



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog



HEADLINES

Downtown Projects Green lighted

BREAKING NEWS! Dreaming of Roses Inc.

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

When WE are complacent THEY win!

"I don't make jokes. I just watch government and report the facts." Will Rogers

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

THIS JUST IN:

FPPC Complaint being prepared against Council member Weaver for failure to report his presidency of Dreaming of Roses, Inc on the Statement of Economic Interest for 2005 and 2006.

City Attorney was uncertain as to the process for Council setting parking restriction limits...here is the answer....

10.36.015 Parking lot limits-Establishment-Signs or markings. The council shall, by resolution, determine parking lot restrictions and limitations and the traffic and transportation administrator shall designate such limits by appropriate signs, curb markings or other such markings. (Ord. 5078 § 1, 1995: prior code § 27-106.1)

10.36.020 Limited parking areas-Violations. A. When authorized signs or curb markings are in place on any street, part of a street, or a municipal parking lot, giving notice of parking limitations, no person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle in any such street, part of a street, or municipal parking lot, for a period of time longer than indicated by such signs or curb markings.

The City Attorney has indicated there are no records responsive to documents for authorization. It also appears after this issue was brought to the attention of the parking police there were no other tickets issued.

55123924

55123923

55123919

55123921

55123920

55123918

If you received a parking ticket with one of these numbers on it for overtime parking in the Isabel St. parking lot on June 6, 2007, you should contact the City Attorney or Vanguard 818 243 1502. Your rights may have been violated. You may be eligible for treble damages.

HEADLINES

City Center II and the DPSS projects were green lighted after several years by the joint session of the Council and the GRA. The Hotel & Condo project will give Glendale its first 4 star hotel and 4 star luxury condominium complex. The model as pictured is available for all to see in the Glendale City Hall lobby. The DPSS site will provide more space for Hollywood Productions located on Brand. The approval granted shows the vision of the Council to begin the revitalization of Downtown Glendale under the aegis of the Downtown Specific Plan.

Sound Bites

- Career College says, "Enough already," when Dorn-Platz didn't deliver and the GCareerC pulls out according to inside sources
- 2nd investigation of Sexual Harassment complaint against Council member continues
- Governor sez...State of Financial emergency may require cities to disgorge money 10% cuts anticipated
- Ask the Mayor about MTA proposal to charge for carpool lane usage
- Vanguard mentioned at Grandview court hearing



City Center II Brand@Wilson

“Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don’t believe is right.”
Jane Goodall

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

BREAKING NEWS:

Now there are two corporations involved with the Glendale Rose Float, The Glendale Rose Float Association, Inc and Dreaming of Roses Inc. Where did your money go when you wrote the check for the ABC7 party? Calls to the treasurer of the GRFA have not been returned. According to the former president, a number of officers quit, one of them when the GRFA did not approve the selection of the present design, another when there were ‘things’ happening over which they had no control. In the past checks for DoR, the big fundraiser, went into a special Bank of America bank account that used the GRFA Taxpayer Id Number. With a new corporation, the money could go directly into a new account. If you attended the DoR food fest, check your cancelled check and share the deposit account number with Vanguard. Now we can understand why former Mayor Weaver hasn’t shared the revenue received from DoR the past two years. According to the attorney for the new corporation, Dave Weaver is the president, it was accepted in September 2005 and there is no copy of the Bylaws available.

2008 – Creating A Banner Year
International FieldWorks Presents A Proactive, Take-Charge Strategy Session
Are you crossing your fingers that 2008 will be a good year? Or are you ready to design the year so that your business will soar?
Identify the direction to take your business and the specific actions to get you there.
You will leave with a detailed roadmap for your business for the year.

Friday, December 28th 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Space is limited so respond today.
The value of the 4-hour session: \$1,000 ---Your cost is only \$250.00 Location: Glendale
Call Now to reserve your seat. Call 818.243.4864 Feel free to pass this on.

GUSD

School board member Chuck Sambar as quoted in the GNP: “This has been a very painfully disgraceful matter that has consumed a great deal of time, ...of money and ...of goodwill,” speaking to the botched construction job at Crescent Valley HS. What this really shows, is a lack of oversight by the GUSD board led by former and as we understand future candidate for Glendale City Council, Greg Krikorian. Once again, Management should be held accountable by the Board. See #2 Calls

Only when WE are vigilant are THEY accountable!

