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The Government Watchdog

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attention**

# Vanguard

Los Angeles CA Vol VI  
Week of December 26, 2010  
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**INVESTIGATE ANALYZE EXPOSE PUBLICIZE -- BRIBERY CORRUPTION FRAUD GRAFT**

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

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"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson.

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**Sacramento** – State Controller John Chiang issued a [scathing report](#) on MAYER HOFFMAN MCCANN P.C. (IRVINE OFFICE) (MHM) the auditors for the City of Bell. Chiang set in motion a potential lawsuit that may allow Bell to recover from their auditor damages for failing to spot irregularities in their audit. Bell is not the only city that uses MHM. The City of Glendale uses an outside auditor as required by law but changes them frequently especially when the firms start finding irregularities, most recently in the failure of maintaining a payables aging list and holding payable over until the next fiscal year. The failure

to segregate certain funds was also noted. Glendale, like Bell annually receives [The Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#) to the City for its comprehensive annual financial report for the past fifteen fiscal years ended June 30, 1995 through June 30, 2009.

"The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. This award is valid for a period of one year."

The award is similar to those given by vanity book publishers. It does not mean there is substance only form. Learn more about the GFOA and their stand on accountability and then ask why your tax dollars fund it. [The Government Finance Officers Association Sets the Record Straight Regarding the Assertions Made in the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act introduced by Representatives Devin Nunes \(R-CA\), Paul Ryan \(R-WI\), and Darrell Issa \(R-CA\)](#)

- [Alabama State Lobbyist Pleads Guilty in Conspiracy to Influence and Corrupt Votes](#) Former Alabama state lobbyist Jarrod D. Massey pled guilty to his role in a wide-ranging conspiracy to bribe legislators in exchange for their favorable votes on pro-gambling legislation.
- **Vallejo CA** -- A five-year budget blueprint approved by the City Council on Nov. 30 spells out how Vallejo will meet \$195 million of unfunded pension obligations, its largest liability. It also delays payments to bondholders, trims employee benefits, creates a rainy-day fund and allocates \$5 million for unsecured creditors. The city must submit a bankruptcy-exit plan that includes the blueprint to a Sacramento court by Jan. 18.

Vallejo shows that negotiated settlements of budget problems may be better than the distractions of court deadlines and paying millions in legal fees, said [Paul Rosenstiel](#), California's deputy treasurer from 2007 to 2009. "A lot of cities looked at Vallejo and concluded that painful as it might be, there must be a better solution," said Rosenstiel, a principal with municipal-bond underwriter [De La Rosa & Co.](#) in San Francisco. [Click here for the article.](#)

- **Ventura CA** -- Rick Cole City Manager of Ventura agrees with the 60 Minutes report on the day of reckoning: "Sixty Minutes" aired a blistering report last night that predicts that state and local government face a "Day of Reckoning" in the next twelve months.

Typical for television, even of the quality of "Sixty Minutes," the 11 minute report skims the surface of the issue, giving a slanted take on the controversial topic. But while it skimmed on some important aspects, the show deserves to get the attention of the American people because the crisis is real. [Click here for the 60 Minutes Report and Cole's Comments.](#)

- [Charter Cities Side-Step State Mandates to Save Money](#) **City Charters can help save budgets by eliminating unnecessary expenses from public works projects. In this update of a previously published study, we can see how many cities are taking advantage of these rights, and what effects it has had. [Read more.](#)**

- **Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 all California new residential construction will require fire sprinklers.**

- **Vanguard again scoops the GNP – from October 31, 2010 Insider:** Two GPD officers are in hot water. One for DUI being picked up and booked by CHP and the other who was involved in a road rage incident in Burbank. The other driver was beaten senseless. The GPD officer teaches others about the use of excessive force. [ED – Vanguard requested the Glendale Police PIO to verify this and as of this time we haven't heard back.]



- [For cities and towns facing unsustainable pension costs, the end game may look something like Prichard, Ala.](#)

The financially troubled suburb of Mobile turned to bankruptcy court in October 2009 when it "simply ran of money to pay its pension obligations," says the city's lawyer R. Scott Williams. Prichard proposed capping benefits to current retirees at about \$200 a month, down from monthly payments of as much as \$3,000. "That's not a haircut, that's a scalping," said Larry Voit, who represented a group of 40 retired city workers in Prichard, population 27,500.

Though bankruptcy law remains murky on how far a city or town can go in scrapping deals for current retirees, cases like Prichard and other workout efforts stand to reshape the debate over how local governments deal with mounting public-pension problems.

The stakes are high for taxpayers, public workers and bondholders, as concerns escalate about whether governments can pay their debts.

The municipal-bond industry insists bankruptcy filings in that realm will remain rare. There were 10 municipal filings in 2009 and five so far this year, according to James Spiotto, a lawyer at Chapman & Cutler. Since the law was created in the 1930s, there have been only about 600 cases.

