



"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 20, 2009
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

LOTS OF SMOKE & STEAM AT COUNCIL BUT NO FIRE

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 or attending this critical program please email info@vanguardians.org with your contact information. There are two morning meetings scheduled at the Alhambra Library on January 7th & 8th.

CREATING JOBS: Jobs available: TV ad sales positions in Burbank and Glendale. Bilingual is a plus. Contact info@vanguardians.org with TV in the subject line.

OFFERING THOUGHTS & PRAYERS: Community advocate Evelyn Hansen is in our thoughts and prayers for a recovery from stage 4 Cancer. Please share your wishes for her at glendale91202@gmail.com She is checking email but not as frequently.

HERE COME DA CAFR: [City finally posts the 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, CAFR.](#) What is the CAFR? It is the Official annual report of our city government. In addition to a combined and individual balance sheet, the following are also presented as appropriate on a combined, combining, and individual basis: (1) statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance (all funds); (2) statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances, budget and actual (for government fund types); (3) statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in retained earnings (for proprietary funds); and (4) statement of changes in financial position (for proprietary funds). The outside auditors take the data prepared and presented by City Staff, add up the numbers and say, "Good Job!"

However, the auditors do note certain deficiencies, (Vanguardians noted that in the past City Staff had used the same figures from 3 years past.) such as accruing \$1.2M of revenue more than once which makes it look like there is more money than there actually is. There are fund deficiencies in Liability Insurance Fund, Compensation Insurance Fund, Employee Benefits Fund and Retiree Health Savings Plan Fund of almost \$40 million. By not showing the transfer of those funds to the deficit internal funds it makes it appear as if the City has an extra \$40M.

A NEW POSSIBILITY: [Assemblyman Paul Krekorian was elected](#) to the Los Angeles City Council, proving again that a tour of duty in the legislature is, more often than not, seen as a stepping stone to local office. But for our purposes, Krekorian's election means a couple of things. It means there will be another special election sometime this spring. Krekorian's Assembly race in 2006 was the scene of a hard-fought Democratic primary between Krekorian and Frank Quintero. The race was a major primary target for the Latino Caucus, and a mailer in the race attacking the Armenian National Committee caused some bad blood between Latinos and Armenians in the district. This time around, another Armenian candidate, Krekorian's chief of staff, **Adrin Nazarian** is a strong contender for the race. **Mike Gatto**, a former staffer for Rep. **Brad Sherman**, is likely to enter the race as well. Others who have been mentioned as possible candidates include Quintero, Democratic Party official **Eric Bauman**, **Herb Wesson**, staffer **Andrew Westall**, and **Anita Quinonez-Gabrielian**, who works for AT&T.



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 to make a contribution by credit card.

ESPIRITU TO THE RESCUE: Ivy Glen is back in the news. Community Disability Advocate, Dr. Richard Espiritu, arrived at the Housing Authority meeting along with Ivy Glen residents in motorized wheel chairs and with a service animal. The residents and Dr. E spoke passionately about the operator of the facility, AbilityFirst, and the termite tenting and where the residents and their service and comfort animals would be housed during the evacuation period. This issue was to have been resolved. CCM Friedman jumped at the opportunity to support the disabled community demanding that AbilityFirst be brought to answer questions. It seems that City Staff and AbilityFirst have no problem communicating it is only the residents that are left out of the loop. Drayman requested the matter be placed on the agenda and Quintero was only concerned with Dr. E allegedly blowing smoke in his face at Foxy's on a Friday morning. Sr. Staff Zovak was called in to pinch hit for contract signatory Jess Duran. Zovak didn't have the institutional knowledge and Council didn't want to be blindsided. Quintero was making non-sequitur comments and Drayman didn't have an opportunity for a scriptwriter so he called a time out citing the Brown Act.

Dr. Espiritu attended the meeting with Ivy Glen residents and AbilityFirst on the 17th. City Staff was not familiar with the Glendale Municipal Code in its reference to animals.

DID HE OR DIDN'T HE? Mayor Drayman's photo preservation and restoration business in Montrose has a zoning use certificate that was issued to a non-existing corporation according to public documents. It is unknown if Drayman paid his BID fees. Controlling a Council majority, he can just change the zoning laws to cover storage. For the complete history, go to the Vanguardians home page. Drayman has failed to publicly disclose his business holdings and continues to vote on issues that could impact his business.

NO FRIDAY BUSINESS BREAKFAST Christmas or New Years Day
Join us for the first meeting of 2010 on January 8th
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. It is an excellent way to start the weekend.

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.

