



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Vanguard

Weekly News

Week of September 24, 2006
City of Glendale, CA Edition

www.vanguard-usa.org

Shana Tova -- 5767

HEADLINES

Last Issue of Vanguard Volume I

Coming Attractions: The Financial Report from Dreaming of Roses

The four stages of Vanguard "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
Mahatma Gandhi

ABOVE THE FOLD

Breaking News: Kathleen Burke-Kelly, elected to the Board of Trustees of Glendale Community College resigns. For details of this breaking story [click here](#).

Puzzle Solved: Several weeks ago Vanguard received a letter from 'Victoria Samos'. There was no return address. Ms Samos is not a registered voter in LA County. A diligent search using state-of-the-art forensics turned up the name of the most likely suspect. He sits on the Council dais, and uses the nom de plume of Victoria Samos.

This Just In: Brand Blvd repaving project still is not complete. Merchants are being hit in the pocketbook. It is time for the City to either come to their aid with a serious marketing program or explain why the project is incomplete. In private industry heads would roll. In Government a tsk tsk, a commendation and a pay raise.

Montrose: A hotbed of sex. [Read all about it](#). "It gives new meaning to the term 'bedroom community,'" said John Drayman, president of the Montrose Shopping Park Association, a trade group representing some 200 restaurants, antique shops and other merchants.

Impact Fees: Treat the new developers nicely and the City could benefit by an Aquatic Center, parking lots and parks. This could be a nice tradeoff for impact fees.

Reminder: [The One Year Anniversary of Vanguard is upon us. The first issue was published on October 2, 2005 as the successor to the Pauline Field weekly update. Vanguard will not receive a Mayoral Proclamation for encouraging greater public participation in the governmental process and accountability as that is an anathema to City business even though Council member Manoukian requested such a Mayoral Proclamation, which was turned down by Mr. Weaver. Vanguard does need your on-going financial support in order to maintain this information flow.](#)

Accountability: A Vanguard dilemma: Vanguard stands for ACCOUNTABILITY. Is supporting, endorsing or encouraging accountable candidate(s) a conflict of interest? Considering the dearth of knowledgeable, outstanding candidates and the special interest groups supporting them, this is a dilemma. Should Vanguard sit idly by and watch and only report or step into the fray after the publication of responses to the Vanguard Council Candidates Questionnaire? Your comments are encouraged.

Banquet Halls: Our City Council has spent hours and hours of their time and costly time of staff to create an Ordinance that would attempt to make an illegal act legal. An example would be ordaining that in Glendale you don't have to wear seat belts when you drive. **Adoption of the Grilling Ordinance is on the agenda this week. It is illegal to commercially grill outdoors. By passing an ordinance that would ATTEMPT to legalize an illegal act would place the Banquet Halls and restaurants at the risk of expensive litigation whenever State authorities or Air Quality Management District (AQMD) employees cite offenders by enforcing the law. Our Council and City Staff are myopic when it comes to VISION. There is another solution: The City establishes a loan fund or a program such as façade improvement for the purchase and installation of indoor grills. This would be a head start on legislation that would totally outlaw that type of grilling and reduce the need for paying up twice. There are very few commercial outdoor grills according to a staff report:**

Ani	10 Sq Ft
Karoun	20 Sq Ft
Yepremian	60 Sq Ft
Anoush Colorado	28 Sq Ft
MGM	16 Sq Ft
Verdugo Hills	36 Sq Ft
Café Armitage	5.8 Sq Ft
Whole Foods	27 Sq Ft

On another matter, in order to dispel critics, as the City receives an electronic report each month on the taxes paid to the Board of Equalization, it would be a quick and easy task to enlighten the public as to the total tax revenue attributable to Banquet Halls and Restaurants.

Kudos: To the City Clerk's Office. Smiling faces and quick to serve the public. Whether for public documents, a dog license or taxi cab license. Even film permits and archived records.

Question for City Management: With 2500 employees that are the cream of municipal employees, why is it always necessary to retain outside consultants at additional costs.

Question for the Mayor: When will you release Dreaming of Roses event income information.