But legal and municipal-finance experts say rising pension costs, combined with dwindling state and federal aid, could push more cities to follow Prichard's lead, or at least raise the prospect as possible leverage in contract negotiations with public workers.

[More on Prichard from the NYTimes](#): This struggling small city on the outskirts of Mobile was warned for years that if it did nothing, its pension fund would run out of money by 2009. Right on schedule, its fund ran dry.

Then Prichard did something that pension experts say they have never seen before: it stopped sending monthly pension checks to its 150 retired workers...

**Rosemead CA** -- In a [Pasadena Star News](#) article about Southern California Edison requesting permission to raise rates the following information was included... The national average for a monthly electric bill is just under \$100, and the price per kilowatt hour is about 11.5 cents. SC Edison charges about 15 cents per kilowatt hour with an average monthly electric bill of \$90.30

- **Glendale CA** – Ara Najarian, Mayor of Glendale and a Board member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and his wife, Darlene, are calling it quits according to divorce papers filed on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

**SAMUEL ADAMS: It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds.**

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

# 1 COMMENTARY

You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them. The commentaries do not necessarily reflect the position of Vanguardians

## From the Publisher... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT



The city council, through management services, hired public relations firm Stacey Miller of Valencia to produce a self-serving evaluation of its finances. The [brochure](#) presents a collection of unsubstantiated claims such as:

***“The economic downturn has resulted in one of the worst recessions in the last century. However, through prudent fiscal management and a conservative approach to expenditures and investments, the City of Glendale not only continues to provide excellent public service...”***

It's true that we've had the worst recession in the last century, but property taxes have continued to increase in Glendale despite the recession. There is nothing prudent or conservative about allowing double-digit pay rate increases to police union members or millions of dollars in additional pension costs that don't benefit the city's residents. Prior reports by city consultants show the city with hundreds of millions in infrastructure repair backlog does not stop a misleading campaign to claim that the city provides excellent public service. Today's report by [Bruce Philpott](#) adds an element of truth to the false claims made on that public relations campaign. The city council members never needed help in misleading the public. Why they needed to pay a PR firm to do what city councilmen do so well is the real baffling question.



I thought that the Council approved a balanced budget in June 2010 for the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 6-30-2011 yet why did they pick a target date a few months prior to the election to circulate this fluff document... "Endeavor to publish 2nd - 3rd week in September, or potentially after the City's final budget has been approved, printed and uploaded to City website," ... was the statement inserted into the scope of services for the public relations firm.

First off, the document included not only some of the issues from the current budget but interspersed grants for the Fairmont Bridge from an earlier budget. The numbers from the GFD only showed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) which numbers are rather suspect.

Second, a section for 'Outside Investment' included only your taxpayer dollars that came from the State and the Fed. In fact the statement says \$54M and the numbers add up to more...go figure!

Third, there was no mention as to whether the budget fluff piece is for the entire \$800,000,000 budget or for just the General Fund.

Fourth, the Council is taking credit for increasing the age of pensioners, something that won't be felt for 20-30 years while they are not taking credit for the 55% increase in CalPERS payments in the next few years.

Fifth, there was no mention of the debt from bonds; from short term borrowing from banks; or from vendors by failing to pay bills timely. The City Manager once said at a GHCC meeting that he would borrow all he could for today and future generations would pay it back.

Sixth, there is no source for any of the statements made in this document. Every assertion is just that. I asked the City for the sources and they have refused to provide that information. It reminds me of an article in the [Wall Street Journal about Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy](#). Just because the city hired a PR firm, printed the 'report' and distributed it as an insert in the GNP, doesn't mean it is an accurate portrayal of what this Council accomplished. It is more accurately a better representation of BETRAYAL of the public trust.

Among items that are missing from Managements' directive were



- the \$30,000,000 in unfunded internal transfers;
- the issue of the potential violation of prop 218 - \$16,000,000;
- the issue of transmission towers in the residential areas (the commercial areas are covered because the antennas will be placed on light poles) to support the antennas for the smart meters;
- the millions of dollars of lawsuits that this Council has authorized such as AIG, a suit in an attempt to recover a \$10,000,000 judgement granted because of the city's negligence;
- the appeal of the Ovasapyan suit – the meter is still running on a suit that has a price tag approaching \$3,000,000 that could have been settled at its inception (the claim) for \$250,000.

The Council needs to take responsibility for their lack of direction to the police department. Ten officers suing regarding harassment, discrimination and a cadre of other events. One officer hauled in by CHP for DUI; another charged with road rage and the assault and battery of a civilian that will turn into a lawsuit and yet another suit where the officer is being sued for violating the civil rights of another and then fornicating with the wife of the wrongfully accused.

