



Vanguard

Weekly News
Week of April 9 2006
City of Glendale, CA

HEADLINES

**Mayor Weaver Attempts First Brown Act Violation of His Term
Mrs. M. Rochart Quits Glendale Commission on the Status of Women
FPPC Selects 43rd Assembly District for Audit**

Quote of the Week: "Mr. Weaver – You should tell the public about all the investigations you are involved in as the subject and open up the Dreaming of Roses B of A account to public scrutiny"

**When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property.
-Thomas Jefferson**

Question of the Week: Should Mayor be elected at large by the community?

Question (2) of the Week: Should Glendale adopt GASB 45? See 3 below According to Bob Franz, the answer is, 'Yes'.

New Rules: (Don't tell my friend Bill Maher.) Before moving further on the Downtown Specific Plan for the City – there must be a Vision. Is Glendale a destination city? If so, other than (soon to be) two major shopping centers -- what is the attraction?

Published independently by **Vanguard** – Our **vision** is to live in a City 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

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1. **Council – April 11, 2006**

Council -- [Click for Agenda](#)

1:00 PM Closed Session

6:00 PM

Redevelopment Agency – [Agenda](#)

2:30 PM. 548-2005

Housing Authority – [Agenda](#)

2:30 PM. 548-2060

2. **Commentary**

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

ROSEFLOAT: Prior to the April 2005 elections there was a clamoring for accountability by the Glendale Rosefloat Association from within the organizations audit committee. For a full recap visit Will Rogers [click here](#). Not to worry. The Rosefloat is NOT in jeopardy. It is a part of the Parks & Recreation budget. You can demand that the Dreaming of Roses special bank account, income and expenses be audited without trepidation or fear of reprisal.

MAYOR Weaver conducting his first Oral Communications loses Barry Allen's speaker card and declares him out of order for insisting it was turned in. Weaver seems to have a vindictive nature, as Allen was the only one to speak on the issue as to who the new Mayor should be and not be. Mr. Quintero noted that as the top vote getter in the Vanguard poll he couldn't serve as he is running for a higher office. Mr. Yousefian couldn't run as he would be divorced from his almost one year marriage. Now Mr. Weaver did not offer to mend his ways in Council Teambuilding nor in openness in his manner of governing. Nor did he offer insight into the Miss Asian Beauty Contest. The poll below shows that **Weaver only received negative votes.**

Name	Yes %	No %
Manoukian	8.3	2.8
Najarian	5.6	
Quintero	16.7	2.8
Weaver	0	5.6
Yousefian	2.8	
Starbird	2.8	
None of Above	22	
Eva Longoria	11	
Write-in	19	

OPEN Government --

Brown Act – This Act sets the parameters on the conduct of legislative meetings including the agenda and oral comments. Vanguard has reproduced a one page Brown Act available upon request.

CPRA – This is the California Public Records Act that requires California governmental agencies provide public documents upon your request for review or purchase for no more than 10¢ per page. Vanguard can provide you with assistance or a recommended form.

SEI Form 700 – Almost every elected and appointed office holder and top manager is required to file a Statement of Economic Interest. In Glendale it is with the City Clerk. This has to be filed annually, within 30 days of assuming and leaving office. There are penalties for failure to file. According to the City Attorney, Redevelopment Agency and Housing Authority do have to file.

[April FPPC Bulletin available here](#) Find how much the fines were.

Integrity starts with the individual.

Elements of Campaign Finance Reform:

- 1. Limit the amount of money a candidate or committee can accept from a contributor. Exclude City Unions from contributing to candidates.** *ART XXIII of Charter - Sec. 25. Political activity or contributions on part of city manager, etc.* Neither the city manager, nor any person in the employ of the city shall take any active part in securing, or shall contribute money toward the nomination or election of any candidate for a municipal office.
- 2. Councilmanic Districts – Look about you, so many cities have districts as do the Feds, State and County**
- 3. Term limits -- Eight years should be sufficient to get your vision and programs in place**
- 4. Resign – Resign from one public office before running for another**

Queries under CPRA and responses from City of Glendale

How can you trust a City when they spend so much of the time trying to avoid giving the public the correct and accurate answers to valid questions? Here is a request and the response from City Attorney...

Q: Beeline Audit of fare boxes.