Question to the Council: When will you step to the plate and call for a hearing on the unstatesmanlike conduct of Mayor Weaver in his acceptance of public money for private purpose?

Question to the People: The April City Council election is fast approaching. Which candidate will speak for you?

Council Race: At press time rumors include 5 challengers and 2 incumbents. Watch for fund raisers. Candidates will not be official until the filings of intentions and petitions are filed and accepted.

- **New Rules:** City Council meetings will use a split screen so the public can watch the reactions of those on the dais when the public is speaking.
- **New Rules:** Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) are posted online
- **New Rules:** Appointees are removed for failure to file the required SEI

Instant Replay: If you ever miss the hi-jinks at a Council meeting, go to the City website and check the archives. Keep a handkerchief or Kleenex to wipe away the tears of laughter.

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

CONTENTS:

- 1) **Council**
- 2) **Commentary**
- 3) **Quotes, Comments, Reports and Letters**

- 4) **Announcements -- Calendar -- Links**
- 5) **360 Initiative**
- 6) **Contributions to keep you informed**
- 7) **Vanguard Spoke to These Issues**
- 8) **Public Records Requests**

BELOW THE FOLD

1 Council – September 26, 2006

Council -- [Click for Agenda](#)

9:00 AM Ethics Training

1:30 PM. Closed Session 1 case-- -issues Summam scrutemur

2:30 PM. Redevelopment Agency – [Agenda](#) 548-2005

2:30 PM Housing Authority – [Agenda](#)

2:30 PM Joint Meeting Homeless Continuum of Care

6:00 PM Regular Meeting

Banquet Hall Grilling Ordinance Agenda item 7a

Utility Users Tax Agenda item 8a

Hearings 9a South Brand Specific Plan & 9b Tract for Glendale Adventist

MTA report on 134 sound wall Harvey to Louise Agenda item 10

You are encouraged to read the full agenda by clicking on the link and reviewing the documents

Commentary

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

Tools of open government are few but those we have can be used effectively – Vanguard offers training in their use.

Public Records

Applications for boards and commissions contain lots of information about the applicant, education and knowledge of the issues that would be heard and decided on by the board or commission.

Statement of Economic Interest shares information about interests that may result in conflicts where abstention from deliberation and voting may be required.

Campaign Contributions let you know who or what entity gave contributions to candidates and elected officials, which is not illegal. It is only illegal if the officeholder ‘sells’ his/her vote or influence.

Documents Various documents and reports

Resolutions let the requestor know the votes on issues

Claims before a lawsuit against the City is filed there must be a claim. For instance power outages and surges are additionally costly as the personal electronic equipment may burn up.

Contracts Who was awarded a contract along with terms and conditions?

Change orders let the public know if the contracts were modified to cover low-balling

Audits for instance Vanguard was told that there was a Beeline audit. The audit indicated there was none done of the fare box

Brown Act

Open meetings all meetings are required to be open and accessible to the public. There are some instances where it is permissible to have a Closed Session. Glendale takes every opportunity to have Closed Sessions. The Council, at its election, could change that.

Notices are required to be posted 72 hours before a meeting (There are some exceptions)

Speaking the public can speak on any item on the agenda. Mayor Weaver has chosen not to allow the public to speak on Council – Staff Comments.

ACCOUNTABILITY is the issue!

The Glendale Municipal Code, 2.83.070 on the improper use of city position or prospective position.

“No official of the city...shall use his/her position, or the power or authority of his/her office or position, in any manner intended to induce or coerce any person to provide, directly or indirectly, anything of value which shall accrue to the private advantage, benefit or economic gain of the official, or of any other person. (Ord. 5219 (part), 1999)”

\$

Is the reason the fire fighters don't want the public to know about their injuries, embarrassment? Is the public aware of the cost of their pensions and the number of GFD employees that double down with disability pensions? Remember that last year there were only 5 fires with structural damage of \$250,000 or more! Being a Class 1 Department requires an infrastructure of roads and water. There are even Volunteer Fire Departments that carry a Class 1 designation.