The document was devoid of any mention of the ADI scandal or the New Horizons mess; nor the lease of another building for the Neon Museum; or the specter of eminent domain for a private purpose.

The bottom line is that this self serving document is designed for the person who has little or no knowledge of Glendale government to get goo goo eyed and not realize they are being set up for another expensive foray into more debt. For a copy of the 'Scope of Services', reply to this email with, "Scope," in the subject line.



ADI update...our sources tell us that the receiver may be removed by the Court; that as fraud is an issue all the partners in the enterprise which includes the banks and the City; will be charged with complicity and that CoG is going to deny all liability especially when the house of cards comes tumbling down. The City will also have to apply to the Courts to have the Salem Street properties returned. Interesting that information was not provided in the great work the Council did on the budget.

The Tax Credit Allocation Committee is asking that \$956,428 in section 1602 funds be returned. Will it be an obligation of CoG or ADI?

The City has refused to provide the [information requested](#) under the Public Records Act because it is holding information that could affect the re-election of Drayman and Weaver to the City Council.

[I spoke to a reporter regarding the hiring back of former department heads](#) in Placerville who are collecting their pension. He wrote that it saved the city money. I suggested that it was double dipping and it did not save money. This writer had no comprehension of how CalPERS benefits were paid, whether or not the city carried unfunded liabilities or what the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is. **BARRY ALLEN**

**PS – JOIN US FOR NEW YEARS EVE AT THE LUNA PLAYHOUSE...BUY LOCAL AND ENJOY...**

New Year's Eve Event: The play **SALOME** and Dinner and Dancing at Luna Playhouse. 31st December 2010, From 7:30 pm. Dinner from 8:30 pm, the Play at 10 pm.

This year you can enjoy good food and wine with music to dance to and see a play about desire and passion gone wild -- in **SALOME**, with the famous Dance of the Seven Veils.

You may know the story from the Bible. However Oscar Wilde's play is different in one crucial aspect... that you'll find out when you see the play (which, by the way, is Al Pacino's favorite).

So, if you haven't finalized your plans for New Year's Eve, why don't you try something different? See a play while you have a great dinner and wine and then party all night.

Tickets are \$65 per person and \$100 for couples, but there is a 20% discount for you. Go to [www.itsmyseat.com](http://www.itsmyseat.com) and put in the code 1231 to get discount on either kind of ticket.



**NEXT WEEK: MORE ON THE REASONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUING FINANCIAL DEFICIT  
WHAT WE SHOULD BE ASKING CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL – TRANSPARENCY STARTS WITH THEM  
A SOLUTION TO RESTART THE ECONOMY WITH JOBS AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT**

**The penalty good men and women pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. PLATO**

*Most people want the benefits of an accountable government but are afraid to work for accountability or to support those that do often because they fear retaliation or are the beneficiaries of the largesse or corruption of government*

**THE SYMBOLIC NATURE OF THE HOLIDAYS IN GLENDALE**



If the traffic jams on Brand and Colorado are any indication of the economy, then we can rejoice this holiday season that the city's two major shopping centers, the Galleria and the Americana at Brand, will bring in additional tax revenue to the city. But those economic indicators may mean little hope for a city whose moral indicators seem to have taken a turn for the worse despite the holiday images of good will and good cheer.

We can start almost anywhere in the city to view the contrast between the images we create and the reality of our moral decay. We have the Christmas tree on Parcher Plaza and perhaps the tallest Christmas tree in the nation in the middle of the Americana shopping plaza. From those centers of artifice we can appreciate the dichotomy between image and substance we experience.

Behind the scenes at the Americana, we have its developer using his muscle to dominate an already compliant city council into forcibly taking the adjacent land of a hotel owner. We also found the official analytical reports of the Americana 's financial contribution to the city without the full disclosure of millions of dollars the city has paid in interest on the bonds it issued to obtain the properties it gave away to Caruso. That is the hallmark of Rick Caruso, a man who's found a lucrative alternative to honest competition through taxpayer subsidies and immoral politicians. The hallmark of Glendale's city government is in the dishonest report that aims to keep the voting public misinformed.

The gilded statue at the center of the Americana is reminiscent of the gilded age in a variant form of the late nineteenth century greed and political corruption. We are turning the clock back to a time when the strategy for success meant that men and groups in power resort to dishonest means to achieve it.



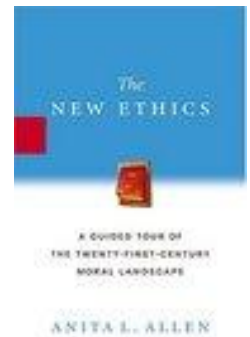
The poster boy of that transformation is none other than the city's ex-police chief, Randy Adams. We saw the television cameras following him this past week as he turned in his badge in disgrace. His formula for enriching himself required a dishonest contract with an outlaw city manager. It was not too long ago, when another of Adam's dishonest practices was a faux official city letter sent in his name to residents ready to vote on the Americana referendum. We tolerated Adam's dishonesty for years while city councilmen applauded him. It took a determined group of residents from a poor city to out his misdeeds and kick him and his cronies out.

