



"Accountability"
Glendale's Watchdog

Vanguard

Weekly News Vol II

Week of November 19, 2006

City of Glendale, CA Edition

www.vanguard-usa.org

HEADLINES

Mayor Weaver Continues to Divide City

Enjoy Thanksgiving

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

VANGUARD NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PROVIDE THE ONLY INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING IN Glendale. See #6

ABOVE THE FOLD

City Manager Starbird says there is no money for tennis courts; Council member Manoukian says, "I told you so." Once again the City has its priorities mixed up.

- There is no money for tennis courts but,
- There is always money to pay bloated salaries and overtime;
- There is always money to pay 'negotiated settlements';
- There is always money to pay lawsuits and settlements;
- There is always money to buy open space;
- There is always money for studies;
- There is money to build two fire stations without a justifiable need (\$25,000,000);
- There is always money to cover cost overruns.

This Just In: Public Works is getting an award from Public Works magazine, an award that cost the taxpayers about \$250,000 in staff time. What have been their accomplishments?

- The Police Building coming in millions over the original projections and then having things wrong like the sewers flowing the wrong way.
- Brand Blvd. Over two years for a paving project and the public hasn't been told the cost overruns.
- The Beeline, a very expensive (\$300,000) Nextbus system that doesn't work, waiting over a year for a refueling nozzle that requires the buses to fuel in Burbank and Los Angeles, a fare box system that was broken for 9 months, bus shelters where the lights have yet to be turned on.

There is more. Our suggestion is that you contact Public Works magazine with your comments (send Vanguard a copy).

Amara Rozgus

Public Works Magazine
426 S Westgate St
Addison IL 69191
arozgus@hanleywood.com
800-837-0870 X 2695

MTA Buses: Has anyone used a decibel meter to check to see how much noise they generate? Vanguard was at the corner of Brand and Lexington and could not hear a cell phone call and the person on the other end thought that the end had come. It was just an MTA bus heading north on Brand. Maybe our new residents can get quieter buses.

Beeline: Vanguard had requested ridership information and was previously told we would have to pay to have the computer programmed to get the information. Seems as if the real story was that the GFI fare box system was 'broken' for 9 months. A review of that data and a comparison with earlier data indicates a significant deviation. Vanguard had called for an audit earlier and the audit did not catch this problem nor have a revenue component to it. Once again City Management has issued made-up information for the Council and for the public. Folks, we deserve honesty in our relationship with the government.

Ooops: Study Session on short-range transit plan fails to provide documents to the public and the consultants did not provide information on the interview with regular Beeline riders. Anecdotal information is usually flawed. One person was able to get the City Attorney's copy after being shuffled from department to department in an attempt to find a copy.

Impact Fees: City is poised to start charging impact fees on new construction but have no plan to justify whether the fees will be retroactive and if so, what projects will be included. More important, the City has not prepared a plan for the use of the funds or the interest generated that meets the standards set by State Law. Read the Quimby Act.

Commercial Outdoor Grilling: Call the Police non-emergency number, 548-4826, when you see or smell commercial outdoor grilling.

Real Estate: Glendale has 1,000,000 square feet of office space empty and available. Shouldn't the City Business Development group be helping the commercial real estate brokers in corralling potential leases? The West Side, Burbank and Pasadena have provided new homes to Yahoo!, Google and other tech names.

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).

Traffic Mitigation Is a Major Dilemma _____
I ride the Beeline weekly _____
I really don't care _____

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

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BELOW THE FOLD

1 **Council – November 21, 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.

Our civic duty and responsibility only begins when we vote. We must continue that duty to make sure that our elected officials are fulfilling their duty by fairly representing us. We must be aware, question and respond to the issues.

We each have a civic duty to uphold the Constitution by using its guarantees. In California some of those rights have been codified in the State Constitution and Statutes. For instance the Brown Act requires that time be provided at each session of a legislative body for the public to provide its input. It saddens me to see people bow, curtsy and thank the Council for providing the opportunity. Folks, IT IS THE LAW! If the Council and Staff had their way, there would be NO opportunity to speak on the issues.

We have seen the callous disregard by Council and Staff in refusing the press an opportunity to make news media available at City Hall.

Our civic duty extends to obtaining public records and is codified in the California Public Records Act. Again, if the Council and Staff could do away with the public's RIGHT to this information, they would. For instance: a request for property owned by the city and the redevelopment agency resulted in only 50% of the request being filled. In another instance a request for the documents on which the fire department bases its EMS charges, languishes on City Manager Starbird's desk.