**When WE are complacent THEY win!
When WE are vigilant THEY are accountable!**

Story Behind Headlines

This is the last issue of Vanguard Volume I. The next issue will be the beginning of our second year of operation thanks to the continuing generosity of the public. As the face of Vanguard I, Barry Allen, have been threatened, followed and cajoled. Vanguard has kept the whistleblowers identities secret while finding and locating corroborating evidence. Our successes show in the ADA issues and even sidewalks. Each and every day Vanguard is contacted by a new voice. Each and every day we encourage the public to speak out. **Our agenda is simple: Accountability in government.** There is no hidden agenda.

Integrity starts with the individual

Send Vanguard to your own list. TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED

3

Quotes, Comments, Reports and Letters:

[Reasons to vote NO on the \\$50 parcel tax from Howard Jarvis.](#)

Unfreakin'believable! Again (and again and again and again), these guys just never quit. Great job. And Will Rogers seems to be helping. I found it amusing that the city attorney couldn't even look at the camera or anyone else as he gave his non-answer about the FPPC. Keep up the good stuff. **JS**

Congratulations to Barry Allen and Pauline Field for starting and continuing the Vanguard News. Others and I have been with you from the beginning and you have come a long way in keeping the residents of Glendale informed on what's happening at City Hall and that has not been an easy task. Keep up the good work and we shall continue to support you and the Mission of Vanguard. **DF**

Another great issue. If Weaver and the rest of his cohorts are going to continue to have council meetings like a circus, why don't you wear a clown nose to the next meeting?

I live in Ventura County and looked into the banquet hall problem. The county states that you should call 911 if you see someone dumping illegal materials into the storm drain; they even stated that it's a crime if the local officials don't stop the problem!!!!

My Mom had a follow up brush inspection on her property; the guys all seemed very professional. Why the beef? Is management not as professional as the firemen on the street? **TJ**

"According to Glendale Rose Float Associations (GRFA) by-laws, the GRFA is to raise money to repay the City of Glendale for the float each year - PERIOD. That does not mean the money can go to scholarships for kids who glue posies on the float, it does not include Miss Asia/Mrs. Asia/Miss Teen Asia or any other endeavor, charitable or otherwise.

The money raised from the DoR or the Rose Float Assn. belongs to the City of Glendale - that's all. If the city attorney, the city manager and the city council don't give a damn where the taxpayer's money goes, that's for the taxpayers to take care of at the polls.

In addition to taking money from people with issues to come up before the city council, I should think the other council members might have something to say about all this. As you will recall, Frank Quintero called for an audit of GRFA some time ago but Scott Howard had some lame excuse why the city didn't have the authority to do such an audit. Since the money belongs to the city, I disagree with that conclusion (but I'm not an attorney)."**DW**

Barbecue Smoke BS Over the past months various citizens of Glendale have complained about illegal and obnoxious Barbecue Smoke (BS). In response, on 19 September 2006, the City Staff presented a 40 some page ordinance proposal to allow or exempt what is currently an illegal activity. The proposed ordinance attempts to micro manage commercial outdoor barbecuing. Some conversation came about as to whether or not it should incorporate, reference, or just ignore all the other (a good half dozen) agencies and regulations in the area that have some part of the

jurisdiction. The Glendale City Council then had lengthy debate over these fine points, so that the measure could be introduced for later revision and approval.

It seems the bottom line is that by passing this ordinance the Council will have created another bureaucracy to legalize previously unpunished illegal activities. Incidentally, this will entail costs to the applicants. First there is the City's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) fee. Additional costs to the subject banquet halls and restaurants will include their time and cost of appearances to make their case before City Bureaucrats, Commissions, and the Council, to allow their BS via the CUP. Also, they may find it "politic" to tender campaign funds and gifts to one or more officials. No estimate of the costs to the City have been put forth.

Lost in this exercise is the original point of the complaints; that of cutting and/or eliminating BS in the City. This is a typical City Council exercise in passing a "BS feel good ordinance" while ignoring the substance of the issue(s) involved. All the while increasing the complexities and costs of living in Glendale. If you watch "Reality TV Shows" to be amused by the stupidity of ordinary humans, you should really be entertained by the BS discussions and actions of our City Councilmen. "Barbecue Smoke" indeed. **NF Citizen of Glendale**

Vanguard offers you an opportunity to submit letters (in an electronic format) to the editor. Our rules provide that there must be accurate contact information. Vanguard provides the other side of one-sided city puff pieces.

