Each week we add a few new faces and have returning warriors. Become one. This is an excellent opportunity to share opinions about quality of life issues.
- Get breaking Glendale News by signing up for an RSS feed at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

## *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  
You may donate online at [www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

### **YEAR-END IRA GIFTS ARE STILL POSSIBLE**

On December 31, 2009, we would like to encourage donors who are 71 and over to donate to us through your Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs. It works like this. Those who are the right age (technically, 70½ and over) inform their traditional IRA administrators that they wish to make a "qualified charitable distribution" to your nonprofit. You may have to fill out and fax back a simple form; Your IRA administrator cuts the check and sends it directly to Vanguardians.

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On some positions, Cowardice asks the question "Is it safe?" Expediency asks the question "Is it politic?" And Vanity comes along and asks the question "Is it popular?" But Conscience asks the question "Is it right?" And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right. (1968)  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

"If you can't drink a lobbyist's whiskey, take his money, sleep with his women and still vote against him in the morning, you don't belong in politics." And, "Money is the mothers' milk of politics." Jesse Unruh

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# 5



## the Insider

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



The true colors of the Council and Management are coming out with their latest actions on reorganizing the Departments, using the confusion to eliminate an independent Zoning Administrator for hand selected "Hearing Officers". And to listen to the reasoning that we are making the regulations so complex that everybody is going to need to go through a hearing process and therefore one person can't handle the load? Remember the "recession"? There is no development right now but there are so many regulations that we need bunch of Hearing Officers to be "customer friendly". Here's an idea, reduce the regulation!

Think about this for a minute, Glendale has no local residential "developers" just a lot of existing single family homes that are getting older. All of the regulation increases the cost of improving or maintaining these homes. When is the public going to get tired of paying for these regulations?

# 6

## THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL

Not only has this Council flaunted the Sunshine laws by getting off dais reports from staff; by getting input on their texting devices; they do this knowing that most people aren't watching. Here is a recap of the Council:

- Dave Weaver was directed to pay an administrative penalty of \$9,000 by the FPPC.
- Laura Friedman was given 10 days to clean up her failure to report economic conflicts
- Ara Najarian is advertising to help people 'damaged' in the Station Fire settle with their insurance company. The question being, will he use inside knowledge from the fire departments to sue them for mismanagement of the fire ground?
- John Drayman who seems to be flaunting the zoning laws in his beloved Montrose, while failing to disclose business activities in an area where he has voted on issues while failing to disclose those interests. Mr. Drayman publicly declared his business ownership yet declined to pay his portion on the Montrose BID dues as he, according to the City Clerk, closed his business. Yet according to neighborhood services he uses the store front for storage which is a violation of the CR zoning, as storage must be incidental to the business. There is so much more but that will have to wait to be content during the weeks when the Council is dark

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A people that values its privileges above its principals soon loses both.--Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to **skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO, What a Ride"**.

Opportunity is missed by most people, because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.--Thomas A. Edison

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# 7

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[San Diego's](#) 10 elected officials used to pocket a combined \$96,000 annually in city money for an auto allowance, whether they drove a single mile or not. But new rules forced them to file paperwork for mileage reimbursement and it has cost taxpayers a combined \$1,591.23 this year.

[San Jacinto starts](#) recall petition for indicted council members while they reappoint as mayor one of those indicted. The community is up in arms unlike Glendale CA where one councilmember washed money and just paid a \$9,000 penalty.

**MEA CULPA** Vanguard apologizes to Francisco Alonso for misspelling his name last week

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