If you have issues with the City and you fear retaliation or intimidation, bring them to Vanguardians and we’ll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council

Barry Allen spoke on: City Center II & the DPSS Building; the contract renewal for the lobbyist which included a question about the Governor’s financial emergency, Oral Communications included a request to notice the public whenever a Council member is being investigated for sexual harassment – especially the second time, the refusal of CM Weaver to discuss his new corporation, Dreaming of Roses and the citation for the approval by Council of parking restrictions. Spoke to the City Financial audit and the lack of the ‘Management Letter’.

The Code of Conduct went down to defeat and the tree ordinance will bear additional scrutiny. John Oppenheim spoke out as one of the first affected.

Weekly Council Scorecard

Council	12-18	Overall	
Drayman	B	B	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Najarian	B	C	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Quintero	A	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Weaver	B	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian	A	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;
			Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;

Criteria: Responsiveness to the community, knowledge and understanding of the issues, placing the needs of the public first and attitude, attentiveness and accountability.

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenagers P.J.O'Rourke

Fire Department

Retired Police Chief Bruce Philpott and 40+ year Glendale homeowner takes on the Glendale Fire Department to show the public how to save millions of dollars and provide greater public safety. To schedule a presentation for your group, call him at 818 240 8949 or email him at logicpoint@aol.com.

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

Let’s cut overtime by reassigning firefighters, captains and engineers to suppression and paramedic teams. Over 12 personnel could be freed up for those positions.

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

Police Department

Following the federal lawsuit filed by the Unite Here Local 11 against the City of Glendale, the City has been ordered to provide 1stAmendment Training to the Police Department. Case # CV 06-7643 FMC

Leadership Circles are forming. Want to find out how to tap into and hone your leadership skills? If you are female and between the ages of 15 and 105, click below to email us to be notified of the next Circle:

[Leadership Circles](#) or call us at 818.243.2322 *Fifty-Fifty Leadership* www.fiftyfifty.us is a non-profit organization 501(c)3



Our Mission: To transform the culture within which we live to one that **naturally** includes women on an equal basis in the selection of leaders

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians*, Advocating for Accountability– Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city's departments, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

CONTENTS:

- 1) **Commentary**
- 2) **[Announcements - Letters– Articles – Links - Calendar](#)**
- 3) **[Open Government](#) + Grandview update**
- 4) **[Vanguard](#)**
- 5) **[Humor](#)**

1 **Commentary**

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

“You don’t understand, it takes three votes to pass resolutions or Ordinances (Zoning requires 4),” is the mantra of a politician when it comes to an election and the electorate questions his votes. Yes, it does take a majority. However, that is why there is deliberative debate and discussion in order to convince those who disagree with reasons why to agree. When that process is hidden behind closed doors of closed sessions or are accomplished in the back room or even messages sent on Blackberry’s we, the public are all duped. You are directed to #3 Open Government to see how the wagons have been drawn together in order to prevent the public (you and me) from learning of the behind the scenes deliberation. One Council member has indicated to Vanguard that he is willing to share his email. Another indicated he was warned not to disclose the information as the messages from the City Attorney are privileged and that the City Manager did not want his messages viewed. Vanguardians attorneys are researching whether this issue constitutes a Brown Act violation.

Integrity starts with the individual

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED -- READ VANGUARD

Mortgage Company breathing down your neck for late or no payments?
We can help.

No equity – No problem. Call today to discuss your options.
The sooner you call, the greater the options. Call Today 818 694 0588



2 **Announcements – Letters – Calls -- Calendar -- Articles – OP-ED**

Letters & Email

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Letters will not be published that aren’t signed and/or are hate oriented.