SPECIAL INTERESTS GET THEIR WAY...



At the city council meeting on December 8th, the Dais introduced a proposal to establish a hearing officer system composed of four representatives in lieu of the Zoning Administrator position which is currently held by Edith M. Fuentes. The proposal is part of the September decision by Council to reorganize many of the community's departments like Planning and Development and Parks and Recreation.

The shake-up drew unanimous criticism from the public— the dissention was mainly ethical due to the fear that the new system, employing four city staff workers, would be more open to political pressures and corruption from both the council and outside developers. Others speakers argued that the city staff was too busy to add the Zoning Administrator's work to their load, whilst some merely asked "Why?" as in if it ain't broke, don't fix it. One defended Fuentes herself, listing off her many accomplishments and credentials such as her B.S. in Architecture, her Master's in Public Administration and her Masters of Planning and Development Studies. Most, though, took issue not with the personal removal of Fuentes herself, but what reorganizing would mean for the welfare of the city in general and why the citizens had not been consulted. One speaker, representing the developing community (architects, engineers and property owners) asked why they had not been in the loop, as they deal with the Zoning Administrator and her system the most to which Laura Friedman replied that though she believed the change would favor the developer in the end, the city council and staff does not take orders from the developers when it comes to their internal reorganization. The other council members defended the proposal, and attacked the argument regarding the position's integrity with one person at the helm versus four.

It was Council Member Ara Najarian who took the road less traveled and launched an offensive attack in Community Planning Director Hassan Haghani's direction, demanding explanation for the change. Najarian had been quoted by the Glendale News Press before the meeting, as having said the reorganization of the city departments was about "streamlining the bureaucracy". It seemed though, that on the evening of December 8th, Najarian was far less worried about red tape than he was about the political pressure the officers in the new system might face. He rallied back and forth with Haghani asking what were to happen if hypothetically, Haghani or anyone in his position tried to lean on any of the officers to affect the outcome of their decision since with the shift, Haghani would be directly above them. Haghani replied with "Way too hypothetical!" and that there would be a set of firm rules established anyways. Najarian probed deeper and like some of the residents, simply asked what the point was to which Haghani argued that the city's population



was too big for one zoning administrator to handle, using Los Angeles as an example. Still, Najarian would not be content, bringing up the possibility of a biased element in the selection process of officers by the public. Haghani replied that because the hearing officer wouldn't be revealed to the public until the day of the actual hearing, there wouldn't be any way to play favorites.

To all Najarian's questions, Haghani seemed to have answers. It wasn't until Najarian brought up the public being left out of the discussion that Haghani become unhinged. Displaying a fervent mistrust of the electorate, Haghani said if introduced to the public the issue would surely devolve into a popularity argument, rather than a structural one. But if Haghani had given any credence to what the public had said only a half hour before, he would have seen that the citizens of Glendale were far more concerned with the constitutional change than with the personal one. For anyone on staff or council to act indignant towards voters simply doing their due diligence seems to be precisely why many of the people of Glendale aren't trusting of the change in the first place.

LAUREL MILLER

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

From the Publisher... A SAD DAY



I have been attending numerous meet and greet holiday parties of local politicians with Vanguardians Legislative Liaison, John Kraft. At one of them this past week, Assembly member, Mike Eng, was patting himself on the back because he encourages community input for new legislation, a program wherein he selects ONE piece of new legislation for introduction. "What a great idea," until he indicated that all the other bills for introduction come from paid lobbyists often bearing gifts especially around election time.

On the Council agenda was a discussion and report on who will be the Glendale Lobbyist to shake the money tree in Washington. Overworked and underpaid Council wants to have direct one-on-one meetings with Lobbyists to give them direction. Obviously they forgot that there are Brown Act issues and of course the everpresent perception of wrong doing.

We have already heard from the Council that they meet in private with City staff to get the real scoop so the public doesn't have to listen.

I met with Mayor Drayman in his office and as I was leaving I met a developers representative (DR) cooling his heels in the lobby waiting for our meeting to breakup. This DR had also hosted a party for a charity at which Drayman was a featured guest.

Chiming in as the last Oral Communications speaker for 2009 was wannabe council candidate Michael Teahan beating up the developers who spoke in support of the Zoning Administrator and condemning all developers as special interest forgetting that he is the representative of a special interest group, the HOAs.

Let's identify the special interest groups:

- 1) Municipal Unions whose interest is in taking money out of the city treasury.
- 2) City Management that looks out for the employees
- 3) The GHCC that wants more services from public safety, trash pickup, code enforcement and quality of life issues that all cost money
- 4) Residential Developers...there are none left except for those that sold their land to the City for astronomical amounts of money...
- 5) Commercial Developers that had added more revenue from property and sales taxes, to fees and creating jobs.

