



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

THE DEATH OF A CITY

Vanguardians Purpose: To Inform, Educate, & Motivate for Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy

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VANGUARD IS NOW AVAILABLE MANY LANGUAGES. PLEASE PROVIDE THE EMAIL ADDRESS AND LANGUAGE REQUIRED. SEND TO INFO@VANGUARDIANS.ORG

[Governor wants to do away with transparency.](#)

Maywood has started a trend that was suggested by Vanguard several months ago, [consolidation of cities' services under a joint authority](#) rather than bankruptcy. Glendale is as well considering the consolidation of services.

D.A. investigating why Bell council members get nearly \$100,000 a year for a part-time job The district attorney's review of city records finds that each member in the working-class community of slightly less than 40,000 people gets \$8,083 per month. A \$400 monthly stipend was expected. See [Jump](#).

[L.A. County District Attorney Steve Cooley's](#) office announced they had opened an inquiry into the Los Angeles Mayor's ticket grab. Since the mayor has had a hard time explaining exactly what duties he performed at 80 events, including multiple Dodger and Lakers games, the Grammy Awards, the Emmys, the Academy Awards, concerts at LA Live!, and maybe even your kid's summer camp play if there were TV cameras, there's ample reasons for Cooley to poke around. State and city laws require politicians to report gifts of tickets exceeding \$420 from any individual during any given year.

An Imponderable: City unions pick their leaders to bargain for them. When the leaders agree on the contract they go to their members for a vote for ratification. The City does not go to the voters, their constituents, to ratify the contract, why is that? Oh, that's right; the voters gave up their rights when they voted for their representatives.

Vanguard is published independently by Vanguardians, Inc. Advocating for Accountability— Our vision is to live in a community where all people can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our government.

Flash: News is breaking in Bell and Maywood. There will be announcements from the LA DA and the State Attorney General forthwith regarding the corruption issue. Vanguard's on the ground reporters are following the story as it happens.

1 COMMENTARY

You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them. The commentaries do not necessarily reflect the position of Vanguardians

From the Publisher... GIFT CARDS HAVE REPLACED PERFORMANCE BONUSES OR ARE THEY IN ADDITION?



City documents show glaring disregard for the taxpayer. Documents we requested are now at the City Clerk's office that include invoices from the 400 credit cards issued to employees of the City. Here is another taxpayer ripoff. Instead of paying from their own pockets to celebrate an fellow employee's milestones, managers instead dip into the taxpayer's well and hand out gifts of \$500 gift cards.

One department spent \$4000 for Palm Springs luxury hotels in just a few days. About \$6,000,000 of taxpayer money with virtually self approval is spent each year. [Kudos to Public Works Director Steve Zurn for making my job easier by storing the data on disks.]

Expensive Glendale restaurants and bakeries as well as Starbucks get a lot of taxpayer money. Lavish lunches and dinners. Think we live in a recession? Think again. You may request a copy of the documents by emailing info@vanguardians.org



Wondered why the Public Forum Pages at the News-Press seem so limp? It turns out that the city is paying for advertising in the News Press with credit cards and for books from Amazon and music from iTunes. About \$6,000,000 a year.

The name of this practice is 'Fleecing the Taxpayer'.

Conflicts Galore: Should conflicts of interest actions be only about money or should they include conflicts of interest such as influence peddling? A local attorney that represents clients doing business with the city also sits on a commission that may determine employment issues of employees. Would any employee challenge the client of this attorney/commissioner?

Mayor Najarian appointed his sister to the Transportation and Parking Commission that has control over taxi-cab licensing. A former cab company licensee was a significant contributor to council election campaigns and donated money to causes as he was requested. In turn, prior to sentencing in a Federal Court, some of the recipients wrote letters to the Judge in his behalf.

This all comes together when the attorney noted above represents a cab company on a licensing hearing in front of the City Council.

Another member of that very same Commission, appointed by Mr. Weaver has a family member that works for the Fire Department whose employee union is another contributor to independent expenditures for Council incumbents.

Should the Conflict of Interest laws be changed to include the 'perception of wrongdoing'?