But we have yet to see a similar concerted action to seek an honest government in the much wealthier city of Glendale. The city's police officers' association demanded and got their 11% year over year pay increases despite the dire financial impact on the city's finances and its residents. We then saw the city take predatory action against its own citizens making up its revenues shortfall with higher utility fees.

Despite previous reports by the utility that tens of thousands of residents could hardly afford their utility bills, the city's councilmen and staff kept those dire reports out of their discussion in their quest to drive fees and revenues higher. But if the worsening economic conditions of the private sector were not enough, the Quality-of-Life indicators, a report that the councilmen and city manager kept under wraps for over a year, was finally released to a cacophony of near-insults by the council members at the city staffers who prepared it. Obesity in children is up. Drug use by teens is up. Pedestrian safety continues to be dismal, but effective policies to correct never took traction with any of the council members.

The city schools saw its finances take a hit from the state legislature, yet Glendale's city government kept its energy fees to the Unified School District artificially high. The city, desperate to control its runaway pension budget, would rather keep the unreasonable pensions of its own employees instead of cutting the rates and saving the jobs of dozens of teachers. The city's electricity rates to the GUSD are nearly double what they are in Los Angeles. Fair utility rates that meet the legal criteria set by the courts in legal cases would save nearly two dozen teaching jobs. But don't look for adherence to the law or fairness from a city that may already have the most immoral governing body in its history.

At the heart of this the city's troubles are three city employee organizations hell-bent on getting ahead financially at the expense of the city's infrastructure and quality of life. The race to get the highest paid and earliest retirement is on. Don't look for efficiencies. Don't look for performance indicators. Don't look for responsible project management practices. Above all, don't look for a guilty conscience or an ounce of empathy from the leadership of these groups as they aim to control the elections through funding, endorsements and dishonest means.



Anita Allen, professor of law and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania defined the current moral state of our country in her book The New Ethics. "A sense of fairness is a prerequisite for a moral democratic society." We have an arduous road ahead to restore that vision to our local governments. We can send that Christmas wish to Santa, but don't hold your breath if you don't find it waiting under this year's Christmas tree.

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

## WHAT THE DATA TELLS US ABOUT GLENDALE'S FINANCIAL CONDITION



The City of Glendale's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2010 has just been posted on the city's website. Several key indicators in the Statistical Section present the true overall financial condition of the city.

Over the past nine years (2002 to 2010), Glendale's expenditures exceeded revenues by a whopping \$315 million. In the same time period, the city took out long term bond debt in a similar amount (\$328.3 million) to cover the deficit spending and called the borrowed money "revenue". This procedure is permissible in municipal government accounting practices, even though it is highly misleading. But it is the only way cities like Glendale have been able to claim they have a "balanced" budget each year. Prior to 2002, Glendale always paid its own way from revenue it received. Even though it is coming to its borrowing limits, in desperation, it will take on more bond debt and claim it as revenue to give the impression it can still balance the books. Like most cities in similar situations, it will continue to hide the financial realities that taxpayers will have to come to grips with for as long as they can. This includes both



executive and political leaders. They have the incentive to keep the real picture under wraps because they will suffer the public's wrath when their overspending finally becomes blatantly apparent. They have become good fiscal magicians, using sophisticated smoke and mirrors and sleight of hand to accomplish the cover up at this point. But like most trickery, the reality will ultimately prevail.

Annual payments on the bond debt grew from \$8 million in 2003 to \$15 million in 2010.

Tens of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance and repair is being logged each year. Over the past five years, a total of seven miles of roadway were resurfaced instead of the scheduled seventy five. Public Works has had a prudent maintenance standard of fifteen miles per year, but has deferred over 90% of the work to uncertain dates in the future due to a lack of money in its budget. Some of the federal stimulus money the city received went into paving five miles of roadways in FY 2010, but that was a one-time funding event. The deferred maintenance will have an enormous impact on taxpayers in the not so distant future. The same deferred maintenance problems are mounting in other city infrastructures such as sewers, water and power.

Like many other cities with financial problems, the primary reason Glendale has not been able to pay for its traditional services, programs, maintenance and repairs is because it has given excessive salaries and benefits, including pensions, to a bloated workforce through their bargaining units. During the first year following the recession (2008) the city posted a record high number of full-time employees at 1,990. In Fiscal Year 2010, the city posted 1,904 positions, a 4.7% reduction. Glendale's public employee workforce grew ten times faster than the general population over the past decade (30% vs 3%).