I supported Ara Najarian when he ran for Council and he never kept his commitment to me. I supported John Drayman and he did. Because Mr. Drayman honored his commitment we are getting closer to a new Rockhaven and more. He really is a champion. DE

That retired chief of police [Bruce Philpott] really worked hard on the presentation about the fire department. His suggestions were excellent. I and a number of other voters will be watching what the Council does on this issue. Now I know why they have so many school programs [ED 300 requests last year]. Brainwash the kids while they are young and impressionable. Two questions: I missed some of the presentations he made, are they available online? Is he available to speak to my group about his suggestions to remake the GFD? SL [ED Answers: 1- [A New Model for Municipal Fire Protection by Retired Pasadena Police Chief Bruce Philpott](#) and [Comments Received Regarding Bruce Philpott and the New Model for Municipal Fire Protection](#) and 2 – Yes, **To schedule a presentation for your group, call him at 818 240 8949 or email him at logicpoint@aol.com.**]

The Mayor seemed so petulant when he didn’t get his way on the Code of Conduct. Barry, Lenore Solis and Nancy Kent were right on about a lot of time wasted for naught. If the Mayor can’t manage a meeting then maybe he shouldn’t be Mayor. Mr. Quintero picked up on some of the Vanguard suggestions. On another subject, Mr. Molano gets way to far involved. Just ask the question, “If our payroll and benefits weren’t so costly would there be money to fix the roads, sewers, water and power?” Simple. GK

Next Week – Sex, Lies and City Council; Thanks to Advocates; 1st Look at Outside Auditors Report (CAFR)

US Flag Etiquette



As a Veteran of the US military, I value & take great pride and respect for the symbol of our country, the US flag. It is with amazement that I have dealt with the callous disregard of basic respect, courtesy and etiquette that the employees of Glendale Parks & Rec treat the flag that so many have fought and died to defend.

Congress ordered that on December 7, the flag shall be flown at half staff in memory of those military personnel that lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. The Glendale city council also directed that the flags in Glendale should be flown at half staff. On Dec 7, 2007. I attended the open house at Casa Adobe de San Rafael. Sunset was at 4:48pm. I noticed that the flag was still flying at 6:15, and it was flying at full staff... NOT at half staff in honor of those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. The Flag is taken down at sunset each day unless it is lit.

I found the City Park Employee... I told him that the flag needed to come down. He told me that he'd have the caretaker take it down

Is it just me or was the "explanation" for the Collards letter at the December 11th council meeting a joke. Mr. McFall gave a long and comprehensive report that boiled down to staff "just doing what you told us to." Nowhere in there did it address how, not one but two, department heads failed to see that something was wrong. What were Zurn and Blake thinking? What was more amazing was how many times Starbird told the council that he had to finally get involved before the Collard fine was "held in abeyance". Forgive me if I'm wrong, but doesn't that just mean that the fines are postponed, not forgiven or incorrect or inappropriate. I saw nothing in the Council report that keeps the City from going back after the publicity dies down and hitting them up again. Finally, I can't believe the final statements of the Mayor. After all the people getting letters have been through, he tries to make it all about him in the end and that the comment of a couple of radio hosts hurt his feelings. Give me a break! CE

Jim Starbird did his best to throw ice water on the happy event of the approval of the City Center II project when he responded to Alex Theater head Barry McComb that the new hotel wouldn't have space for a 1000 guest reception. I would have thought that Mr. Starbird would be elated to get a project like this especially when he didn't have to give away \$77,000,000 worth of land to the Americana. DW

CALLS a number of callers suggested the following items to be included in the 'Code for Council Conduct':

Sobriety, Pay attention to the speakers, Turn off email and cell phones, No note passing or sidebars, No back room visiting, Limit long winded responses to 5 minutes, if there is to be a retort or response to a member of the public, allow for a rebuttal, Rotate Council members speaking and voting, Request public input after the staff report, Move presentations to City employees to the mid-day meeting so employees can be at home with their families and not have to put in overtime, Closed session should be reported out before Oral Communications possibly before agenda preview, Any request of or by the Chair to have a member of the public removed shall require a vote by 4/5th of the Council or affirmation by the City Attorney; Treat public with respect and recognize they are intelligent beings that are offering their time, talent and expertise to the Council, Enforcement, Penalties.

Simple Solution to buying Verdugo Golf Course...everyone that wants it chip in and buy it. Drayman was right, buying that is no solution to the recreational ills of south Glendale. KW

RE: GUSD – In response to many calls...The board members do not have offices, they receive their mail through the superintendent's office. The District office (including the supt. office) is officially closed Dec. 24 and reopens on January 2nd. Each school board member is currently paid \$1,005.07 per month and will increase to \$1,055.32 in January. Their pay is based on a section of the Education Code. There is no additional compensation for the Board President. There wasn't a general contractor at CVHS. This was a multi-prime project, which means that it was broken into "packets" that were bid separately. These bid packets focused on the various trades. C.W. Driver was hired as the construction management firm that provided oversight to the project (scheduling, coordination, oversight, etc).