It seems to me that the only special interest group that has put money into the City has been behind door #5 and that source has, due to lack of construction funding, dried up. Where will the money come from to pay the bills? Not from the HOAs; not from the Muni Unions and not from the developers.

Maybe Mr. Teahan can get together with the Council as a lobbyist and explain his solution to this. The Council sure doesn't have a clue especially when they beat uo Management that they asked to work with lobbyists.

But, as I found out, it is the lobbyists that make the laws.

Lobbying is the practice of influencing decisions made by the government (in groups or individually). It includes all attempts to influence [legislators](#) and officials, whether by other legislators, [constituents](#), or organized groups.^[1] A **lobbyist** is a person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest or a member of a lobby.^[2] Governments often define and regulate organized group lobbying.^{[3][4][5][6]}



BARRY ALLEN

NEXT WEEK: NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

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: WHY WE NEED MORE ANGELS TO GET THEIR WINGS THIS CHRISTMAS



Few Christmas movies convey the spirit of the season as well as Frank Capra's It's a Wonderful Life. Yet, few movies would be so appropriate to watch this year as a nation suffers under the burden caused by the banking industry and others. If it were not for the optimism and good will of millions, this country might well become like Porterville, a town created out of the greed and basest instincts of the few.

Under the guise of free trade, we are trading our good jobs for the unemployment line. Companies have been exporting our manufacturing jobs by the millions and pretty soon most white collar jobs will be ready for export too with professional jobs not far behind.

Under the concept that the employer should help provide for health care, we exported our health insurance along with our jobs.

Under the guise of Caveat Emptor, "Let the buyer beware," millions who desired their own homes took up mortgages they could neither understand nor afford.

Under the guise of easy credit, there lurked conditions that would allow banks to jack up interest rates to their customers by nearly 30%. The banks now take those billions in profits to pay off their federal bailout loans.

Under the concept of public education, millions never finished high school, millions barely earned their diploma, and millions more can't afford to go to college. But somehow we can underfund education and expect our students to find good employment.

Under the guise of public service, an army of public sector employees draw exorbitant pensions above \$100,000 per year while sinking the finances of local governments.

That's why It's a Wonderful Life is the right movie to watch this year. It conveys the message that despite the greed and selfishness we find around us, there is a larger reservoir of genuine goodness in America for us to tap into. All we need is our indomitable spirit aided by our own guardian angels to show us the way.

This Christmas, let's ring more bells together. Heaven knows we need a lot more angels to get their wings.

HERBERT MOLANO



COMMENTARY II: SWIMMING WITH THE SHARKS IN GLENDALE

With the fanfare worthy of the queen of England, council candidate Najarian proclaimed his vision for a new aquatic center for Glendale back in March of 2005. I was awestruck at the forceful, confident and committed declaration he made at the league of Women Voters forum that this jewel city must restore a worthy aquatic facility for its youth.

Najarian was making a declaration as the only council member in memory who's ever participated in organized competitive swimming. I had met Najarian about a month earlier to travel together around south Glendale and point out to him the deficiencies in parkland, and the lack of facilities and amenities for youth programs. I thought that I touched a nerve. How could such a premier city with two hundred thousand residents not have even a single aquatic facility?

Margaret Hammond and I shared the same passion to bring back a swimming facility after the old one was torn down to make way for a new Pacific-Edison project. A joint project with the GUSD for a new school and adjoining parkland. Somewhere along the way someone forgot the needs of the community for such an essential summer-time program.

Both Margaret and I continued to remind the city council of the need create an aquatic facility. I researched the cities with the best programs and facilities and brought PowerPoint presentations to the council. Surely, the city could buy or borrow the plans from the dozens of similar facilities that had been created elsewhere. My thoughts turned to the mini-water parks that are so popular in Henderson Nevada, Santa Clarita and elsewhere. Just give kids and their families a place to be together and have some aquatic fun in the sun. My guess for such a project was in the two or three million dollar range tops.

But our hopes landed on deaf ears. Week after week. Month after month, we could not get any traction to get council to pay attention. When council members went to Las Vegas to attract high-rise builders to Glendale, I suggested they visit some of the aquatic facilities nearby. Quintero took the time to visit, but Najarian never

bothered to look. It was only after I publicly threatened Najarian to make his false promises a campaign issue at his next run for office that staff started to get engaged.