The following departments posted their employee numbers in 2007 and 2010.

City Attorney: cut 5 positions	Library: no change
City Clerk: cut 1 position	Parks and Recreation: cut 2 positions
City Manager: no change	Fire: no sworn changes but cut 8 civilian positions
Finance: <b>added</b> 5 positions	Police: cut 9 sworn positions and 18 civilian positions
Human Resources: <b>added</b> 7 positions	Public Works: <b>added</b> 17 positions
Information Services: cut 8 positions	Redevelopment: <b>added</b> 1 position
Planning: cut 1 position	Water and Power: cut 9 positions
Community Development and Housing: cut 11 positions	

### **In comparing the CAFR's of Glendale and Pasadena, there were some similarities.**

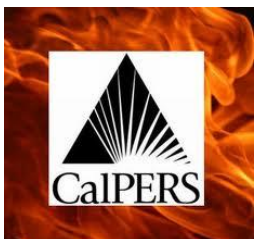
For example, Pasadena over spent its income by \$312.2 million and secured long term bonds in similar amounts, just like Glendale.

Pasadena expenditures for police and fire from 2003 to 2010 grew by 61% (from \$64.9 million to \$104.9 million). Glendale's expenditures for police and fire in the same period grew by 81% (from \$62.7 million to \$113.1 million).

Pasadena has a greater demand for both police and fire services based on crime statistics and emergency call volume for medical and fire.

Two of Glendale's three largest employers are government (Glendale city government first with the GUSD third). The second is a hospital. Pasadena's three largest employers are all private entities and city government is ranked 8th.

Structural reform will be needed for Glendale to regain financial solvency, however, it does not seem to be on the radar of its political and executive leadership. In a very short period of time, the city will no longer be able to borrow the kind of money it needs to meet its obligations, approximately \$40 million annually since 2003. At that point, it will be forced to go back to its long tradition of "pay-as-you-go".



But this time it will exact a lot of pain on the public, taxpayers and city employees. With a citizen council that lacks any real knowledge of the city's financial matters, the responsibility to remove the veil of secrecy is with the city manager, Jim Starbird. He has the ultimate responsibility to level with the public, taxpayers, business owners, city staff and council. A city managers group in the East Bay area has decided to take the ethical and moral high road. Beginning several months ago, they started telling the real story of their city's financial plight for the first time. Glendale's city council should demand that the city manager present them with not just the good, but also the honest and real bad and the honest and real ugly.

Last month CalPERS placed cities throughout California on notice that they will be required to increase their contributions as a percentage of payroll by 50% over the next three years. Glendale's leadership can no longer pretend to be surprised

when the cost of employees, both working and retired, continues to skyrocket. It has grown beyond the city's financial capacity to pay for it.

In spite of this, the city is preparing to conduct a promotional examination for deputy fire chief, a position that has been vacant for over a year. The full cost burden of this position will incur further debt to the city of over \$275,000 per year. The city had established a policy of not filling vacant positions due to a need to be fiscally austere – a response to the recession of 2007.

Blaming the current fiscal problem on the recession denies that deficit spending began in 2002.

The city has a professional duty and responsibility to the public's trust to be completely honest with the city's finances.

**BRUCE PHILPOTT**

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

### 2 Shout Box

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, Vanguard News Service, the

organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



From a Vanguard advisor: The city felt it had a PR problem; why else hire a firm to create a fictitious picture of the city. What a crock. JK

The City has spent thousands of tax dollars on branding, on a 'buy local' campaign and yet hires a PR firm from Valencia to write the prose on the budget. It appears to be another 'do as I say not as I do'

situation. JD



**Incompetent Incumbents:** Happy New Year to Vanguardians and all Glendalians who will get a chance to see some fresh faces on the City Council as we happily say good riddance to two incompetents (and worse) Dave Weaver and his over-primped fellow traveler John Drayman. Two gents from the pampered school of special interest politics who will still be rubbing their eyes in disbelief after the final votes are counted on election night and they learn that the voters have finally sent them packing--and to both, don't let the door hit your fancy pants in the derriere on the way out.

As for their yet to be determined successors, we'll take almost anyone with at least an honest face. With the notable exception of the two cloned water boys currently currying favors from the powers that be for a shot at fame and fortune as yes-men for the double overtime, bloated pension crowd controlling city hall--Please no Zankou Armenian and Michael Teahan. No offense boys, we just can't afford either of you. So quit licking your chops at the prospect of getting your hands on Glendale's piggy bank. It's time both of you wannabe fat cats got real jobs that have nothing to do with feeding at the public trough. NAJ

**GFD Promotion:** If there is only going to be one applicant for the Deputy Fire Chief's job shouldn't they be recruiting other candidates from outside the city? I think the city has a responsibility to find and hire the best our money can buy through a competitive process. If there is only one insider, then they really must expand their recruitment to draw a good field of qualified individuals. One is simply not enough, especially if it is an insider. Isn't it time our managers stopped cloning themselves and brought in a fresh perspective? Maybe that will act to start transforming our city into one that is more responsible with our tax dollars and less interested in self serving practices. Selecting a candidate simply because he or she is the last or only one standing flies in the face of open and responsible government. This is a major investment, treat it like one.

