



“Accountability”
Glendale’s Watchdog

**COLLECTORS
ITEM
LAST ISSUE
Vol III**

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol III
Week of September 28, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
818 243 1502

Shana Tovah 5769

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!



Bill O’Reilly says that...“no longer can we the people trust the government to look out for us.” That is true here in Glendale where the City Finance Department booked the \$417,000 expense of the Chess Prak in 2007...four years after it was completed! Is it nefarious? We don’t know. Is it cooking the books to hide something else? We don’t know. But Vanguardians is asking. As the reserves dwindle to \$400,000,000 and our bond debt increases to \$1,000,000,000 – and our tax based revenues shrink 20% we are in trouble. Certain Council members are still intent on redistributing the wealth to people that don’t live or spend their money in Glendale. Who is looking out for YOU? Certainly not the politicians. Vanguardians IS looking out for you and your money. City Manager Starbird, City Attorney Scott Howard and Matt Doyle are providing a report to the Council on HR activities for last year (Council Consent Calendar 5E). The report indicates there are only 113 sworn police officers with 289 support personnel which is an error. Are there more errors in the report? How can we trust any reports that come from City Management especially when only one Council member reads the weekly packet? Are the books accurate? How much is our indebtedness? Our unfunded pensions? These are reasons why we need Vanguardians. If you want to clean up the mess in our City, we can help...but we can’t do it alone and we can’t do it without financial resources. **Mail your check today so we can continue this fight.**



Not Me –
Not my
responsibility

The City started playing hardball after badly losing the Gladys mudslide costing the taxpayer over \$10,000,000. They held back money on the transfer of the properties, changed the locks so the sellers couldn’t retrieve their property and now everyone is back in Court as they are on several other cases. It will serve to cost us even more. Maybe even more than public records requests. Meanwhile the City is tied up on the property traded to Sal Gangi and his development project. This could mean the City gets back the land on Pennsylvania while Gangi builds his development.



Fairfield, CA – City Council member Matt Garcia was shot to death allegedly by three people now in custody. It is uncertain if the motive had anything to do with drugs. Meanwhile another Council member, Frank Kardod who was convicted of [felony charges](#) apparently committed suicide. **COMMENT:** Fairfield is the home of the Glendale Beeline operator and where contributions have been made to several Glendale Council members.

Oops: The [GNP reports on attempt murder](#) conviction where three women sustained non-life-threatening injuries in the attack. Investigators initially thought the victims had been stabbed after at first failing to find the handgun used, Glendale Police Sgt. Tom Lorenz said. “It wasn’t until the next day that we found the gun.” A family member called police after noticing a tool kit. Upon arrival, investigators dismantled the box to find the pistol hidden inside, **COMMENT:** Even though there was sloppy police work they still got a conviction. Police and Fire may need training in identifying [bullet wounds and knife wounds](#). (Link is very graphic)

The economy is even affecting the people on E. Chevy Chase Dr. One woman has even resorted to prostitution in order to make ends meet, or as the Council would say, “pay to play.” **California Blondes Plus is the name of her business.**

According to Christian Arbid, the foreclosure and short sale expert, the numbers show 2-bedroom condos can be had for \$250,000. This could change the way our affordable housing program works by buying instead of subsidizing to the tune of \$500,000 for affordable housing programs.



Paradise Lost: Smyrna 1922 with Giles Milton

Monday, September 29, 6 - 8:30 pm Glendale Police Community Room
131 N. Isabel St. (between Broadway and Wilson)
A FREE event sponsored by the Friends of the Glendale Public Library.

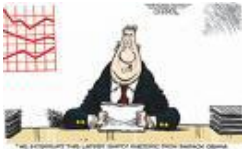
In answer to so many inquiries, Herbert Molano and Richard Espiritu are alive and well. There is no City edict keeping them away from City meetings. They haven't been to the evening performance because Mr. Molano attends the 2:30 matinee where he speaks on the important issues of the day. Dr. Espiritu's time has been consumed with family issues.

Safety Tip: The present economic conditions have increased criminal activity. Alarm companies are seeing an astronomic increase of burglar alarm sales. One of the hottest items available is an IP addressable, motion detection activated video camera that will send a message to your compatible cell phone along with a picture of the cause.

ANNOUNCEMENT from Vanguardians...

Coming soon ... the Vanguardians Weekly Breakfast Club -- while breaking bread the attendees will be able to network, discuss issues of the City and meet city officials & candidates for public office.

RESTAURANTS AND BANQUET HALLS wanted to host – Contact Barry Allen for details 818 243 1502



CITY ELECTION IS ONLY 6 Months away...the dynamic is changing every day especially since Council member Bob Yousefian said he isn't going to run for City Council. No one is a candidate until their nominating petitions are approved and they pay the required fee in January.

