



"Accountability"  
Glendale's Watchdog



**Vanguard**  
Weekly News Vol III  
Week of December 30 2007  
City of Glendale, CA Edition  
[www.vanguardians.org](http://www.vanguardians.org)

## HEADLINES

Thanks to Advocates

# BREAKING NEWS! FPPC Complaint Filed Against Weaver

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:

**City of Carson under the leadership of Dave Morris will be joining as a Vanguardians chapter following Oxnard under the guidance of Marty Jones**

## HEADLINES

Thanks to those who have consistently spoken out on issues that affect our Quality of Life

Al Hofmann  
Aram Kazazian  
Barry Allen  
Bonnie Adams  
Bruce Philpott  
Cynthia Lloyd Jones  
Dick Murray

Evelyn Hansen  
Harout Demirjian  
Harry Zavos  
Hasmik Demirjian  
Herbert Molano  
Jolene Taylor  
Leon Mayer

Linda Lalaian  
Margaret Hammond  
Michael Teahan  
Mike Mohill  
Mike Nagle  
Nancy Kent  
Richard Espiritu

Robert Thompson  
Roobik Ovanesian  
Sharon Thompson  
Sharon Weisman  
Vache Mangassarian

**And to many others that have appeared to represent the public. And to those who have become the kitchen cabinet corps of advisors: attorney's CPAs, financial advisors, public safety expert consultants, politicians, elected officials and others. Thanks to Larry Zarian, Rafi Manoukian and Vrej Agajanian for having Barry on their cable TV shows to get the message out about Vanguard. (Larry Zarian will be hosting Barry again on January 10<sup>th</sup>). And to Linda Lazar and Hal Weber for their web services.**

**And a special thanks to those that have made donations to keep the activity of advocacy alive and well.**

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

**A special thanks to City employees who wish to remain anonymous for their assistance in resolving issues and working toward correcting the process and for going the extra mile. At some point when retaliation is not a factor, perhaps we'll be able to publicly thank them all.**



**Thanks to Moses and the Grim Reaper (with the weed whacker) for sharing the three tablets of the law, the Political Reform Act, the Brown Act and the Public Records Act at the October 30<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.**



**Save money & Reduce your income tax liability – make a generous donation to Vanguardians**

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

Thanks to the 150 informed people that attended our first candidates forum and for the Thompsons for videotaping, Bob McGreevy, Aram Kazazian, Richard Espiritu and Pauline Field for helping to make it a success.



A special thanks to the FBI, Homeland Security, the District Attorney, the US Attorney and the Fair Political Practices Commission for taking us seriously.

Thanks to Jim Starbird and his staff, the Glendale Fire Department, Scott Howard and his staff, Mayor Ara Najarian, Council members Dave Weaver, Frank Quintero, Bob Yousefian and John Drayman without whom there would be no need for Vanguardians or Vanguard.

Thanks to the Daily News, the Glendale News Press and the LA Times for their coverage.

Thanks to Landmark Education for their Curriculum for Living that helped me, Barry Allen, focus on the importance of public advocacy and helping Vanguardians become a community leader in enabling our vision 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.



A Very special thanks to my editor, soul mate and best friend, Pauline Field, for her support, love, understanding and encouragement

**BREAKING NEWS:**

Fair Political Practices Commission complaint regarding Dave Weaver, – Glendale City Council – Failure to report on Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for 2005 and 2006 his role as president of Dreaming of Roses Inc., was filed December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

John & Ken identified the 5 Council members as 1 with a brain, 1 with ½ brain and 3 that have brain stems, on their December 20<sup>th</sup> show. See below for the answer as to which is which. [Listen to Streaming Audio of John & Ken Shows Regarding Glendale's Tree Ordinance](#)

**Weekly Council Scorecard**

Council	12-18	Overall	
Drayman	B	B	<a href="mailto:jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us">jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Najarian	B	B	<a href="mailto:anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us">anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Quintero	A	B	<a href="mailto:fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us">fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Weaver	B	C	<a href="mailto:dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us">dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
Yousefian	A	B	<a href="mailto:byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us">byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
			<a href="mailto:SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us">SHoward@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>
			<a href="mailto:Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us">Starbird@ci.glendale.ca.us;</a>

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](mailto:logicpoint@aol.com).