But, I learned that the way city finances work in Glendale is that projects for south Glendale must wait for Federal, State or County grants. Why spend General fund money, or money from the reserves, when the city can use up all their money on pensions and benefits then wait for other government entities to come rescue the poor and the destitute in Southern Glendale? Except for the Brand Blvd corridor, south Glendale is the ugly step-child of our councilmen from the north.

Since the initial direction to the staff, for tens of thousands of dollars in public surveys and meetings, the council has managed to prolong and postpone their indecision as consultants, designers, and architects rake up huge fees. "We need to address the needs for scuba divers" said one. "We need to consider the income stream" said another. "We need to make it LEED compliant," said another. "We need to salvage the tot sprinklers." chimed another. "We need to be very careful about the construction costs," added yet another one. "I'd like to see at least six lanes," chimed Najarian.

At the end of the day, all the money for the aquatic facility is coming from the Federal Government and probably the operations funded from HUD money as well. In the mean time, the children have grown up and the families who needed that facility have probably moved out to cities where youth and children really matter.

It took twelve years to bring the Adams Hill mini park to fruition. Sixteen years to break ground on the new the Adult recreation center and it'll be probably be ten years to bring an aquatic facility. But it only takes weeks to come up with urgency ordinances to bump up salaries and benefits to our beloved city unions whose members' feet itch to leave the city by 4:45 PM every day.

Maybe Najarian is waiting to just before the next election to wax pretty about how he and he alone has been the vision and the force behind the great new aquatic facility. And if the public pool isn't inaugurated by the next election? The Glendale Employee's for Better Government would only be too happy to plunk down money for Najarian's reelection. **HERBERT MOLANO**



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

Public Officials are manufacturers - many make excuses - some make trouble - only a handful make things happen

Total Number of Current and Active Glendale Foreclosures

as of Dec 18, 2009 are: **897** Thanks to **Christian Arbid** for the up-to-date information



LENDERS TO HALT FORECLOSURE EVICTIONS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will suspend foreclosure evictions from December 19, 2009 through January 3, 2010. To help struggling families over the holidays, both owner-occupants and tenants living in properties foreclosed upon by Fannie Mae will not be evicted. Freddie Mac's suspension of evictions will be limited to properties up to four units.

In a similar move, Citigroup Inc. will suspend foreclosure sales and evictions for 30 days through January 17, 2010 for loans it owns. Citigroup's foreclosure moratorium, however, does not extend to loans it services on behalf of other investors.

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](#)

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.



A RESPONSE TO A LETTER LAST WEEK: It seems really disingenuous for you to exempt yourself from being forthright and publishing correct facts. Directors of MWD are not compensated nor do they receive benefits. They receive reimbursements, and are volunteers,

and the expense sheets are very well reviewed. Will you remedy this false statement? I seriously think you should.
[Stephanie V. Landregan, ASLA, LEED AP](#)

[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]

HILLSIDES CAN GENERATE ELECTRICITY: [Kern County](#) has been using their open space in the Tehachapi's to install wind generated electricity. With all the open space, couldn't Glendale do that? Alternative Energy Advocate. [ED – It would be a great idea. The Israeli vertical wind mills turn out about 75% more electricity. Unfortunately it won't happen in Glendale for the following reasons. 1) There is not enough open space; 2) Homeowners would scream about their view being taken away and 3) we are willing to pay electricity rates that are higher than even those posted of So Cal Edison. Great idea.]



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

3  **Public**  **Information**
"Just the facts"

Vanguardians Request: On November 17, 18 and 19th the GFD participated in a training program in Pasadena. Please provide the curriculum for that training.

City Response: Please be advised that there are no records responsive to the request

Vanguardians Comment to City Staff: Fire personnel and equipment are sent to Pasadena three days in a row for training and there is no agenda, curricula or training materials?

Further checking: We checked with Pasadena Fire and got the full scoop. The question arises as to why GFD has to lie about an issue like this. If they lie about training what else is fire management lying about?

[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, 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

The only City meeting during the weeks of December 21 and December 28 will be held on:
Wednesday, December 23 --Zoning Administrator's Hearing – 9:30 am, MSB (818) 548-2140

All City offices will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 24 and will remain closed on Friday, December 25.

City offices will re-open for business on Monday, December 28.

City offices will be open regular business hours on Thursday, December 31.

City offices will be closed on Friday, January 1.

All City offices will re-open during regular business hours on Monday, January 4, 2010.



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

4 *Vanguardians*

- Hot topics this week included; Job Creation program; Food Taxes, Just who are the special interests and more sidebar. 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
- We need a working laptop computer, Windows XP. Letter for tax purposes before 12/31.

