



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Vanguard

Weekly News Vol II
Week of November 12, 2006
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguard-usa.org

HEADLINES

Finance Director Franz Moves to Greener Pastures

Next Week: Impact Fees Will Buy?

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

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
[Anne Frank](#)

"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please." Mark Twain

ABOVE THE FOLD

This Just In: Squirrels shorted the GWP power transformer at Sonora and Glenoaks. One would think that GWP would find a method to isolate the hot parts of transformers. When the RP called in the complaint on 11-9 Veteran's Day for Glendale City employees, she was told that it was a Friday and emergency crews were 'off'.

Mea Culpa Missing Punch line: Last weeks story was lacking the punch line. Here it is...The devil looks at him, smiles and says, "Yesterday, we were campaigning. Today, you voted."

Mea Culpa: Vanguard reported that the cost to the taxpayer for the preparation of the materials for a public works award was \$100,000. Council member Yousefian corrected that indicating the amount was much, much higher! The City Attorney in response to a Public Document request could not produce such a document.

Real Estate News: [Name the 500 N Brand Building and WIN Local Real Estate Story](#)

Kudos: Council member Najarian for doing his best to deliberate publicly on the Downtown Specific Plan.

Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery for Bonnie Adams who fought long, hard and successfully so younger disabled would be able to get the same cost reductions in utility taxes that older people get. Bonnie should be an inspiration to us all for her perseverance in attending Council meetings and speaking out to accomplish something for the greater good.

Banquet Hall Outdoor Grilling Enforcement: We submitted an enforcement plan to City Council a week after their action to uphold the ban on outdoor cooking activities. We did not receive any feedback on our proposed actions to re-initiate enforcement, so therefore we are proceeding with plan that we presented. Based on that, we have prepared a notice letter to the remaining violators notifying them of the council's action and the City's intent to proceed with enforcement. The good news in all of this is that most of the businesses are actually in compliance. In our letter the violators are being notified to cease outdoor cooking activities immediately. This letter has not been sent yet, but will be sent out later this week. We are waiting for some information from the Fire Department to include in the letter. In addition, we are developing, in concert with Police and Fire, a plan to address violations when they occur during the times that Neighborhood Services is not staffed. Please be aware that this plan does not include any effort to stop, on the spot, grilling as it occurs, but rather to provide the opportunity to issue, on-the-spot, a citation into court. This part of the plan is not in place at this time, but will likely be set up by the weekend of the 18th. I apologize for the length of time that this is

taking, but we have fewer staff than we had last year and we are scrambling to keep up with all of the things we are expected to do.

Sam Engel

Neighborhood Services Administrator City of Glendale, California

This Just In: Glendale is tops in pedestrian injuries. [Read more by clicking here](#)

Breaking News: City investigates use of public resources for private profit. More to follow.

Poll: Here are three quick questions for you to answer and return to Vanguard (Click reply and then note your response with an X on the line if your answer is yes, then click send).

I want more neighborhood parks _____

I want a large central park downtown _____

I really don't care _____

Next week traffic _____

Election 2007: According to viewers, Vrej Agajanian has announced his candidacy for City Council. Agajanian is the individual that arranged to have the City buy the Armenian Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) building on Brand, provide a new location on Louise and have the City pay for their temporary facilities on W Wilson. The Brand property was acquired without an appraisal costing the taxpayers over \$6,000,000.

Candidate's Comments: No one is talking this week

REMINDER To Candidates: Vanguard will publish your issue statements provided they are in electronic format.

KUDOS: Sr. Assistant City Attorney Lucy Varpetian for providing responses to public information requests. She practices Constitutional Law every day as public information is guaranteed by the State Constitution.

Hot Tip: [Lots of activity at the Fair Political Practices Commission this week. Click here for the full story.](#)

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) *Glendale Fire Department*
- 8) *Public Records Requests*
- 9) *Jump Page*

BELOW THE FOLD

1

Council – November 14, 2006 See Calendar -- #4 Below

Click on the underlined to view the agenda

[City Council](#) - [Housing Authority](#) -- [Redevelopment Agency](#)

2

Commentary

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

As Vanguard moves into its second year of operation elected officials realize that the public – not just Vanguard supporters – is demanding accountability. For those that have been watching City Hall for a while certain nuances are being observed. A beginning of more candor on the dais; accommodations for the disabled; more staff reports given; It is a start but there is a long way to go.

The officials are not used to being monitored and their actions questioned. The public is taking advantage of public information such as applications for boards and commissions, statements of economic interests, expense accounts, campaign disclosure documents and the Brown Act.