OP ED

The \$100,000 cure for the ailments of the City Council. Glendale is the third largest City in LA County. We have a five person City Council that is elected at large. Many areas of the City have no local representation, although several Council members do travel south of the 134. Council pay is about \$36,000 per year which is not a lot when compared to the expectations of the public. The time has come to bite the bullet. Council members are laughed at behind their backs by city employees that make as much as 7

in a few hours, when he got there. I told him it needed to come down, immediately. He said that it was locked & he didn't have a key. I had to threaten to get a pair of bolt cutters before he remembered that he might have a key in his car. He got the key & took down the flag. He then proceeded to fold the flag... just as you would any bed sheet. I took the flag from him & folded it properly. It's not a large flag & can easily be done by one person. I asked him how it was that he didn't know how to fold it & his reply was that he had never been in the military.

The flag did not fly again at Casa Adobe until Wednesday, December 19th, after I addressed the city council on the issue. It was also taken down that evening. Today is December 20, at 6:30pm & the flag is still flying at the park! I called the city & was told that someone from Pacific park would come up to take it down, by about 7pm. The Fire Department could put up and take down the flags in their districts each day, or the VFW or American Legion. **EH**

times what the Council makes. No, it is not a full time job but the matters coming before the Council require a lot of investigation by the Council in their effort to represent the public honestly and fairly. The Council needs to rely on handouts by the community to keep their campaign and office coffers filled. By paying a worthwhile sum there can be less dependence on campaign contributions by City employee associations and more quality time on the business of the City. Let's bite the bullet and support an initiative to raise the bar.

Now that we have suggested paying the Council more, commissioners and board Members should receive compensation of at least \$50 per meeting for their time and energy commitment. It is only fair to compensate them for their time they spend on our business.

To our readers: What are your thoughts?

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber](#) [Open Government Guide](#) www.vanguardians.org
[Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [UGlobal Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) **U** For a free copy of waste of taxpayer money and much painful reading, go to [Piglet Book 2007](#) . [Glendale Fines Resident \\$347,600 for Pruning Trees Without a Permit!](#)

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

Next Council meeting January 8, 2008

No City meetings will be held the weeks of December 24 and 31. All City Offices will close at 12 noon on December 24 and will remain closed on December 25. Offices will be open during regular business hours on December 26, 27 and 28. City Offices will be open during regular business hours on Monday, December 31. City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1. All City offices will be open during regular business hours on January 2, 3 and 4.

OP ED [Excerpts from Jonathan Haidt in the LA Times on Pysch 101 as it can apply to the Glendale City Council including paraphrasing](#)

Week 1: **The brain.** Without a brain, thinking would be much harder, but sometimes having a brain makes thinking hard too. The brain works by pattern matching, not logic, and if your brain seizes on the wrong pattern it can be quite stubborn in letting go. Try out other patterns that point to different responses.

Week 2: **Behaviorism.** Animals learn best by the rapid application of reward and punishment. Kudos for using sanctions to change behavior, but don't ignore those sneaky "social learning" effects. Unlike animals, people also learn from watching *others* get rewarded and punished.

Week 3: **Cognitive psychology.** The philosopher David Hume warned us long ago that "reason is the servant of the passions," and now we know how

passion rules. When we want to reach a particular conclusion, we search only for evidence that supports the conclusion. When we find some evidence, any evidence, we stop thinking. We don't lift a finger to seek out disconfirming evidence. So be sure before your next policy gamble that you consult some experts who don't share your hopes and values.

Week 4: **Developmental psychology.** Kids say the darnedest things, many of which are related to their egocentrism. They see the world from their own position, and until the age of 6 or so they don't understand that people who stand in a different place see different things. So don't send a 5-year-old off to do a 7-year-old's job. Be sure that our managers listen to others and seek out solutions that are mutually beneficial.