Is it true they just tested for Battalion Chief and there was only one application for that too? Why is it the firemen don't want to test for higher office? Is that just further testimony to their raking in too much overtime and having to work only a few days a month? Or is it maybe the existing bosses ensuring only people who fit their own mold bother to apply? Or both?

The insider comments about the new fire chief position this past week obviously came from someone within the fire department itself. All is obviously not so wonderful among the heroes of the jewel city. **RC**

**Vanguard's expert responds:** The educational requirement for the Deputy Fire Chiefs job calls for a four year degree and not a masters. I do not know how many b/c's have a four year degree except for Doyle. The reason why few file for promotions is because at any rank, they can make the same money and not have the pressure of higher rank. Last year one firefighter (entry level position) earned \$202,000. Is there any reason for him to want to seek promotion? A promotion

gives the firefighter least seniority in the new rank and he signs up last for vacations, job assignments, etc. Some fire stations are busier than others, social cliques take form and members want to stay together on the same work schedule, etc.. Being one of the least tenured offers the fewest options.

Fire departments the size of Glendale's are reluctant to recruit from outside. Being a Class I city, they feel they have the best qualified and going outside to recruit sends the message that the department feels it does not have the best candidates. Going outside for the department head (chief) is more common, but not always, depending on the talent inside. **BP**

Will you reprint the pensions that City Retirees are getting? LM

**Below is the Glendale \$100K Pension Club...**

Name	Annual		Annual
ANTHONY, JAMES	\$115,696.68	MARCHMAN, MARIO Police	\$114,873.48
BAILEY, WILLIAM Fire	\$137,919.12	MARKSS, JOEL	\$126,238.80
<b>BIGGS, DONALD* Fire</b>	<b>\$150,554.52</b>	MEREDITH, DONALD Police	\$134,846.04
BILHEIMER, JACK	\$104,972.40	MICHAEL, PETER	\$109,941.72
BINNER, KURT	\$122,789.28	MILLER, GEORGE	\$101,954.04
BLAKE, MADALYN	\$108,981.00	MILLER, GERALD	\$116,933.40
BRADEN, RONALD	\$129,762.72	MORRISON, JACK	\$104,982.72
CARRIGER, DEAN	\$105,559.44	MOSER, JAMES	\$101,049.96
CARTER, MICHAEL	\$100,425.00	MUIS, JEFFREY	\$117,109.92
CUMBESS, CLARK	\$103,090.44	PAQUET, JON	\$119,788.08
<b>DISTASO, MARK* Police</b>	<b>\$149,214.12</b>	PATRIC, LAUREL	\$108,975.36
DUSS, GERALD	\$100,308.48	PERKINS, JONATHAN	\$129,726.84
ELMER, ALAN	\$107,275.92	PHIPPS, GREGORY	\$120,422.88
FERNANDEZ, FELIZARDO	\$100,135.44	PIERCE, RUSSELL	\$105,211.56
FRANZ, ROBERT	\$136,419.36	POST, MICHAEL	\$126,556.80
FROELICH, DONALD	\$118,391.88	PRESTEN, JOHN	\$107,582.28
GIAMPAOLO, JEFFREY	\$104,390.04	<b>REZ, JAMES*</b>	<b>\$139,964.16</b>
<b>GRAY, CHRISTOPHER* Fire</b>	<b>\$185,489.28</b>	RIVA, CARLO	\$103,223.76
GUAY, LEWIS Police	\$101,608.44	SANZ, MANUEL	\$104,344.68
<b>HALL, WILLIAM*</b>	<b>\$150,911.16</b>	SHADE, DONALD	\$123,018.60
<b>HANEY, MICHAEL* Fire</b>	<b>\$150,398.16</b>	SHEA, PATRICK	\$104,868.36
HANSEN, MARK	\$101,343.84	<b>SIVERLING, RUSSELL* Police</b>	<b>\$161,287.80</b>
HERNANDEZ, RICHARD	\$108,555.00	STANICK, RON	\$116,706.48
HINZ, RICHARD Fire	\$125,360.16	STOLZE, GERALD	\$108,487.68
HOFFMAN, JOHN	\$115,032.48	STOWE, RALPH	\$107,199.96
<b>HOWARD, STEVEN * Fire</b>	<b>\$175,009.80</b>	SWINFORD, JAMES Police	\$133,378.32
KISHIMOTO, NAOMI	\$107,624.04	TETREULT, OLIVER	\$119,020.44
LEBLANC, LUCIEN	\$100,392.48	THOMPSON, DAVID	\$121,277.40
LEE, ALBERT	\$137,511.12	TORRES, LINO	\$103,608.36
LINGUA, JOHN	\$123,966.96	WHIPP, MARK	\$104,534.28
LOVEJOY, GREGORY	\$106,911.12	<b>WOODS, DAVID*</b>	<b>\$141,973.80</b>
MANENTE, CHARLES	\$100,647.72	WOODY, JAMES	\$111,868.32
		<b>WRIGHT, DONALD* Fire</b>	<b>\$149,546.04</b>