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



E28 shopping in Tujunga

Work an average of 15 hours per month and get paid \$200,000 per year. Never work alone. What a great job! Join the GFD. GFD Engine 28 crew bought groceries in Tujunga, out of district, out of the City, while Engine 21 visited Station 25 for lunch... What job allows 4 people to take a million dollars worth of equipment for a joy ride and allows them to write on their official log, "AOR" (available on radio)? Where is the accountability?

Reduce your income tax liability – make a donation to Vanguardian:

Congress Passes Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act He adds a

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

**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](http://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.

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# 1 Commentary

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

The New Year – What to expect. Home prices going down will result in lowered assessments as homeowners apply to the County for reductions. Losing the Utilities User Tax lawsuit will result in less revenue. The State's fiscal crises will result in a) the State taking back money and b) reducing the amount of money that the City would normally receive. The City is facing reduced revenues and increased expenses including the interest on almost \$200,000,000 in bonds. Some members of the public have started the outcry for purchases of Rockhaven, Mountain Oaks and the Verdugo Golf Course which isn't even in Glendale. Council member Drayman asked a speaker about how this 'purchase' would benefit South Glendale. No answer. Our Council locked us in on multi-year contracts for fire and police with a resultant increase to the Managers Association when ever rank and file get increases. The Council supported or encouraged by Management wants to increase pay to get better employees; keep pay higher than other municipalities. Council does not even consider private sector pay scales when they compare salaries.

Here are some solutions: Land purchases should be assessed against those that are able to use the land (Special Benefit Tax Districts); those that want to purchase Verdugo Golf Course should create a cooperative and then buy it, maintain it and not have it become a tax burden will be happier. Cookie and bake sales always work. The police dogs were purchased and trained by public contributions. The \$90,000 annual fee for the Glendale Rose Float should not be subsidized by the City. It should be paid for by public contributions. The GRFA had \$150,000 in its bank account as of 12-31-2006 with untold monies in the special bank account controlled by Council member Weaver and the money in his new Dreaming of Roses Inc. Now Weaver wants to give scholarships with money collected to pay the City for the float. The public contributed that money to pay for the float. Where does Weaver get off with changing the rules?

Need a new fire engine or truck? Just pass the boot.

All is not gloom and doom. New development will bring in scads of money, Amidi, Intracorp, Caruso Affiliated, Verdugo Gardens, SNK to name a few of those developers willing to invest about \$1,500,000,000 here even though there are some people that complain that this will bring change and congestion. Compare that \$1.5B with the assets of the City, \$1.5B. Without that new revenue stream Glendale would not be able to support the payroll juggernaut they have built. Next year at this time you will be hearing the rhetoric for more police, more fire, higher wages, and hillside, tree and fence ordinances. Ask the candidates the really hard questions? Why do we need more people? How will we pay for them? Don't be misled and distracted. Educate yourself. If you aren't informed on the issues, don't vote! Get informed, ask questions. Ask how the services should be measured.

**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. It doesn't take an Act of Congress  
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.

It looks like Dave Weaver pulled another fast one with regard to the Dreaming of Roses corporation that, interestingly. Carries the same name as the Dreaming of Roses committee of the Glendale Rose Float Association. I am a former Board member of the GRFA and we never, during my time, saw the books showing

the income and expense of the Dreaming of Roses fund raiser. Weaver took the money and put it into a bank account that the GRFA could not access even though it used our IRS number. When will we know more about this? Who will look into it? JC [ED see breaking news]