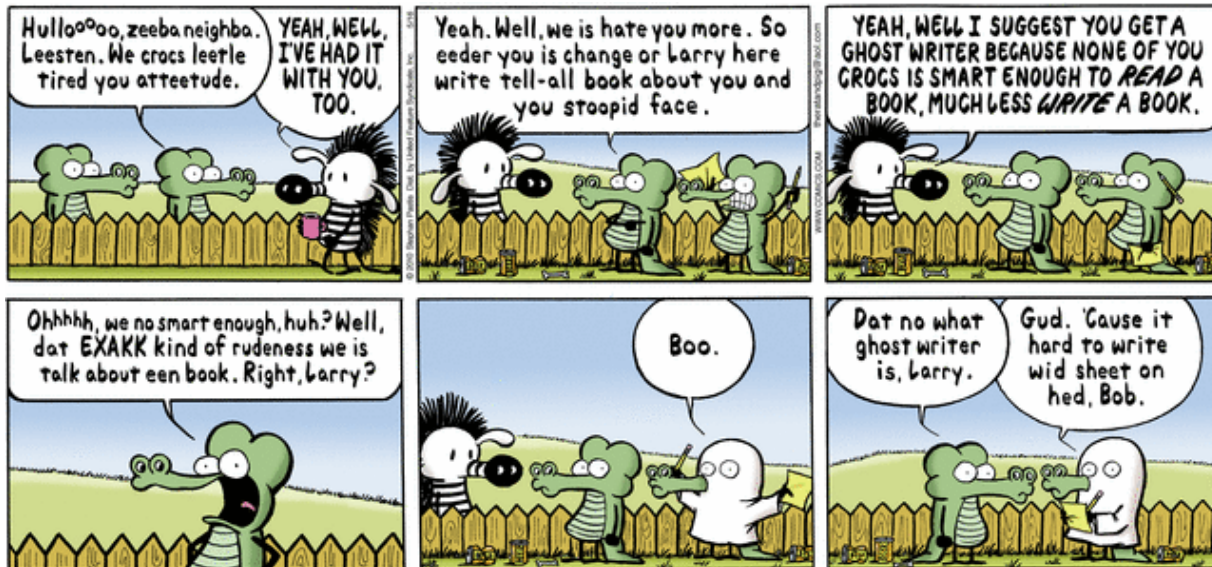
Vanguardians is working with the residents of the cities of Bell and Maywood where many of the residents are immigrants and first generation Americans who placed blind trust in their government, something they were not able to do in the countries they left. Bottom line is that when there are no watch dogs, no advocates for the people and no accountability you get the form of corruption that the public is beginning to see. The people all know when the watchdogs go away; the corruption will be more prevalent and open. Those advocates that are easily scared off with a few nips by the junkyard dogs or the corrupt legislators will turncoat and leave because of intimidation, retaliation or retribution. This causes good citizens to believe they are helpless. When you lose control of your government, what can you expect? In Glendale as in Maywood and Bell, the wealth is transferred to those in power and the residents lose. This scenario is repeated in many cities, not just the aforementioned.

The attacks on Vanguardians and me personally are specious and are meant to crush the accountability advocates. I will not use this forum to attack the civilian pawns in the clutches of elected officials protecting their cash cow. Unlike others who use the bully pulpit to bully; whose masters use them; who refuse an opportunity for debate; I will wait for the proper venue at the proper time.

In 2005 when the advocates spoke of the impending financial difficulties being foreseen on the horizon, we were laughed at. The same in 2006, 2007, 2008 and in 2009 Frank Quintero said the sun would rise again. As it did in Russia, Japan and Germany with total changes in their Quality of Life and the standards in which they live.

In 2010 City Manager Starbird acknowledged that these have been tough times. He assured us that he has 20-20 hindsight. He now recognizes the disaster he allowed the Council to direct. The buck stops with this Council, not those of the past.

The time has come to be more understanding and knowledgeable of the finances of the City before it becomes like Detroit, Maywood or Bell. Let this situation be your wake-up call.