Mayor Weaver has done his best to intimidate Vanguard from seeking public records by publicly stating requests. However, he didn't publicly review his expense account.

The City did not provide copies of the short-range transit plan to the public. That plan has so many ambiguities in it that are not supported by facts. Unfortunately it does contain a number of anecdotal opinions. The government does NOT want you informed! They do not need to have the huge number of secret sessions called closed sessions. One recent police brutality suit was settled for \$75,000 and more are being filed.

The government wants you to believe there are only 4 or 5 people that speak out. They don't want to believe that those people represent a large number of the concerned population.

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

Mayor Weaver speaking at the Glendale Hilton ‘revealed plans of developing an Asian Chamber of Commerce in the City,’ according to a story in the GNP. As many in Glendale (Shades of Culture, the HR Coalition) worked to create an inclusive city embracing all faiths, cultures and ethnicities, Weaver is taking the community another step backwards.

Integrity starts with the individual

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

3 Quotes, Comments, Reports, Calls and Letters:

Can you get "Herbert Molano" to inquire about the sidewalk obstruction that I talked to you about at 310 East Wilson, Hydash Market? (A commercial water dispensing machine right smack in the middle of the sidewalk on city property-- Safety Hazard.) I contacted Neighborhood Services and they said they had some complaints and were looking into it?? -- Whatever that means?
Thanks -- D F

I sent a letter to the Transportation and Parking Commission after Jano Bagdahnian wouldn't return my calls, about the licensing and restrictions placed on the non-emergency medical transport vehicles. One particular vehicle keeps parking on the street for an extended time. Shea Eclestone told me the Commissioners weren't given the letter under instructions from Jano. GL

I hear so many different numbers and time frames about people living downtown. How many, where and when? Is there someone out there that can answer the questions? CG

4 Announcements -- Calendar -- Links

For information call Vanguard at 818 243 1502

City Calendar

Monday, November 20 - No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday, November 21

Glendale Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall. 548-2060

Glendale Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall,

Joint Meeting – City Council/Housing Authority – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers. 548-4844 **CDBG**

Joint Meeting – City Council/Redevelopment Agency – 2:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 548-4844 **BID**

Glendale City Council -- 6:00 pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 548-4844

Wednesday, November 22

Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- 9:30 am, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 548-2140

Thursday, November 24 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed

Friday, November 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed

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](#). --
[Donations Deductible? Find out here](#) -- [LAFCO MSR Report](#) ---[calaware](#) --- [California First Amendment Coalition](#)

[Tax Tips on Pensions and Charitable deductions](#)

[New Requirements for Charitable Contributions](#)

[Social Security - Retiring Early](#) -- [Pension Reform](#) -- [Medical Travel](#)

5 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

Email to: ba@fieldworks.net

Please make checks payable to **Vanguard**

Mail to Post Office Box 11202 Glendale CA 91226

Annual mail subscription: \$75.

Mail to: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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
You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

6 Glendale Fire Department

Vanguard received a thank you call from Chief Gray this week. V had suggested the implementation of an infrared system that could locate hot spots before they turned into fires. This is technology that is used by the US Dept of the Interior and it can be used here.

New technology, new ideas and the public can receive better emergency response if the GFD dropped the traditions like 24-hour shifts, large apparatus, 4 firemen per vehicle EXCEPT the Rescue Ambulances (RA) where there are only 2 assigned and staffing for need rather than tradition.

The GFD is planning on building two replacement fire stations for \$25,000,000 and there has been no need established by an outside-unbiased agency. The majority of calls are for medical, a ratio of 11 to 1.

There has been a study made that City management refuses to look at that would reduce financial waste by \$10,000,000 per year!

Here are some solutions:

- Shifts similar to the police department
- Smaller utility vehicles for patrol and better access because of traffic and for 'shopping'
- Greater emphasis placed on RA
- A reserve force
- Reduce each suppression team by 1 member and send two suppression teams on a run

The Glendale Fire Department is hiding from the public by:

- Refusing to allow Vanguard to make a complete inspection tour of Stations 26 and 29,
- Refusing to provide OSHA information about the nature of and the location of injuries of public employees, and
- Refusing to share the positions and totals of payroll of those in the fire department grossing more than \$150,000.

7 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

City was only able to produce a list of properties owned by the Redevelopment Agency

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.

The City allowed the fare box system to become inoperable for 9 months thus there is no accurate fare box information.

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 commissions that have failed to file their statements of economic interest.

Waiting ZZZZZZZZ

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