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

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.

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.

It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument. [William G. McAdoo](#)

"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

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.



There haven't been talks of layoffs yet, management likes to spring that on staff at the last minute. However, staff has been talking about the fact that City has bunches of money for building remodels and reorganizations so things can't be that bad. If it is bad, then management has lost all focus on providing service to the public.

Most staff sees right through the elimination of the Zoning Administrator for what it really is. Starbird has had a grudge against the ZA ever since she won her harassment case against the City right after he started here. Now he has figured out a way to get to her by convincing the Council it's all about becoming efficient. When the General starts attacking his own troops, new leadership can't be too far away.

Barry, where are you? We see you at City Hall frequently and you seem to know what is happening. The Council needs your guidance as they have short memories. You got them to give the resumes of their nominations for Boards and Commissions and you were also able to stimulate debate on the Dais. That has changed. Come back and whip them into shape. [ED – Thanks for the vote of confidence. I do get to CH to pick up records, change the batteries and download texting.]



Distraction, brought on by technology, has created an addled citizen one that so consumed with texting in their vote to American Idol that they forget to vote or worse, why they were voting in the first place. **MICHAEL LEVINE**

One man with courage makes a majority. Andrew Jackson.

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names. John Kennedy

The men who create power make an indispensable contribution to the Nation's greatness, but the men who question power make a contribution just as indispensable, especially when that questioning is disinterested, for they determine whether we use power or power uses us. **John F. Kennedy**, *Amherst College, Oct 26, 1963*

6 THE ILLUSTRIOUS CITY COUNCIL

A special thanks to Mayor John Drayman for providing the 'clues' and 'tips' that led to CCM Weavers administrative penalty; for the information on CCM Friedman's 'forgetting' she owns 50% of her husband's business; and for CCM Quintero forgetting to show his earnings from his local bank investment.

CCM Quintero made accusations against Dr. Richard Espiritu for blowing smoke in his face at Foxy's. Meanwhile he missed a city contract holder lighting up in the city garage. I told the person to beware as CCM Quintero will cancel your contract.

City Hall on Thursday was the place to be a fly on the wall or a bug in the ceiling as the parking structure was packed with peasants paying homage to the rulers and bestowing their gifts on the anointed.

CCM Weaver is envious of the 'well-heeled' people in Pasadena. That was quite a rant. He must have forgotten those Glendale businesses that gave him thousands. Maybe he could share a bit of that with Rachmaninoff

CCM Friedman compared hiring a lobbyist to getting a building contractor. On a building contractor you only go on price. Obviously Friedman who sat on the Design Review Board doesn't consider quality or materials and workmanship to be a deciding factor. All things considered none of the troika showed up to Congressman Adam Schiff's holiday party in Pasadena on Friday. This provided a great opportunity to meet, greet and get pictures taken. Apparently the conversation on Tuesday was just a bunch of hot air with no substance. I was there with the Vanguardians Legislative team. We made our agenda known. We did see GUSD people.

CCM Weaver used his 'institutional memory' to declare that the Council originally wanted the Lobbyist to work with management.



Mayor Drayman apparently wants all 2000 vendors to meet with him, especially as he will be running for office soon. That way he can claim they came on their own to support his campaign.

Former Council Candidate Teahan came in at the last minute to rail against the developers who spoke against removing Edith Fuentes the Zoning Administrator. Quintero let him rant even though a Brown Act violation was looming. Teahan could have spewed his erroneous venom during the adoption of Ordinances. People who spoke for keeping the status quo were homeowners and even a past president of the Chamber of Commerce.

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

7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Cities need honest public officials By Donald W. Blount Record managing editor December 14, 2009

Last week I was asked what we, meaning The Record, want from public officials and candidates for public office. My answer, although long-winded, was fairly simple: Honesty.

Journalists want the people we deal with to be honest regarding what they know, whether it is budget deficits, cost overruns or improved test scores. Of course when they are not, it is up to us to ferret it out.

Action Plan to cut post-retirement costs. San Francisco voters may soon have the opportunity to decide major changes to the city's pension and retiree health care systems - both of which have seen their costs skyrocket as the city grapples with consecutive years of major budget deficits.

Ten years ago, the city paid \$383.7 million to health insurance for active and retired workers, retirement contributions and Social Security. This year's tab is \$890 million, a 132 percent increase. In fiscal year 2013-14, the projected amount is \$1.4 billion. Driving the rise is the overall increase in health care costs and the poor performance in investments during the economic downturn.

City Managers are political.

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government. Vanguard is intended for**

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