Love and respect shown to the advocates for fiscal accountability, represented by Zebra, by the denizens of the Dais (Crocs)
BARRY ALLEN

PS: Join us as we review city expenditures

Most people want the benefits of an accountable government but are afraid to work for accountability or to support those that do often because they fear retaliation or are the beneficiaries of the largesse or corruption of government

**COMMENTARY: JOHNNY COME LATELY
 A FICTIONAL STORY ON CITY POLITICS**



Johnny Goodman was hitting fifty, had little money, and no equity he could count on for his retirement. He did have charisma and a skill to draw people to him. He knew that he could be good in sales and wondered if he should get a real estate license. An old family friend with years in real estate had a better idea. Johnny should run for a city council seat.

Gregg Nestaig had been in real estate for decades and had successfully represented some big land developers in the past before city boards and commissions. He knew the ins and outs of land use policy and had a record of successful persuasion. Gregg was not so rich as his clients but had done well for himself with a grand home in the best neighborhood of the city. Gregg was influential and effective.

Gregg had sold property to Johnny's parents years earlier and served as Johnny's mentor from time to time. Gregg needed a man he could count on inside the city council, someone who could be influential in smoothing the large real estate deals that were coming up the pipeline. The other councilmen gave him hiccups from time to time.

Gregg told Johnny: "You are a natural. You show a genuine skill as a politician. Your smooth delivery resonates with the voting public and you are a lot smarter than those already holding office, much smarter. Together, we can build a nice nest egg for your retirement."

Johnny was intrigued. Years of frustration with civic involvement could now be turned into a career. But the thought of building some hard retirement investments was just the peace of mind he needed. This would be a path to financial security, he thought. It was worth pursuing.

Gregg laid the plan out clearly. "Johnny, you need two missing ingredients. You need about eighty thousand dollars to run an effective campaign and you need the endorsement of two key city unions. All you need to do is promise them whatever they ask for. They want more money and more leisure time. Their jobs are already assured. They can screw up, be inefficient, and spike their pay umpteen different ways but won't ever get fired. They just want to have a really big nest egg, buy an RV and take it easy after age fifty. They are our local version of the People's Worker's Party. They control the elections, the city manager, and the finances of the city."

Johnny shot back. “You know how hard it has been to get this city to put money into some basic local improvements? These guys have sucked so much money from the city it isn’t funny. Their pensions are sinking our city finances.”

Gregg reached over the table and grabbed Johnny on the shoulder with one hand while pointing a menacing finger with the other, “Listen, there’ll always be poor people, taxpayers, and fools. You can’t be playing the role of Robin Hood at your age. You either take care of yourself or you won’t have a nail to scratch you ass with if you ever retire. Does driving that old beat up car of yours give you any sense of accomplishment? No? Then get real. The pension mess is all over California and you won’t have three votes at the city council to make any difference. Just get elected and we’ll work at finding your second fiddle for city council at the next election.”

Johnny relaxed, smiled, and pried Gregg’s fingers from his shoulder “You have a real grasp on reality, Gregg”

Gregg smiled and leaned back, “It’s simple, really. A city councilman has three things he can do. He can create policy, he can influence land-use, or he can serve as an ombudsman running around expediting favors for constituents. You can play do-gooder from time to time with a little social policy, but only land-use issues can secure your retirement. Hell, maybe you’ll have a home by the golf course one day. When you get elected, you’ll only need to kiss some uniformed men on the butt every few months. Not a bad exchange eh?”



Johnny looked out beyond the trees lost in thought, “Hmmm a home on Rossmoyne, a nice car in the garage, and a title he felt he long deserved, Johnny Goodman – Mayor. Life will be good.”

Fiction by **HERBERT MOLANO**

COMMENTARY II: UP IN SMOKE

How to improve employee health care, save the city budget, and improve health care delivery

Nothing highlights the quality of government like discovering taxpayer money needlessly wasted, or extra benefits lavished on the well-off. That, in a nutshell, is what last Tuesday’s employee benefit package represents and why the public lost out when Mayor Najarian limited public comment on all these issues to just three minutes.

Let’s take health care expenditures by the city and how these ordinances impact the city budget. The city offers a family HMO with Kaiser at \$731.03 per month (GCEA MOU page 12). If employees want Cigna or Blue cross the city would pay nearly double that or about \$1557.73 for city executives (Page 11 Ordinance 7 F.) Why would the city lavish the most expensive health care on those earning well over \$150,000 per year when we are in a budget deficit situation? What we need is a prudent approach to these tax-payer funded benefits.