Your search returned 65 records **Top 10** -- Total Amount for Glendale is \$7,787,149.92 Annually

<http://database.californiapensionreform.com/database.asp?vtsearchname=&vtsearchemploy=glendale&vtquery=1&vttable=calpers>



Do you know this man? Let Vanguard know if you do. He has robbed banks in Torrance, Whittier and Norwalk.

# 3



## Public Information



“Just the facts”

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

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

1. Invoices submitted to City
2. Sub contractor agreements
3. Proof of insurance
4. Correspondence from City employees and consultants and to David Pasternak the Court Appointed Receiver
5. Reports from and to David Pasternak the Court Appointed Receiver
6. The report from the Receiver to the Court as provided to the City
7. Construction photographs sent to Chris in the Inspection Department or in another department during October 2010 Submitted: 110110 due 111110

Provide documents showing the tow contract cost recovery fees and all other fees turned over to the city since April 1, 2010 through and including October 2010. Submitted: 112210 due 120210

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

### Agendas for the City of Glendale CA



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)

Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 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

All City meetings during the week of December 27<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled.

All City offices and library branches will re-open for business at their usual times on Monday, December 27.

All City offices and library branches will be closed on Friday, December 31 and re-open for business at their usual times on

January 3.

**TRASH COLLECTION:** There will be no change in the refuse collection schedule during this holiday season.

**HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING:** Begins Monday, December 27 and runs through Friday, January 14. For questions about restrictions, or days of collection, call (818) 548-3916.

# 4 *Vanguardians*

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE....

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

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

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



### Asking the Hard Questions

Through deep journalistic investigations Vanguardians will ask provocative questions, investigate the quality of

government services and the people who deliver them, and report on the good and bad practices of government.

### Engaging Stakeholders

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

### Getting Results

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

We need your help, especially in the coming election year....Sincerely, Barry Allen, Director

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

People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.

Your employee Association doesn't support you, DON'T support them. Instead, send your union dues to Vanguardians as allowed by the [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#) for LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Vanguard is following these lawsuits and others: the 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Hunter; Mendoza.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Federal Appeals Court upheld the trial court ruling in favor of Ovasapyan. The cost to the taxpayers, including outside attorney fees should be about \$3M. Meanwhile the City Council is spending money to determine if they should, once again, appeal this matter.


The cases cited are from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa.

## VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

Please make checks payable to "VANGUARDIANS" Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226  
Your contributions are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.
- [www.maplight.org](http://www.maplight.org) to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

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

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



Last week the new community development department had a big unveiling for staff that went over like a lead balloon. Staff gave Starbird a cold reception, but Starbird stuck around long enough to watch Hassan throw Phil Lanzafame under the bus for a brutal 45 minutes without saying a word. The big question is "How can Hassan make this expanded Department work when he failed to make the old smaller department work?"



It was noted last week that Glendale is losing a good manager in George Chapjian, but Starbird keeps expanding the role of weak leaders blindly without ever looking to see if they are effective with their current duties. It seems that managements' answer to problems is to hire PR firms to convince the rest of us that their sh\*\* doesn't stink!

Your employee Association doesn't support you, **DON'T** support them. Instead, send your union dues to Vanguardians as allowed by the [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#) for LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

## 6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS



### Council is dark



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

When did it begin?

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

\* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

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



## 7 DAVIS VIEW OF THE WEEK



Normally this is the quiet time of year spent on year in reviews and odd commentaries. However, late last week the county reached agreement with infamous developer Tsakopoulos on a water and the city quickly followed suit, with a special meeting set for December 21 when most people would be on vacation to approve an agreement with the infamous developer on summer water rights.

It all started Sunday with a call from Councilmember Joe Krovoza about meeting on Monday night.