Latest additions to Council candidates' list:

1. DRB Board Member Laura Friedman with a fundraiser in a residence converted to office space and supported by Geri Cragnotti and Council member Dave Weaver according to a participant at the fund raiser.
2. Developer Aram Kazazian
3. TV Host Chahe Keuroghelian
4. Former GWP Commissioner Lenore Solis
5. Adams Hill Homeowners Association head Michael Teahan
6. Ministerial Intern Jerry Bertelson
7. Vrej Agajanian, TV host (Decision is coming in October)
8. GUSD Board member Greg Krikorian (School Board or City Council decision will be made soon)
9. Council member Frank Quintero Incumbent
10. Council member Ara Najarian incumbent finishing his first term



Running for City Treasurer (Ron Borucki is retiring at the end of his term leaving that office open) are to date two people with several others rumored to be in the mix:

1. Rafi Manoukian
2. Bob Yousefian

City candidates: Vanguardians will share any public records we obtain upon your request to Barry Allen at 818 243 1502. As a 501(c)3 we are prohibited from either supporting or opposing any candidate for public office.

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

A once in a lifetime offer from Vanguardians – We will be doing an email to over 50,000 Glendalians...4 times (200,000 exposures) over a two month period. Your web site link or message can be added to that mailing. Call Barry Allen 818 243 1502 to see if you qualify.

**They came first for the agitators, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an agitator;
 And then they came for the activists, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an activist;
 And then they came for the advocates, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't an advocate;
 And then they came for the journalists, And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a journalist;
 And then . . . they came for me . . . And by that time there was no one left to speak up.**
 Adapted from Pastor Martin Niemoller

If you have issues with the City and you fear retaliation, bring them to Vanguardians and we'll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council

Council	9-23-08	Cum	Contact info
Drayman	F	C	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Najarian	C	B	anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Quintero	absent	B	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Weaver	C	C	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us ;
Yousefian	B	B	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us ;



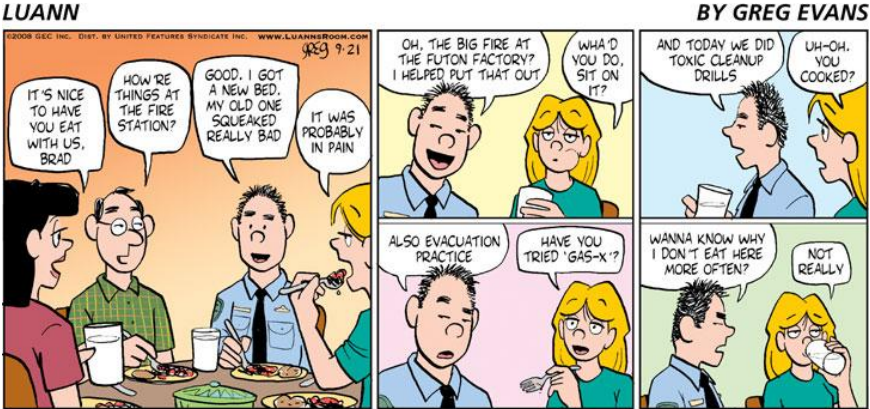
"I da Mayor. I get the last word," said hizzoner as he relentlessly attacked CCM Yousefian over Al Hofmann and his nomination as a member of the possibly, soon-to-be-defunct Arts & Culture Commission. While on the same roll, JD gave CA Scott Howard his comeuppance over the word 'shall'. Even CM Jim Starbird rolled his eyes as Drayman carried on. Drayman outed CCM Najarian for keeping a notebook of 'Bob-isms'. Najarian, to his credit, didn't out Drayman. Drayman had a look of shock and awe when I spoke about the Chevy Chase Golf Course. I did not speak about the future plans.

The Consent Calendar listed about \$3,000,000 in spending and I suggested that given the tough financial times the City needed to revisit the contract negotiations. The words fell on deaf ears. During Oral Communications I spoke about the \$417,000 booked in 2007 for the Chess Park. Our research indicated that these were expenses from 2003 and 2004 and were not booked properly. A further review shows that many other entries were inaccurate and may have changed the books for the prior years. No one, other than CCM Yousefian seemed to have any interest in the financial health of the City with regard to the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac takeovers.



Numerous callers have requested that Drayman get a low score on his report card for escalating the Council dysfunction. After the discussion on Al Hofmann, what person in their right mind would even consider being appointed to a Board or Commission? On CCM Weaver's worst day, he was better than the Drayman tantrum. When CCM Yousefian is gone...who will be the whipping boy?