R: Here is a Beeline audit of MVT Invoices

C: The invoices contained credit for fare box revenue and that was not tested. City has a very expensive Odyssey Fare Box system that should spit out reports like sand in a windstorm. City has not a clue. For lack of a hose nozzle (Mayor Manoukian offered to fetch it from Italy) the City reimburses MVT for fuel purchased retail. It's OK it is just more tax dollars from a City that is stretched so thin it has to not only borrow from the reserves but decrease the amount of the reserves from 50% to 35% to today's 30%.

Next Week: Ripped off on land acquisition – Ethics AB 1234

**Send this email to your own Glendale list.
TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED**

3. **Quotes, Comments and Letters:**

The excerpts below are from an April 3, 2006 editorial in The Orange County Register: [Click for complete article](#)

Shining a light on cost of retiree health care

Accounting standard GASB-45 pressures agencies to tell taxpayers what they're on the hook for, according to Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which provides accounting oversight to public agencies.

This is nothing more than a truth-in-accounting standard. No agency has to abide by the new rules, but the impact of not doing so can mean reduced credit ratings. Taxpayers need to insist on full disclosure because they, ultimately, are on the hook for these unfounded liabilities.

In California, the cost of unfunded liabilities for health plans at the local and state level, including the University of California system, are predicted to top \$140 billion over the next 30 years.

It's easy for public officials to give public employees what they want because the bill comes due down the line, but "down the line" is here now thanks to the baby boomer generation retiring, increasing life expectancy and skyrocketing health-care costs. There is no easy solution to the problem, although it would help if elected officials stopped granting even higher levels of benefits to public employees.

Sorry, union folks, but the government cannot promise more than they can afford to pay. It seems basic, but too many leaders have been ignoring such sound advice. The first step toward fixing the problem is understanding it. Toward that end, we're pleased to see GASB-45 shine light on dark budget corners.

[Press Release from GASB](#)

Letters:

Fire Department Injuries: Regarding all of the respiratory illness such as pneumonia, the way the rules are written to protect "public safety" officers any kind of illness associated with the breathing and pulmonary system, as well as cancer, is "presumed" to be on-duty. Therefore, if you get a cold from one of your kids, or bronchitis, you automatically get the status of "on-duty" injury and do not have to take any sick days. It is considered to be an on-duty injury. All forms of cancer are included in this.

By the way, your common sense breakdown on the types of injuries that occur in the work place is excellent. The problem is that the fire union figured that out many years ago and created this very complicated set of categories so no one can really figure out where the injuries are really taking place. I would estimate that most happen during meal prep and recreating.

P

I really do appreciate the effort you make in putting together Vanguard. You must either have a lot of financial backing or be independently wealthy because I am sure it takes a lot of time and effort to get as much information as you do. When I ran for GCC Board of Trustees I was asked not to run because it would cost the college \$80K. Because I believe in the democratic process I decided to run anyway, however, I did want to know what the real cost to the college for their share of the election was. It took months of phone calls and visits to the City Clerks office to find out. I was amazed that the City Clerks office didn't have a pretty good idea of what the budget for the election would be before they contracted with the firm that supplied their election supplies. How can a government run without any idea of what its budget is? That is not even to mention what the college does with its funds. Too bad you don't have the energy to check into that government entity that is a significant part of our Glendale economy. There are many things you cover in Vanguard that I wholeheartedly agree with and some I don't. I do, however, want you to know I really appreciate your efforts and think your tenacity to bring things out in the open is highly commendable.

S

I thought Vanguard was dedicated to taxpayer dollars being spent responsibly. Are we the taxpayers supposed to applaud your research potentially costing the city untold sums because of a claim by Dr. Espiritu for non-compliance with ADA requirements?

RT

ED: The Vanguard cause is accountability. ADA was passed under a Republican administration in 1990. Glendale set aside money in its budgets for ADA compliance and chose to spend that money on land acquisition and payroll. As the tax dollars were not spent wisely the city under a DOJ settlement would have to comply with the law just as you and I do. The City accepts Federal and State dollars and must fulfill the restrictions on those dollars. The City requires the public to

stand up for what is right. Without ADA compliance 25% of the public would be disenfranchised. As the City has not been accountable, we all have to pay.

An open letter to CM Najarian regarding a possible ethics violation sent via email to CM Najarian 4-7-06: I was reviewing some materials on ethics and remembered that you, Mr. Najarian, voted on the sale of the 500 N Central Bldg and didn't abstain from the vote even though you hold a leasehold interest in that property. Also (I am not sure of the 500 foot distance) you voted on area 14 density and have an ownership interest in 1141 N Brand, which may be within that 500' range. Do the ethics provisions apply? If so, should there be a mea culpa from you, Mr. Najarian?