"Note: Stephen Souza and Joe Krovoza have arranged a public Q&A session for Monday evening, December 20 at 7:00 pm in the Davis Council Chamber. The gathering will focus on the pending Woodland-Davis water rights purchase and the water supply project aspects of the proposed agreement. This Q&A session seeks to inform the public and address concerns preceding the meetings that will formally consider the agreements on Tuesday, December 21, of the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (4:00 pm, Woodland City Council Chambers), and the Davis City Council (6:30 pm, Davis Council Chambers). Council members Souza and Krovoza invite all interested parties to attend."

For their guest commentary click [here](#)

Monday: [Water: What's the Hurry?](#)

"This is normally the time of year I am scrambling to find new stories and spending most of my time resting and writing up a few year-in-reviews to fill space and bide my time until January when the world restarts.

But that is not the case this year, as last week we suddenly learned that the water process which had been moving slowly for years was suddenly rushing in a torrent. The Board of Supervisors rammed through an agreement with Angelo Tsakopoulos, a person I would not trust with someone else's money, let alone taxpayer money."

Tuesday: [Tsakopoulos Drives Water Deal](#)

"On Monday we asked what the rush was with this water deal that necessitated a decision during the time that normally people are on vacation and spending time with their families. On Monday night, in a packed City Hall, part with citizens skeptical of the deal, the other part with consultant and water experts arguing this is our only shot, we finally got the answer: Sacramento developer Angelos Tsakopoulos was driving the deal and the deadline.

The public complaint is the speed at which this deal is progressing, the lack of time for public input and the fact that this is happening during winter break, leading many in this community to question whether those in power are not somewhat hiding the ball here, and trying to hide portions of this deal from full public inquiry."

Wednesday: [Council Approves Water Deal With Little Suspense by Predictable 4-1 Margin](#)

"Calling it an historic agreement, the council while acknowledging the unfortunate calendar reality, nevertheless relented to the consistent pressure to pass the water deal prior to the December 31 deadline imposed by the Conaway Preservation Group (CPG) and the Tri-City company owned by Tsakopoulos who is trying to gain controlling interest in CPG.

In the end, it was not that the council was unconcerned about the lack of public process, but rather it was that they were not concerned enough."

Friday: [Commentary: This is About Process Not Conspiracy Theories](#)

People keep asking me if I think this is a good deal for Davis and Yolo County. Quite frankly I do not know the answer to that. It may be a good deal, it may not be a good deal. We may not know the answer to that for some time.

However, the point I think that needs to be made over and over again is that democracy is not about outcomes. We could get together and figure out the best solution and impose it on the people, that is not democracy. Democracy is about process - open process, transparent process, and sometimes messy process.

**David M. Greenwald, Executive Director, [The People's Vanguard of Davis](#)**

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## **8 BELL RINGER**



A federal judge sentenced a former officer with the Bell Police Department to nine years in federal prison for sexually assaulting a female motorist and violating her civil rights, the Justice Department announced.

Feliciano Sanchez, 35 of Pico Rivera, received the sentence for the civil rights offense from U.S. District Judge Valerie Baker Fairbank.

Judge Fairbank said "the offense was serious, involving predatory conduct, [and was] committed by a police officer acting under color of law."

Sanchez pleaded guilty last year to violating the female victim's civil rights when he forced her to perform oral sex after stopping her for a traffic violation. Sanchez admitted in court that on May 16, 2007, he took the victim in his patrol car to an isolated parking lot away from the traffic stop. During the assault, Sanchez placed his hand on his duty weapon and forced the victim to perform the sex act.

This makes one wonder why the Bell Police Officers Association is supporting BASTA that will support people that will vote to keep the BPD intact.

There are very few officers that were willing to speak out as did one former officer who has now retired. Others did as they were told even if what they did was on the line between right and wrong. Certainly there is no way that the residents can afford to pay the wages, pensions and costs of a City Police Department. It is time to consider either the LA Sheriff or a regional police authority.

**Danny Lopez**

**PS – Thanks to Steve, here are the candidates for City Council:**

General Election:

Guillermo "Willie" Aguilar  
Violeta Alvarez  
Fidencio, Gallardo  
Estela Mota  
Marcos A Oliva  
Mario Rivas  
Ali Saleh  
Imelda Serrano

Nestor Valencia  
Lorenzo Velez

2-recall seats:

Danny Harber  
**Janice Leal Bass**  
**Miguel Sanchez**  
**Lorenzo Miguel Martinez**  
**Ana Maria Quintana**

## 9 OXNARD SPEAKS

[Martin Jones spoke out on accountability](#), (at 15 minutes after the beginning of the Council meeting) and the need for an outside forensic audit of Enterprise funds not relying on MHM who have been cited by the State Controller for deficient, questionable work in Bell.

Oxnard City Hall was locked down by the DA in August with search warrants issued for the homes and offices of those officials involved in the financial dealings of the city.

The City Staff has been approving \$100,000 change orders without the approval of the Council.

The Criminal Grand Jury has requested the DA take action. Martin Jones

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