The Audience responded with cat-calls.



Glendale Fire Department records show that on the morning of August 27 when the smoke and fire fatality occurred on W. Loraine, the first responders were all tucked in their beds. There were no other runs they were on or had just returned from. One engine company didn't respond until 2:15AM about the time the

deceased was found. **COMMENT: The time has come for the City Council to demand why we pay for our workers to sleep; why it took one company almost 15 minutes to respond.**

Peoples Republic of Davis [responds](#) to their Fire Department issues.

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

Are Homeowners paying their fair share? Forcing development out only reduces needed revenue. Pay attention – it is your money and you can do something about it unlike the situation in Washington. Here in our favorite bedroom community the old guard has done everything they could to stop development while pouring more money into police and fire; demanding more restrictive building and zoning codes; more parks and senior facilities. I could go on but hopefully you get the point.

Advocate and Analyst Herbert Molano has spent time and effort charting and reporting on data that shows the City is spending faster than it raises revenue making it borrow against the future, using bonds which are now an obligation of almost ONE BILLION DOLLARS! Our investible restricted reserves are down to about \$430,000,000 from almost \$600,000,000 just a few years ago.

In answer to the pleading and plaintive cries from some of the public, the Council has approved more employees, more pay raises and more and larger benefits while keeping development to a minimum.

In today's economy we are getting less money from sales tax revenue and from property taxes as the values of our homes go down due to market devaluation.

We beat up the developers that are coming forth like Amidi, Komar, Verdugo Partners, Karamanoukian, Intracorp and others that are willing to invest their money in our community that will bring in the needed revenue to pay the bills through impact fees and Tax Increment Financing while we applaud other developers for selling their properties to the City for inflated prices that gives the taxpayer a double whammy...NO NEW REVENUE and DEPLETION OF OUR RESERVES! [Flint Canyon was purchased for \$475,000 by the developer and a few years later sold to the City for \$15,000,000 - \$6M cash and \$9M in IRS deductions – [from Public Records]. The City needs assurance that their investment in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bonds are safe. When the City draws from investment reserves it reduces revenue generated from those investment funds.]



City employee payroll and benefits continue to rise while the apathetic public is oblivious to what is happening around them. Revenue is being increased by RAISING fees for residents and local businesses rather than bringing in new money!

It is more clearly understandable now why City Management and the Mayor want to silence the messengers by attempting to discredit them. They don't want you to know of their lack of fiscal accountability.

WE NEED YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE [HELP](#) TODAY

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with.

[ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

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Bring more life to your life!
 If you or someone you know is struggling with something in life,
 is in transition or about to make a transition,
 or just really needs someone to talk to who *really* listens
 then perhaps a **Life Coach** is what is needed. Call for a **FREE** 20 minute consultation
818.694.0588

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED – SHARE VANGUARD -- VOLUNTEER

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character. [Margaret Chase Smith](#)

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Potpourri ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the

organization or Barry Allen. Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will not be published that aren't signed and/or are hate oriented.



Why are people so down on Bob Yousefian? The Family Jewels blog puts him down even though comments are often to the contrary. It appears to me that Yousefian knows what he is talking about and has never come to the Council with a, 'me, me' approach like the Mayor and Councilman Najarian. The Mayor wanted Rockhaven and his community gardens without regard to need or financial resources. Najarian just wants his swimming pool while Quintero only wants to redistribute the wealth from the tax and ratepayers to the city employees. Weaver only wants to help his personal charity and Virgelia. I have watched Yousefian ask to have an extra pipe put on Mountain for recycled water to the San Rafael subdivision to water their green spaces while the road was being torn up. City Manager said absolutely not. He asked to have something put on the agenda and we were all treated to a litany that what he wanted required a consensus. He brought to the Council and Management opportunities to have a CNG fueling facility several years ago locking in fuel costs. He wanted the City to look at a generating facility at Scholl Canyon where, according to the City Manager it costs a million dollars a year to send methane to the Grayson power plant. Yousefian seems to be the only one not looking out for his re-election. **CK**

It looks like the Mayor is the executioner for the City Manager as well as himself. If someone crosses either one they get ostracized from the sand box. Why don't more people see what is going on and demand changes in the way business is being conducted? Why isn't Vanguardians doing more to enlighten the public? **JS** [ED – Vanguardians can do more. We need people like you who are concerned enough to help make these changes. It just takes time and money.]