However, as the Council moves toward more openness, other departments close down. A simple request to the police department on pedestrian accidents goes to the City Attorney. A simple request to the Fire Department goes from the proper Bat Chief to the Fire Chief to Finance to the City Attorney and then to the City Manager according to the Bat Chief. Why? Is something being hidden? Why are they afraid of their own documents? Vanguard went to the Public Works to get a document. They produced the document and refused to provide a copy unless we disclosed the reason it was wanted. It took Scott Howard to intervene. The person in charge of this document was fearful it would fall into the hands of an attorney and become part of a lawsuit. Upon questioning this was the way it has been done for 14 years, Once again this demonstrates the autonomy of each department and that the City Attorney hadn't, at that point addressed the problem

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)”

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

Story Behind Headlines

Bob Franz head of Finance quits to go to work for Orange County. Maybe the public will benefit after he is gone if his successor institutes the full use of PeopleSoft Software used by the City for finance and payroll, especially the Exception Reporting which was a recommendation by the outside auditor in the 2004 audit. The recommendations made have yet to be followed. In the past few months reports from Franz' department have been erroneous and had to be corrected. Franz along with Elaine Wilkerson will be leaving by year-end.

Integrity starts with the individual

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

3*****

Quotes, Comments, Reports, Calls and Letters:

Some of the City Departments appear to function very well. EX: Called the Dept Water & Power on Monday re: a light problem in city lot #4 and by Wed it was fixed with all the courtesy of a well-run dept staff. The City Sidewalk program was just finished on Louise St. in record time and with very efficient outside contractors. Tree removal and replanting

always seems to be done efficiently and with care. Police & Fire respond with urgency and care. Why can't the City Council see the big picture of Glendale progress and respond? Today, Best Western Motel has awakened since the Specific Plan was adopted, and I am sure this was an issue long before we started to dig the hole for the Americana. Would like to know the history of this saga between Best Western, Caruso and the City Council. Were they promised something the City didn't deliver? So many issues it's hard to know where to start asking.

Thanks again for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Glendale. **DF**

I rented a car for 4 days and it only cost \$79. Why was Weaver's rental so much? **RM**

As you may already know, Tuesday night the City Council voted 4-1 to adopt the Downtown Specific Plan.

This accomplishment is the result of collective effort by many people, especially those who participated in the Advisory Group meetings. Once again I would like to thank everyone for committing their evenings and time to this process.

There are number of follow-up studies that will result from the Specific Plan, foremost of which is to complete the Mobility Study. Our next study session with Council on this topic is this coming Tuesday, Nov 14 at 2:30pm. The discussion will focus on the Beeline Short-Range Transit Plan, which will include plans for the signature transit service on Brand-Central, tentatively named "The Buzz". The next presentation to Council on the Mobility Study will be in mid-January.

Alan Loomis Principal Urban Designer City of Glendale

Vanguard this week is excellent. Why don't we find out about the junkets these CMs, etc. take. It is outrageous. \$880 for car rental. . .did he rent a Hummer or something? How about all the other "higher ups" trips? Hmm. How do you do it?

WK

I have been a resident of Glendale during three make-overs of Brand Blvd and today's Brand seems to be the most productive it has ever been. That said I would like to add that the Merchants Association seems to be the least productive I have ever seen. I am not certain how a group formed to unite the merchants would allow parking lots on one side or the other of Brand to not accept validation from merchants on the opposite side of Brand. This is completely consistent with the lack of effort made during the planning of the Americana to insist the City include cooperation between the Americana, the Galleria and the Brand and Central shopping districts. I suggested at the time to all parties that dedicated Beeline routes could be routed to include all these destinations on 10 minute intervals stopping at convenient points in each of the major districts including parking structures in order to ease congestion, utilize substantially unused parking at the north end and allow shoppers to choose among a large variety of major and private merchants for their shopping needs. In essence you would create the largest shopping mall in the State and increase the value of each square foot of retail space. A major key is the cooperation between parking structures and validating merchants through out the entire group of districts. Convenient, affordable parking and good ground transportation makes the plan desirable to shoppers and profitable to merchants and parking lots.

It is time to evaluate the transportation mitigation in the City's EIR and suggest a more complete and productive plan.