Is City Attorney Scott Howard an enabler or is he just afraid to say, “No?” He seems to approve bad behavior by the Council and to smile at Mr. Weaver's intransigence. In doing so he helps make the City Council look stupid and impotent. Lawsuits are lost because the Judge was wrong and then after more money is poured in on the appeal...which is lost as well...his department is unwilling to accept the blame for creating more expense for the City. Is Mr. Howard planning on going to work as the rainmaker for the municipal legal section in a big name law firm? JG

The City Council should manage salaries for the 14 or 15 department managers and make the decisions about their salary scales. It should not be left to the city manager to make the decision as to how these people will be paid, as we saw at the last Council meeting when the city manager personalized the subject

of pay raises and forced the council to look at the people on the dais instead of looking at the work they have or have not done for the city. Measurements must be made so the council would be better able to make those decisions as to how the raises should be given. I also wonder why the GWP workers are not

unionized and the sanitation workers are not unionized. They provide essential services as does the police department and on occasion the fire department. If the city can allow the managers to unionize why do they not allow the rank and file workers to unionize as well (other than GCEA)? KF

**CALLS** I understand the letter about the flag not being flown properly. Your idea about getting military organizations involved is good. Maybe GWP can light the flags with solar energy.

Neighborhood parking solutions are available by buying up infill lots and building parking lots for the areas that have no off street parking.

Why are you so hard on the Mayor? Weaver I can understand.

Did you hear what Ken & John said, “Council member Drayman has a brain, Yousefian ½ a brain and the others including the Mayor have brain stems.”

**LINKS** [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber](#) [Open Government Guide](#) [www.vanguardians.org](http://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!](#) -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#)

**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 week of December 31. 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

**OP ED** Is it apathy or depression? Are people being apathetic when they show no interest in what's going on with the gov't whether it's Federal, State or local or are they depressed because they feel helpless and alone in the ability to comprehend and understand the machinations of gov't. If it is depression then maybe there's a cure or to least drugs to take to prevent it. We need to take a serious look at why we're not able to communicate with our government, why they don't hear us and why don't hear our cries in the wilderness. We all need to get the ears of gov't, management and elected officials to share our needs and share where they are able to fulfill those needs and where they are falling short. Just a thought that you may consider about your role in asking hard questions.

**Reduce your income tax liability – make a donation to Vanguardians**

## **OP ED** NEW YEAR'S Resolution...

If you haven't noticed by now just how poorly Glendale is governed or how mismanaged it has become, then your critical thinking skills are in dire need of a refresher course, or you've been bored numb by the plethora of proclamations with which the Council begins every meeting.

The public is reminded during oral communications that the Brown Act limits the speakers to topics that are not on the agenda. But, try to speak when the agenda item is up for a vote, when the issue is most relevant, and the speaker's time is reduced and the comments are either ignored or given some odd and irrelevant take aimed at confusing the public watching.

On December 18, the city council gave selected managers a 7% raise, I brought up the practice that these salary increase lack performance evaluations. I also brought home the point that the city has hired hundreds of new employees increasing their ranks without a reasoned justification for that increase.

Then I brought a baffling point: With hundreds upon hundreds of new dwelling units being constructed, where new inspectors were truly justified, there was a decrease. Should we not have had a

commensurate increase in building and safety inspectors?

There was no debate or discussion of my issue while I was standing by the podium. But once I sat down, Councilman Drayman asked the Director of Public works if we had sufficient and adequate staff for our sewer projects. The answer to Drayman's question effectively misdirected the objective of the challenge. There was no debate or discussion with the person who brought the question. Their debate and discussion sounded like a scripted television sit-com that gives the public a false sense of resolution.

Most people are unaware of the meetings that take place in the city manager's conference room the day following the council meeting. It's the post-game evaluation on how well they performed. Maybe it's their play analysis on how they dropped the ball here, or how they fumbled there. Maybe they are giving themselves high-fives on how well their defense completely fooled the unsuspecting public. But gather together on how to give the public true debate or discussion? Not in your lifetime.