Congratulations to Vanguardians on beginning their fourth year of publishing the wonderful Glendale newsletter. Imagining a political landscape in Glendale without your perspective and advocacy is a bleak prospect. Personal thanks to Barry Allen, Herbert Molano, Dr. Richard Espiritu and the other communitarians and activists who act as our eyes and ears when it comes to all things in city government and the political arena.

Vanguardians has been a much-needed breath of fresh air in our community and has succeeded despite blistering criticism and opposition from most of our elected officials. Barry and others are much maligned from the dais when they should actually be receiving kudos from the city government for performing a vital social and political oversight function. Glendale's sad sack city functionaries, managers and elected officials should take a lesson in temerity and clarity from advocates such as Barry Allen.

Whatever happened to the commendation for Barry that was once suggested by Ara Najarian? Plenty of awards to hand out for cronies and cohorts and if you've got enough cold hard cash you can even get a street named after you, so how about a little recognition for the good works done on our behalf by Barry Allen and the Vanguardians. C'mon Glendale, Vanguardians is a non-profit so how about a few CDBG dollars for our watchdog? **NAJ**

From Vanguard of Davis blog comments: Mike Hart said... The problem for many elected officials is that it is almost impossible for them to be critical of the fire department. Any criticism of the hours, salaries, overtime, benefits etc. can be quickly turned into a criticism of the fire departments bravery, importance and the risks that they take. Politicians, even our mighty city councilmen, are susceptible to this kind of attack. You need people like DPD and the Vanguardians to encourage critical review from the outside. This is particularly true in Davis where it appears that certain members of the current council are pets of the local fire union.



We get calls: My wife tripped over a raised sidewalk, fell and hurt herself. What should I do? [ED – First thing, get her medical treatment. Take pictures of her injuries, footwear and the sidewalk showing the raised portion with a ruler to indicate the height of the rise. Make sure you validate the date of the injuries and the picture taking. On Monday notify the Director of Public Works so he can get someone to look at and fix the problem. Then, if you will be

suffering out-of-pocket expenses because of the City's negligence, file a claim for those expenses with the City Clerk. Our wishes for a quick recovery.]

So a prostitute was operating in the 2500 block of Chevy Chase. She gave value for her services unlike the 5 prostitutes on the dais every Tuesday.

I see a small Beeline bus several times a day on Glenoaks. It is always empty other than the driver. What is this all about? [ED It is very simple the City has extra money so they spend it on providing transportation to a few people because those people feel they have an entitlement. That same money could be used instead for things like school resource officers.]

The City gives cars and mileage to many employees according to your Vanguard report. In my business, we have to report that as income and it is taxed by the IRS. Is the City exempt? [ED – My understanding is that the City is required to report this. We have requested mileage and usage information. There is none. City employees are not accountable for mileage, maintenance, fuel or insurance.]



Who is Ray Trim? There were letters in the NewsPress supporting Mayor Drayman and they appear to be written by the same hand. Do you know who Ray Trim is? [ED In response to who is letter writer Ray Trim...per John Drayman, "Ray Trim was an election campaign volunteer." His 460 form indicated that Trim was a paid election consultant. How quickly can a Mayor forget? Especially when he has his business located at the very same address.]

RAY TRIM / ROBERTA DAILY CONSULTANTS 3808 1/2 OCEAN VIEW BLVD. MONTROSE, CA 91020	CNS	CAMP. CONS/MNG	5,000
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From a public document
460 disclosure form



Comedy at City Hall: DWP's fat raises seem like a joke, but they're for real

Daily News Article Last Updated: 09/21/2008 11:43:50 PM PDT

It's like the punch line for a bad joke:

Q: How do local government officials respond to tough economic times?

A: By raising your [taxes](#) and raising their pay.

Ha ha! Only it's not a very funny premise

Vanguard of Davis: [City Responds To Grand Jury Report](#) September 21, 2008



As we reported last week, the City of Davis has asked Police Ombudsman Bob Aaronson to investigate the findings of the Yolo County Grand Jury's Report that reviewed the Davis Fire Department. The city had 90 days within the receipt of the report to respond to the recommendations. This week's council agenda contains the city's formal response to the Grand Jury's recommendations.

The city has taken the extra step of examining the veracity of the findings. As Mr. Aaronson told the Vanguard last week: "My hope at this point is to be done within the next 30 to 45 days. How it plays out after that isn't my call." In a follow up, Mr. Aaronson informed the Vanguard that the city did not need his report in order to respond to the recommendations which are fairly basic and routine.

The city's staff report fully lays out the process. "As we began evaluating the overall report, it became apparent that the investigation would take longer than the 90 day timeframe mandated for a City response to the recommendations. Our response to the City Council is thus a multi-step process."