Carl E. Atkinson, Jr

I have read your Vanguard newsletter and I support everything you do because you're absolutely right about accountability and transparency. If there is any one person I would like to share information with it is you. **GM**

I drove by Anoush yesterday only to find the flames blazing, much like the photo in the California Section of the L.A. Times Saturday. How long will they be allowed to continue grilling? I thought the ban was immediate. Also, I saw the same story on the Channel 4 News this morning – apparently the banquet hall owners are going to "appeal" the decision. What would be the next step? **JT ED- See message from Sam Engel above.**

I read Jim Canfield's letter in the GNP and wondered whom he was talking about. Jim Starbird, Bob McFall, Scott Howard and Elaine Wilkerson? The five council members are elected, thus they are excluded. [ED see #9 Jump for GNP mailbag]

[Snopes says this following story is true.](#)

A city councilman, Mark Easton, lives in this Utah neighborhood. He had a beautiful view of the east mountains, until a new neighbor purchased the lot below his house and built. Apparently, the new home was 18 inches higher than the ordinances would allow, so Mark Easton, mad about his lost view, went to the city to make sure they enforced the lower roof line ordinance. Mark and his new neighbor had some great arguments about this as you can imagine - not great feelings. The new neighbor had to drop the roof line - no doubt at great expense. Recently, Easton called the city and informed them that his new neighbor had installed some vents on the side of his home. Mark didn't like the look of these vents and asked the city to investigate. When they went to Mark's home to see the vent view, this is what they found... JM



4

Announcements -- Calendar -- Links

For information call Vanguard at 818 243 1502

City Calendar

Monday, November 13

CDBG Advisory Committee—2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2060
Commission on the Status of Women – 6:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-4844

Tuesday, November 14

Study Session – Long Range Planning – 10:00 am, City Council Chambers, 548-4844
Glendale Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2060
Glendale Redevelopment Agency – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-2005
Study Session—Short Term Transit Plans and Analysis of Beeline Bus—2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-4844
Glendale City Council – 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-4844

Wednesday, November 15

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 548-2140
Building & Fire Board of Appeals – 2:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 548-3200
Planning Commission – 5:00 pm, Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 548-2140

Thursday, November 16

Joint Meeting – Design Review Boards # 1 and # 2 – Room 105, Municipal Services Building, 548-2140
Design Review Board #1 – 2:00 pm, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 548-2140

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](#)—[Email Cong Schiff](#). [2006 California Piglet Book about government waste](#). [Political Reform Act](#). --
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5

Glendale 360 initiative

Join Herbert Molano on his 360-mile run. Seeing how our city council wants us to look like New York with all the new high rise buildings and all, I decided to take a run up Foothill Blvd, you know the La Crescenta fame, and visit New York Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. My how it reminds me of the Monopoly game our Council members are playing with our city. So I asked myself; 'Self, how can I tell if I am in LA County or in Glendale?' Well the answer was simple. Look up at the sky. Running eastbound, towards the Glendale portion I noticed how clean the sky looked, free of those ugly wooden power poles and transformers. But as soon as you reach Pennsylvania Avenue, there they were. Ugly as sin. Yes, folks, that's how you know you are in Glendale. I now wonder if those in La Crescenta who were annexed by Glendale really got the best of the bargain. Those on the LA county side, live with good infrastructure, those on the Glendale side with the infrastructure neglected. About three years ago, an association of local merchants on Foothill asked the city to consider putting the electric lines underground. They asked them to put the improvements on the GWP budget. What they got instead were GWP or Public works invoices for amounts from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for each merchant business. That put a damper on that request. How dare they tamper with the city's money that should be allocated towards pay increases and higher pensions? Who do they think they are? Tax-paying Glendale Businesses?

So next time you drive on Foothill Blvd, look out for the wooden poles and remember that you are in Glendale. By the way, the next time your power goes out and they blame a squirrel or a raccoon, tell them you know how they weasel out of improving our power grid: A ten million dollar pay increase for management was the alternative. Guess who won?
Herbert Molano Charging up the hill in Glendale.



6

Your Benefits from Vanguard

No other news media in Glendale does investigative reporting and tells the whole story!!

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

SPEAKING ON THE ISSUES: Barry Allen, spokesperson for Vanguard, is available to speak to your group or organization about the issues of accountability in Glendale and to hear your issues and insights. No holds barred, no pulled punches, the truth supported by the facts obtained through the California Public Records Act, legislation that is so important that it is included in the California Constitution.

Glendale Businesses distribute hardcopy of Vanguard Weekly News. Each week numerous people call Vanguard asking where they can get a copy of Vanguard News now that it is banned from City Hall. The Public can come to your business and pick up a copy. Call Vanguard for information about this program at 818 243 1502. Soon Vanguard will be available at the City Clerk's office.

Vanguard Available by Mail: Although Vanguard Weekly is designed to be transmitted by email, we have made provisions to First Class mail Vanguard News for the annual cost of printing and mailing a copy each week for \$75 a year. The Glendale Edition goes to thousands of people in Glendale including City Officials. Tuesday evening it is available in hardcopy to those attending Council.

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

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7

Glendale Fire Department

The data, does it support \$25 Million for new fire stations? No! The City commissioned a consulting firm that had never consulted regarding the need for a fire station. Staff acknowledged that in their report and indicated that it was OK, as the Fire Department would provide all the data required.