4 **Announcements -- Calendar -- Links**

For information about any of these items, call Vanguard at 818 243 1502

- **Vanguard** needs a **panel truck** in running condition in exchange for tax deduction letter.
- **Vanguard** needs a **car** in running condition in exchange for tax deduction letter
- **Volunteer attorney's** needed to pursue violations of **Brown Act** and **California Public Records Act**
- **Volunteers** to serve on a Committee to evaluate a system that will give greater public safety protection to the residents, workers and visitors to Glendale.

LINKS

[Downtown Specific Plan](#) -- [FPPC Agenda](#) — [Will Rogers Content](#) -- [Everything you want to know about municipal finance](#) --[Read about Statement of Economic Interest](#) --[Free Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) --[Free PowerPoint Reader](#) -- [Brown Act--2005 California Piglet Book](#) -- [Email Cong Schiff](#).

City Meetings

MSB=Municipal Services Building

Monday, September 25

Special Time: Historic Preservation Commission – 1:00 pm, Room 105, MSD. 548-2140
Transportation and Parking Commission -- 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-3960

Tuesday, September 26

See item #1

Special Meeting – City Council (AB1234—Ethics Training) – 9:00 am, Room 105, MSB 548-4844

Wednesday, September 27

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, MSB Room 105, 548-2140
Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2110
Community Meeting/Public Input on Social Services, Housing, Neighborhood Improvements – 7:00 pm, Roosevelt Middle School, 222 E. Acacia Ave., Glendale. 548-2060

Thursday, September 28

Special Meeting – Design Review Board #2 – 11:00 am, Room 105 MSB. 548-2140
Design Review Board #2 -- (Regular Meeting) -- 1:00 pm, MSB Room 105, 548-2140
Arts and Culture Commission -- 7:00 pm, City Council Chambers 548-3790

Sunday, October 1

Unity Fest – Noon to 6:00 pm, Verdugo Park, 1621 Cañada Blvd, Glendale. 548-4844

5

Glendale 360 initiative

Join Herbert Molano on his 360-mile run.

Even in beautiful Glenoaks Canyon you can see the neglect and disparity of disconnected Councilmen. Look at the corner of Story Place and Edwards Place only a block west of Glenoaks Park. The signs are in disrepair and the power lines and power poles mar the skyline. Compare that to the cul-de-sac near Mayor Weavers home or in the area surrounding city hall and civic center plaza. We need honest and periodic reports on the state of our city. Take a closer look around your

neighborhood. More than hundred miles of our roads are in need of repair or resurfacing. They tell us we have no money for maintaining our infrastructure but we have money enough for a 10 million dollar raise in salaries and pensions this year alone. Now, would you buy the need for a 100 million dollar municipal bond to fix what the city should have been fixing all these years? Don't buy it. Ask for true accountability instead. **Herbert Molano**



[Ed Note: Email your pictures of City neglect in your neighborhood.]

6

Your Benefits from Vanguard

- You receive reports on the activities of elected officials and management as they affect you.
- You receive analysis of the activities of government through the use of public documents
- You have a place to share your ideas and opinions
- You are in the loop as the City develops
- Your opinions are shared with your representative at City Hall

1. **Web Site:** Vanguard has selected a web master, Jeff Bassler, for the Vanguard-USA site. We solicit your input as to what information you want on the site. We have ordered an automatic document feeder for a high-speed scanner to provide our viewers with many of the official documents obtained under the CPRA.
2. **April City Election:** Vanguard will be an active participant in the City election. A questionnaire will be sent to all candidates and the responses will be included in the Vanguard Weekly News. As soon as the candidate financial disclosures are available they will be posted. Vanguard will host a community candidate forum.

Vanguard wants your input and support!

Thanks to those who have sent their checks.
Send your tax-deductible contribution today!