The city proclaimed two years ago that it would be a leading anti-smoking city in California. Apparently that policy does not apply to its employees. Every day, at Parcher Plaza, near Ginger Bremberg’s memorial, a small band of city employees go to enjoy their smoking break. Are we paying a 13% higher health premium this year due to their addiction? It’s worth pondering. Here is a list of options that a prudent city council would do if it were truly interested in good public policy and a prudent oversight of city expenditures.



The city could offer to pay 100% of Kaiser HMO to all qualified employees. Anyone wanting the luxury of a PPO like Cigna or Blue Cross should pay the difference. Qualified employees would be non-smokers and able-bodied employees who can run one mile in under ten minutes. Those employees who either smoke or are so out of shape that they can’t jog for ten minutes non-stop would pay for 50% of their health insurance cost. Furthermore, the requirement for Fire Fighters and Police officers should be higher since their jobs require physical fitness. They should be expected to run three miles in under thirty minutes.

Policies should place a cost burden on those employees who are contributing to higher health premiums for the city. Such measures should be embedded in the city’s negotiations and made part of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with city Unions. Should they oppose it, it would demonstrate that they can’t be trusted to manage taxpayer’s money prudently in other areas either.

Imagine using the savings in premiums to establish, half a dozen medical clinics at supermarkets to allow families without insurance to seek initial evaluation of their symptoms at affordable fees. Such a policy could be used to direct patients to low cost medical practitioners. By reducing the number of non-insured who depend on

paramedics and hospital emergency rooms as their primary source of medical care, the city, the state and the federal government would save millions of dollars.

This policy would yield huge benefits to all. Employees would be healthier, it would align employee compensation with city policy, costs would be significantly reduced, paramedic services would be less wasteful, we would contribute towards lowering the huge public burden of the uninsured, and we would help reduce the unrecoverable costs of the emergency care units at local hospitals.

The question is: Where can we find leadership that cares enough about executing good policy?

HERBERT MOLANO

COMMENTARY III: THE FRIEDMAN PERSPECTIVE

It's been well over a year since Laura Friedman took office and it's about time that she starts asserting her independence. To me, she is very likely the one council member with a real core of integrity, yet she needs to think twice about continuing to adopt the talking points we've heard from city council members for the past nine years.

One of those talking points she used recently deals with the city staff and how their services make up 80% of the budget. The rationale for the increased payroll is that residents buy "services" and that is what a city staff provides.

What is missing from this overworked reply is that when employees are not working, they are not providing the residents with any services. So how much of that 80% of the budget is for non-work? The changes made in 2001 officially sanctioned five years of pay for non-work. It's time for Council Member Friedman to ask for outcomes, performance and a good day's pay for a good day's work. Here is the replacement talking point: "No work, no pay."

Another talking point she's adopted deals with adequate parkland at the city's core. I am referring to Recreational Planning Area 10 that has a population over 30,000 people and the smallest allocation of parkland in the city. No parks have been added in this area in more than 30 years. Her reply is one that I've heard since 2002 given by Weaver, and others. It goes like this: "This is the densest part of the city and the only way we can create parkland large enough is to remove housing, and that is very expensive."

By my informal calculations that line has been used in front of me at least two dozen times. Najarian started using soon after getting elected. Drayman has used it. Quintero uses it all the time. It's almost as if city manager Starbird has a set of quotations for new city councilmen to repeat as instructed.

We've lost at least three major opportunities to build parkland. Well over 10 acres in the last 20 years. Today, large two-acre surface parking lots could be converted to underground parking with an athletic field on top. That is one of many ideas I could list that I've brought to the city council. Of course, to city managers, more development means more property tax to tap into for their growing pensions.

Here is another rehashed and warmed-over anecdote I hear during budget sessions: "I often go to conferences where I get to talk with other city mayors. They often say how they envy Glendale; how they wished their finances were as solid as ours." I guess none of these mayors have tens of thousands of families who can't afford their electric utility bill. I guess that the ability of residents to pay for basic city services is not a performance measure any mayor would care anything about. Seems as if Glendale's official mantra is "Raise employee benefits then raise rates to balance the books." We don't tell that to other city mayors.