At the last meeting of the Downtown specific plan Advisory Committee the 'new' Fire Station 26 was sprung on the Committee by staff indicating it was a management priority. When asked why it was being treated in an urgent manner the Committee was told that it was important to management. When asked about the fact that it was not in the DSP area the Committee was told that it was important to management that it be included. When staff was asked about whether they had read the outside consultants report, staff indicated they didn't know of its existence.

Fire officials told Vanguard that the highest demand for emergency services was between 9AM and 5PM when traffic in the downtown area is most congested. Vanguard was given to understand that the Galleria generated a large portion of the calls. With the Americana going in it should be safe to assume that those types of calls would increase.

The data indicates the majority of calls are for medical emergency (A ratio of 11 to 1). The apparatus includes the following: 9 engines, 3 trucks (formerly known as hook & ladder) and only 4 rescue ambulances (RA). Some engines have a paramedic aboard and will roll in districts where there is no ambulance. An assessment is made and if necessary and available an RA will be dispatched losing precious lifesaving minutes. The trucks carry the

Jaws of Life, the hydraulic tools used primarily to extricate victims trapped in vehicles. Wouldn't it be better to carry this equipment in a more maneuverable smaller utility vehicle? Has the GFD even considered motorcycles to get paramedics to the scene quicker? What about paramedics that aren't firefighters? The data is overlooked and not considered. There is no valid reason to spend \$25,000,000 to rebuild two fire stations. To date the Glendale Fire Department has refused to allow Vanguard consultants to tour the two stations (26 and 29); has refused to validate the need for 24-hour shifts; has refused to reduce overtime (a \$5,000,000 expense; has refused to add a reserve force; has refused to staff according to the needs of the community and has refused to allow Vanguard to see the payroll of those employees getting more than \$100,000 per year.

On October 29 the major issues the Battalion Chief dealt with were clogged kitchen sinks at stations 24 and 26 and station 25 had the water line to the freezer fail. Don't laugh really hard...we don't know how much this will cost the taxpayers.

8

Public Records Requests

Requests & Responses:

Please provide documents indicating real property presently owned by the City of Glendale and owned by the Glendale Redevelopment Agency was the request made on October 30

Records responsive to your request will be available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk on Wednesday, November 15 some 7 days over the time required under the law to provide documents

Frederick Towers, Inc. is a contractor holding city contracts. Provide the information the City used to verify corporate status and licensure.

There are no records responsive to your request; however, the information was verified online at www.cslb.ca.gov. **ED The City has no form indicating that this contractor is a corporation or that the license has been verified. This strikes to the issue of accountability.**

Please provide documents that contain Beeline ridership information (number of riders) per month for July 2004 through and including June 2006.

Your request requires that the City search for and collect data from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request. Accordingly, the City exercises its right pursuant to the Government Code Section 6253(c) to extend the time within which to respond by an additional 14 days.

Staff report and other documents supporting the planned realignment of Beeline Rte 3 eliminating Honolulu in Montrose.

Please be advised that the records you seek are in draft form and exempt from production pursuant to Government Code section 6254(a). We invite you to submit your request again in late October when we expect to have the report completed.

Please be advised that the records you seek are in draft form and exempt from production pursuant to Government Code section 6254(a). We invite you to submit your request again in late November when we expect to have the report completed.

ED. Note: This will have a serious impact on the seniors and disabled in the Montrose area. The request was resubmitted

Please provide documents that indicate members of boards and commission that have failed to file their statements of economic interest.

Waiting ZZZZZZZZ

The 5" of application submitted to receive award for Public Works, submitted by April Fitzpatrick and the documents indicating the cost of preparation of the application.

Available for review + City failed to provide documents as to cost of preparation.

The City has failed to provide the cost of the labor and professional talent on Ms Fitzpatrick's team. The Vanguard estimate based on city salary documents is that the 'award' **cost the taxpayers more than \$100,000** for salary, benefits and burden. Mr. Yousefian indicates that the cost was way over the \$100,000.

9

JUMP PAGE

GNP Mailbag: A dream for Glendale in upcoming election

As of April 2007, elections are again coming to Glendale, and my dream is that the ones running for the City Council will care and love

Glendale. To keep Glendale growing and changing with the times is not always easy, but life is not always easy. People do have rights in this country. I'd just like to see Glendale council meetings deal with Glendale workings and nothing else. We have four people who in the last three years have tried to have their own council within the Glendale council. It does not work and they are not even elected by the working Glendale people. They have twisted and made up facts and attacked Glendale staff and council unjustly. So let's deal with real life in council and city government. Not make-believe to make a few people feel important. Go, Glendale. **JIM CANFIELD** Glendale

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