Week 5: **Social psychology.** There is often a "diffusion of responsibility" such that the more people there are who could help in a crisis; the less likely anyone will act. But watch out for "reactance," the anger people feel at being told what to do. Alpha-male chimpanzees, Mafia bosses and presidents of Harvard quickly find everyone else ganging up on them when they don't treat their associates with respect. Do something now and then to give at least the appearance that we care about the public and don't think of ourselves as being above the law.

Week 6: **Clinical psychology.** You don't have delusions of grandeur because you really are the (put title here). And you can't be accused of paranoia because (put reason why here).

ARTICLES [LA City Council debates wearing of masks](#) It started as a dispute over the use of the n-word during public comments to the Los Angeles City Council. On Friday, it escalated into a debate over whether people should be allowed to wear masks while testifying before the council. In both instances, the debates were prompted by City Hall gadflies who scrutinize the council and testify about everything from their protest rights to special permit waivers awarded by the council.

3 Open Government

Provide Original invoices for September, October and November 2007 for air time for City Blackberry's
Please be advised that the records you request contain telephone numbers, which the California Court of Appeals has found to be privileged information pursuant to the deliberative process privilege. Accordingly, they are exempt from production pursuant to Government Code section 6255 and will not be produced.

Please provide the citation on the CCA

Provide emails sent and received by all Councilmember's, Mr. Starbird, Mr. Howard during the period on Tuesdays from 6PM to 12Midnight during the months of June through November 21, 2007.

Please be advised that there are no responsive records

But I see them using their blackberries every Tuesday evening. There must be a record. I modify the request to include the names of the senders to the recipients of those on the dais, the topic of the email and to include any directives from the City Attorney's office to those on the dais in handling the public records request. A further amendment to include the documents that provide the policies, procedures and practices to store email sent and received on city computers, servers and Blackberry's

With regard to your modified request, please be advised that since there were no records responsive to your original request, it would follow that there are no records responsive to your request as to the first part. With regard to the second part, please be advised that directives from the City Attorney's office are privileged attorney-client communications, and therefore exempt from production. However, records responsive to the last part of your request are available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

[CPRAR 11-21-07, Provide E-Mail by all Councilmen, Starbird & Howard](#)

GRANDVIEW UPDATE: It is apparent that the City of Glendale Abatement action has proven to be effective! On December 19, 2007, attorney David Baum filed an Ex Parte application to obtain a Court Order allowing his client, 49% owner Moshe Goldsman to take the following action:

1. Allow the immediate removal and trimming of trees;
2. Removal of all dead vegetation;

- Installation of an above ground watering system that will be set up along the lines/borders of the sidewalk to ensure no disturbance of surface of gravesites.

Mr. Baum reported that the entire work should take approximately 4-6 weeks, beginning as early as December 20, 2007. It should be noted proceeds from the accumulated interest of the endowment care fund is to be used for this maintenance issue and an audit of that available sum is currently underway. The order was granted and unopposed by the City Attorney Mike Grant and Plaintiff's Counsels, Mary Der-Parseghian and Paul Ayers. However, both Ms. Der-Parseghian and Mr. Ayers requested that a status report be filed five days before the next status conference of February 6th 2008, inclusive of an Access Report dealing with the ability to visit loved ones at the cemetery once the work has been completed and a regular maintenance program is in place.

Plaintiff's counsel, Mary Der-Parseghian will work closely with Mr. Baum to ascertain a clear schedule and time-plan for all work to be performed so we may begin to concentrate again on the issue of access to the cemetery. It is horrible that the City's efforts did not place enough pressure to get some of this work completed prior to the holidays but we must all be thankful that it did make an impact and work is underway. Plaintiff's counsel, Mary Der-Parseghian has assured Vanguard, "we will work very hard to make sure that 2008 will be a better year by providing the maximum available access to the public."

4 Vanguard

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

VANGUARDIANS

Contribution Form Please make checks payable to "**VANGUARDIANS**"
 Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
 If contributing by Credit Card call 818 243 1502 or Fax to 818 243 2601
 Checks are best -- the bank doesn't discount them

Name on Card: _____ Address on Bill: _____ ZIP _____

Card Number: _____ VCode: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Signature: _____

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

Email HUVanguard1@charter.net 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 your advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.**

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5 Humor



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Rat is the City Council Ms Rat is the Public...How rude!