[For the full story, please click here](#)

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) www.vanguardians.org [Check Zip Code Demographics](#) [Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) Piglet Book 2008 . -- [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#) [The Glendale California 100K Club](#) [2009 City Council Campaign Contributions through 06-30-08](#) ["Glendale Mayor Drayman and his acolytes" by vanmguardians](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)

Tuesday, September 30

10:30 am **Special Meeting** – City Council – Feasibility of Police Advisory Board – City Council Chambers

2:30 pm Housing Authority - Redevelopment Agency

6:00 pm City Council **the smoking ordinance is on the agenda**

Wednesday, October 1

9:30 am Zoning Administrator's Hearing -- Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

Thursday, October 2

5:00 pm Design Review Board #2 --, Municipal Services Building, Room 105, 633 E. Broadway, Glendale. 548-2140

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CALL MJ "KIP" KING AT 877.629.6717



Public Information

Request made August 25, 2008 -- Please provide Documents for

1. ADV TRAVELER INFO SYSTEM \$73,285
2. Low Watt Radio System \$37,925
3. Chess Park \$471,734
4. Neighborhood Request Program \$6
5. Park Development \$3,674,177

This request was made based on expenditures made between July 1, 2006 and June 20, 2007. The City requested 14 more days to get the info (in addition to the 10 days allowed by the Public Records Act). The records indicate that charges for 4 years previous were booked in 2007. Are the books correct? This matter should evoke questions by the Council. If not them, then the City Manager needs to look into his finance department and straighten things out.

[US Government 2008 Salary Tables and Related Information](#) Top Fed Pay is \$150,000. Top Glendale firefighter is paid \$250,000

4 *Vanguardians*

Volunteers wanted: for the Vanguardians Glendale Land Use Committee. We are looking for people that want to participate in discussions of the use of property: residential, retail, commercial and industrial; and to appear before Boards, Commissions and Council to share their knowledge and expertise. Contact Barry Allen at 818 243 1502


VOLUNTEERMATCH Volunteers for reporters living in the Glendale area...please contact Barry Allen about assignments to write reports on the Commissions and Boards for Vanguard.

Vanguardians Speakers Bureau can spice up and titillate your next meeting. Our knowledgeable presenters are available for your organization, service club, homeowners or neighborhood associations. Call Vanguardians 818 243 1502 or email us at info@vanguardians.org to book them.

VANGUARDIANS

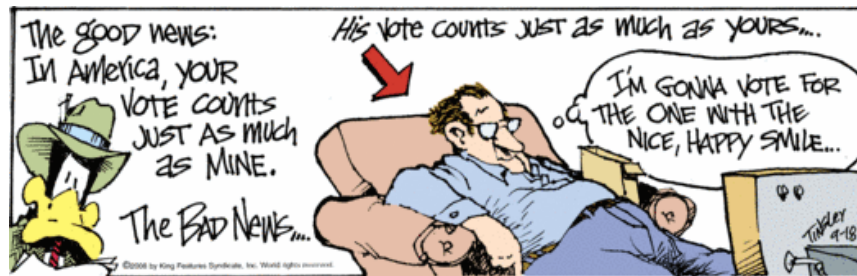
Please make checks payable to "**VANGUARDIANS**"
 Mail to: POB 11202 Glendale, CA 91226
 Contributions are tax deductible – You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes

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5  **the Insider** is a digest of information from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. Their identities are kept confidential. The comments are their own.



6  **Humor**



This is why we need a voter education program to educate the voter on the issues

7 The Jump Page

Definitions:

1. An **activist** is a person that works energetically to achieve political or social goals often by demonstrations
2. An **advocate** is a person that speaks on behalf of others and publicly may recommend a course of action
3. An **agitator** is a person that agitates, especially one who engages in political agitation
4. An **analyst** is an expert who studies data and recommends appropriate actions
5. A **critic** is a person that censures or finds fault
6. An **observer** is a person sent to observe and report on the proceedings but not vote or otherwise participate.
7. A **politician** is a person primarily interested in political office for selfish or other narrow usually short-sighted reasons
8. A **reporter** a person who gathers news for a newspaper
9. A **vulture** is a scavenger bird which feed off dead and rotting carcasses. Or a person of a rapacious, predatory, or profiteering nature.



Knife Wound



Gun Shot

This is the last issue of Volume III. Next week we begin the fourth year of continuous publication of the Vanguard Weekly News.

8 **c**



Ignorance is ~~bliss~~-Dangerous. The Sunshine laws; Payback is a b---- when you give honest testimony as a police officer. Scorecard comparing former Mayor Najarian and current Mayor Drayman; How to tell CCM apart; Redistribution of our wealth