Below taken from Institute for Local Government and included in email

WHEN TO SEEK ADVICE FROM AGENCY COUNSEL: The rules are very complex. Talk with your agency counsel 1) early and often 2) when an action by your public agency 3) may affect (positively or negatively) 4) any of the following:

Real Property. A direct or indirect interest in real property of \$2000 or more that you or your immediate family (spouse/domestic partner and dependent children) have, including such interests as ownership, leaseholds (but not month-to-month tenancies), and options to purchase. Be especially alert when any of these are located within 500 feet of the subject of your decision.

BASIC RULE: A public official may not participate in a decision – including trying to influence a decision – if the official has financial or, in some cases, other strong personal interests in that decision. When an official has an interest in a contract, the official's agency may be prevented from even making the contract.

EVEN IF IT'S LEGAL, IS IT ETHICAL? The law sets only minimum standards. Ask yourself whether members of the public whose opinion you value will question whether you can act solely in the public's interest. If they might, consider excusing yourself voluntarily from that particular decision-making process.

**Barry Allen for
Vanguard
818 243 1502 Direct Line**

4. Announcements -- Calendar -- Supportive Ads

Wanted to Rent/Lease – Single Family Home -- Glendale

Non-profit needs a van in running condition in exchange for tax deduction letter. Contact 818 243 1502

Internet Researcher Available

Help your Glendale business grow. A free consultation and assessment with an award winning business consultant, [Click here for a FREE consultation.](#)

Retailers, Business Owners – You can protect your assets from theft. [Click here for a FREE security consultation](#)

LINKS

[Best Gasoline Prices in Glendale](#)

As the official benefits Web site of the U.S. Government, www.GovBenefits.gov helps constituents quickly identify programs that may be able to help them. Access to more than 1,000 federal and state resources are available, including disaster relief, employment, small-business loans, and Medicare. The site uses an online questionnaire, so the public can quickly find out about any assistance for which they may be eligible.

Glendale City Meetings:

****ALL MEETING AND BROADCAST TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Monday, April 10

Advisory Committee Meeting - Downtown Specific Plan - 5:00 pm, Rooms 105 and 106,
Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Tuesday, April 11 See Item #1

Wednesday, April 12 -- First Passover Seder

Zoning Administrator - 9:30 am, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140
Civil Service Commission - 5:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2110

Thursday, April 13 – Second Passover Seder

Design Review Board #2 -- 1:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

5. Vanguard Meetings:

Host a Vanguard meeting. Learn the truth about the ACCOUNTABILITY of the City. Meet the skeletons.

Accountability is an important factor in securing [good governance](#). Accountability differs from [transparency](#) in that it only enables [negative feedback](#) after a decision or action, while transparency also enables [negative feedback](#) before or during a decision or action. Accountability constrains the extent to which elected representatives and other office-holders can willfully deviate from their theoretical responsibilities, thus reducing [corruption](#).

The goal of accountability is at times in tension with the goal of leadership. A constituency may have short-term desires that are at odds with long-term interests.

6. In order to keep Vanguard viable, we need your financial support!!

Thanks to those who have sent their checks in. Your financial support will help keep this us going and fund a website!

Won't you, too, help keep this update going and fund a website?

Send your tax-deductible contribution today!

Vanguard

818.243.1502

Vanguard1@charter.net

Contributions -- Please make checks payable to Vanguard

Mail to: 1315 Ruberta Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201-1409

If contributing by Credit Card, call 818 243 1502

Contributions are tax deductible – Rev. Proc. 92-85, 1992-42 I.R.B. 32

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Email vanguard1@charter.net to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale

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7. Boards & Commissions – Below are the requirements for serving – No more than two consecutive terms and serving only on one at a time. Please review the chart below

Boards & Commissions

GMC 2.36.010 Appointment.

A. No person appointed to a board or commission under this title shall serve for **more than two (2) consecutive terms**.

B. No person may serve on a board or commission under this title **while concurrently serving on another board** or commission under this title or the Civil Service Commission, Alex Regional Theatre Board or Burbank Glendale Pasadena Airport Authority. Elected officials shall not serve on any board or commission under this title, or the Civil Service Commission, Alex Regional Theatre Board or Burbank Glendale Pasadena Airport Authority except where an ordinance specifically permits or requires a member to be an elected official.

C. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, **the council upon making a finding that there are no candidates** available for appointment or who meet the qualifications required for appointment, or that it would be in the best interest of the city, may appoint an incumbent of such board or commission to serve more than two consecutive terms. (Ord. 5380 § 1, 2004; Ord. 5351 § 1, 2003; prior code § 3-1)

Body	Commission/Board Member	Expiration Date
Civil Serv	Open	5/1/07
P&R	Open	8/16/08
Civil Serv	Albert Abkarian	5/1/06
GWP	Albert E. Gosselin, Jr.	2/10/07
CBDG	Alek Zarifian	6/30/08
DRB2	Alen Malekian	5/13/06
Arts/Cult	Amador Solis	1/20/07
BZA	Angele Eskandari	4/01/09
BZA	Annette Ohanganian	5/1/07

GWP	Anthony Dellinger	6/14/08
P&R	Anthony Tartaglia Jr.	11/16/07
TPC	Aram Sahakian	8/12/06
Audit	Ariel Drachenberg	12/11/07
Arts/Cult	Arlette DerHovanessian	10/1/08
P&R	Armond Agakhanian	1/28/06
CBDG	Arthur Devine	6/30/08
Alex Theater	Arthur Mangassarian	10/4/05
BZA	Arthur Devine	9/24/08
BFBA	Bahman Ehsan	7/29/06
Alex Theater	Brian Ellis	10/4/05
Airport	Bob Yousefian	5/31/09
Airport	Carl Povilaitis	5/31/09
TPC	Carvel Gay	8/15/06
Vector	Darren Kameya	1/2/08
Airport	Open	5/31/09
HIST	Deborah Dentler	8/30/06
HA	Donald Mincey	2/10/08
CBDG	Eddie Minassian	6/30/06
Audit	Edward Azari	2/1/08
Audit	Erwin Friesen	10/1/08
CBDG	Efrain Olivares	6/30/06
TPC	Emil Eyvazoff	12/6/08
BFBA	Erik Keshishian	2/15/08
Audit	Frank Murphy	10/7/06
Planning	Gary Gero	10/8/08
CBDG	Gary Kemper	6/30/08
BFBA	George G. Boghossian	3/4/09
Civil Serv	George Garikian	5/1/07
DRB1	Giuseppe Aliano	1/4/06
DRB1	Hamlet Zohrabians	4/16/08
DRB2	Ivan Insua	7/29/06
MWD	James Rez	7/5/06
P&R	James Ward	2/3/07
P&R	Jeanette Stirdivant	11/26/06
CBDG	John Cianfrini	6/30/06
DRB1	John Cianfrini	4/16/08
CBDG	John Davitt	6/30/08
Civil Serv	John M. Gantus	5/1/08
Planning	Jordan Torgerson	11/18/06
Arts/Cult	Joylene Wagner	10/18/08
CBDG	Karen Compton	6/30/06
Womens	Karla Kerlin	12/2/06
DRB1	Larry Tison	11/26/08
DRB2	Laura Friedman	6/15/07
HA	Laura Parazian	5/27/07
Womens	Lena Bozoyan	12/2/06
Planning	Leonard Manoukian	8/13/08
Civil Serv	Michael D Haney	5/1/07
Womens	open	12/2/06
DRB2	Michael James	7/29/06
Arts/Cult	Milene Apanian	2/1/08

BZA	Nancy Burke	11/26/08
Womens	Nayiri Nahabedian	12/2/07
TPC	Onnik Mehrabian	12/20/08
Womens	Paula Devine	12/20/08
CBDG	Pierre Chraghchian	6/30/06
Arts/Cult	Razmik Grigorian	1/20/07
Audit	Rebecca Delfino	2/1/08
BFBA	Richard Diradourian	12/19/06
Planning	Richard Ramirez	6/18/08
DRB2	Robert Carnahan	3/19/08
CBDG	Roobik Ovanesian	6/30/08
Civil Serv	Roy C. Coleman	5/1/06
HIST	Ruben Amirian	3/15/08
GWP	Ruben Rubi	7/3/07
TPC	Ruby Sulayan	8/12/06
BZA	Sam Manoukian	12/16/06
HIST	Siranoush Rousian	4/12/08
HIST	Stephanie Landregan	11/19/05
DRB1	Vartan Gharpetian	10/23/07
GWP	Vrej G. Gregorian	7/3/07
HIST	Vrej Mardian	8/16/08
Planning	William Kane	1/11/08
Arts/Cult	Zen Lopez	10/26/07