The bottom line is that Glendale is managed and governed just as poorly as most cities in California are. We run a yearly deficit

on the general fund and money is taken from infrastructure to make the difference. When major problems with infrastructure are then brought up by the respective departments, council claims that they didn't know just how dire the situation was. Drayman was so bold last Tuesday as to slight the need to bring just such topics before the council regularly. Maybe his biggest initiative this year – Creating a city publication – A picture album on a day in the life of Glendale could serve us well to remind us just how Glendale looked if we suffer a similar fate as New Orleans did with a major infrastructure collapse. Get the picture?

So here is a new year's resolution to improve governance of the Jewel city. Get involved in at least one issue and learn as much as possible about it. Maybe it could be an evaluation of the worsening traffic congestion, or it could be the lack of progress on reducing pedestrian traffic injuries, or it could be the poor road surface conditions on the streets in your neighborhood, or the lack of water-saving requirements for new construction. There are plenty of issues that have not been dealt with in a diligent and prudent way. It's your city and your tax dollars. Take ownership. **Herbert Molano**

**ARTICLES** [If our preferred future](#) is one where friendship is valued and affirmed how do we begin moving toward that future in a world where we perceive ourselves to be, like most everyone else, too busy. It takes discipline and intention. Maintaining friendships is not just a matter of the heart or desire but it is an act of will, a decision we make. A world without friends, a world where people have fewer folks apart from family to turn to is not my preferred future. I believe:

- We need the civic involvement that can come from looking with friends at the world outside our homes.
- We need the safety net when the road is not smooth.
- And in order to be fully human we need the insights, affection, laughter, play, vision and encouragement that friendship, true friendship offers.

**3 Open Government** Closed session meetings are conducted right in front of the public via Blackberry's, sidebars and back meetings during the council meeting. Brown Act serial meeting violations as well. That is why the City Attorney refuses to provide about Blackberry usage on the dais. Next week...Quality of Life program....

## **4 Vanguard**

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

## VANGUARDIANS

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  
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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Address on Bill: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ VCode: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5 Humor



GMA & GFFA after getting raises



Gotcha - No Helicopter

## 6 City Finances

Click each topic to read the relevant information – then quiz your favorite Council member

### Year End Financial Status Report - 2006-2007

#### Introduction

Summary  
Revenues  
Expenditures  
Summary & Forecast (788KB)  
[List of Attachments](#) (313KB)  
[General Fund Summaries / General Fund Revenue Detail](#) (181KB)  
[Major Revenue Trends](#) (82KB)  
[General Fund Surplus / \(Deficit\)](#) (45KB)  
[Glendale PERS Rates](#) (64KB)  
[General Fund by Division](#) (275KB)  
[Fed Funds Rate](#) (55KB)  
[Consumer Price Index & 10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Rate](#) (67KB)  
[Police Building Financing](#) (353KB)  
[Direct Bonded Debt](#) (50KB)  
[Sewer Fund](#) (50KB)  
[Refuse Fund](#) (40KB)  
[Electric Fund](#) (227KB)  
[Water Fund](#) (129KB)  
[California Department of Finance - Finance Bulletin](#) (916KB)  
[City of Glendale Sales Tax Update](#) (820KB)  
[State Controller Press Release: Cash Flow Figures](#) (321KB)

[PERS Valuation: Miscellaneous Plan](#) (221KB)  
[PERS Valuation: Safety](#) (245KB)

The FREE [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) is needed to view these files.

#### [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#) Year Ended June 30, 2007

- [COMPLETE REPORT](#) (32MB)
- [Introductory Section](#) (2.5MB)
- [Financial Section](#) (1.6MB)
- [Management's Discussion & Analysis](#) (3.4MB)
- [Government-Wide Financial Statements](#) (2MB)
- [Non-Major Funds](#) (5MB)
- [Notes to the Financial Statements](#) (6.8MB)
- [Internal Service Funds](#) (3MB)
- [Statistical Section](#) (3.7MB)