Vanguard

818.243.1502

<mailto:ba@fieldworks.net>

Please make checks payable to **Vanguard**

Mail to Post Office Box 11202 Glendale CA 91226

If contributing by Credit Card, call 818 243 1502 or Fax to 818 243 2601

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

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION -- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name on Card: _____

Address on Bill: _____

Card Number: _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Frequency _____

Signature: _____

Master Card _____ VISA _____ American Express _____ Discover _____

Note: Fifty-Fifty Leadership will show on your credit card statement

7 Vanguard spoke to following issues this week:

Banquet Hall Grilling Ordinance

GWP \$500,000 survey and 10 year \$100,000,000 plan

And reasons for the lack of public participation in government. Below is the statement to Council:

Trust in government is at its nadir or lowest point. We no longer trust the ballot box. We no longer trust our leaders or our representatives.

Our own City Council has worked diligently to displace our trust by assuring reduced public participation in the governmental process

By reducing time for public comment;

By attempts at intimidation for obtaining public records;

By making people feel guilty for exercising their rights;

By distortions of the real numbers by making up numbers and costs – issues that have no bearing on the Public Records Act;

By ordering the police to remove a member of the public that chose to verbally challenge the Chair;

By pretending there are new policies that bear on First Amendment rights when in fact there are no new policies;

By firing Commissioners for speaking out on public issues;

By having 4 other Council members sit idly by giving tacit acquiescence and acceptance of these distortions.

A Council member accepting gifts of public funds from the police department, from the library and from the GWP

This does not even consider gifts from parties with business before the Council

And yet the 4 other Council members sit idly by.

A City Attorney that gives his opinion that there is no violation of FPPC rules but does not touch on the gift of public funds

A City ordinance that provides for censure for the violation of the public trust but is considered only aspirational.

Council members, the public is frustrated and confused. As elected officials the public rightfully holds you to higher standards. But you deny them their aspirations, their faith in government, their beliefs and their trust.

You are challenged to call a Beth Din like court, one knowledgeable in re-establishing governmental trust, to review these allegations against your fellow.

It is your choice to redeem yourselves and start up the long road to rebuild public trust. Your failure to discuss these issues openly and publicly will follow you throughout your political career.

Is there a wonder why there is distrust in government?

8 Public Records Requests

Requests & Responses:

Please provide documents regarding the policy on the City and/or the Council in permitting or prohibiting the display of materials or periodicals in City Hall or other City facilities.

There are no such documents. Mayor Weaver was not truthful in his remarks.

Please provide documents indicating the cost to the City for document requests under the California Public Records Act and documents indicating the number of requests by Vanguard and/or Barry Allen from 2003 to present. These documents would be those mentioned by Mayor Weaver at the City Council meetings of September 5 and 12, 2006. At the Council meeting of September 5, 2006, during agenda item 8a, Mayor Weaver stated that the undersigned had made 171 California Public Record Act requests at a cost of \$250,000. Please provide any records or documents that support that statement.

According to City Attorney there are no such documents that speak to either the number of requests or the cost. Mayor Weaver apparently was not truthful in his assertions.

Documents in support of underground electrical and utilities in the Haverkamp area; the date of change from overhead and documentation in support of conversion.

Records indicate that underground cabling was installed in 1968

All documents from the Glendale Police Department pertaining to requests for event police or police reserve services for City Agencies, non-profit organizations and for profit businesses; agreements to provide such services and charges for such services along with proof of payment where there are charges for such services between January 1, 2003 and August 31, 2006. Events such as Unity Fest, Miss Asia, Dreaming of Roses, Armenian Genocide Remembrance (April 24), Glendale Rose Float Parade entry as examples.

Please provide documents indicating the number of requests for legal counsel by individual City Council members, the amount of staff time involved and the expense on such issues as conflict of interests, statements of economic interest, campaign contributions, Brown Act issues and other items that come between them and their jobs as elected officials between January 2003 and September 1, 2006.



Certificate for Mayor Weaver

WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH



Freedom of Speech is only valuable if you use it!!

Speaking at City Council is a good place to start