It was a sad day when Friedman relinquished her prerogative to demand the position of Mayor. It was her turn. That setback was also for all the women who remember the struggle for Title IX and women's equal opportunity in sports. The city council appears to be the playground of four weak-kneed men who don't want to share the political football with her.

How much longer will she stand by the sidelines playing with bicycle sharrows while her colleagues play the land-use game and leave real policy issues undecided?



HERBERT MOLANO

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

2 Shout Box

ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, Vanguard News Service, 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 be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.



Again a very poignant newsletter, albeit with some questionable entries.

I totally support the public's right to vote on gov't employee contracts with one caveat: I believe it was Churchill who said "the best argument against democracy is a 5 minute conversation with the average voter". Way too many people vote out of emotion rather than being informed on a subject. I think that's what has gotten us into a lot of the trouble we are in today, especially with giving entitlements to bleeding heart causes. So absolutely, allow the public to vote on contracts, but require them to show knowledge and understanding of the issue(s) before allowing them to cast that vote.

For example, the issue of public safety retirements at age 50/55. Think about it - do you really want to have to rely on a 60+ year old man/woman to drag your arse out of a burning building, or to chase a 20 year old drug-hyped perp down a dark alley? These are a young man's game, and statistics show that work related injuries and their severity rise dramatically after age 50. So there's your trade off. Pay a safety man a taxable pension at an early age, or pay him a non taxable disability at an older age?



And that 90% retirement at age 50. That assumes they are all hired at the age of 20, which few actually are. To pin that badge on every one of them shows the difference between thinking with emotion or thinking with the math.

I don't believe firefighters are paid to sleep. They are paid to be ready to respond at a moment's notice. Do you pay one guy wages and benefits for a 24 hour period, or do you pay 2 guys wages and benefits for that same 24 hours, just for the sake of not letting the one nap? My guess is the two would be more costly in the long run.

Yes government wages and benefits are out of line and unsustainable. But throwing the baby out with the bathwater is not the answer. We need to stop being so polarized and find answers in the middle ground. One is to curtail public sector compensation, while at the same time

improving private sector conditions. You (rightly) preach one while (wrongly) totally ignoring the other. Why can't I find and support a group that does both? Rick M

Response from Barry Allen:

Rick – Just briefly...the 60 year old cop should be in investigation, administration or other position where he has little exposure to over exertion. As you are aware there are many younger cops that are not physically fit and should be set to pasture.

Re Fire...pay minimum wage for sleeping, training etc and give them battle pay of \$50 an hour for structure fires, rounded to 15 minutes. Pensions should be at the same rate as social security and Medicare. Fire fatalities were 82 in 2009 with a number being heart attacks and other health issues. Having three firemen sitting around at a city council meeting, some on OT, is a slap in the face to the taxpayer. Response time when sleeping is greater than response time when awake as was seen in a fire a year ago when a woman lost her life and the GFD took 7 minutes to get to the scene from ½ mile away. The process needs to be changed but as Glendale is a late adopter it won't be seen here until it is too late.

Response from Herbert Molano:

To Rick Your reply, challenging our contention that the 3% at 50 is an unfair give-away, supports the contention that leaving this decision up to some voters may be problematic.

The actual pension is 3% for every year of work. Someone starting at the age of 25 and working to age 50 would have 75% of his last highest pay for the rest of his life. That amount would be adjusted for inflation.

No one would expect a 50 year old to remain as a patrol officer for all his 25 or 30 years. They eventually move up the ladder to supervisory, administrative, investigative and other desk positions. Though I've seen a few still on motorcycle duty.

Many who take up their retirement whether at 50, 55 or 59 continue to work in some other capacity in cities where there are no CalPERS

benefits, but are able to accumulate other significant pay and benefits. As such, there is no retirement, just a double dipping that keeps other able men from getting promotions and prevents another able-bodied new recruit from getting hired.

The 3% at 50 negotiated by nearly all California cities was given retroactively. That means that all those employees who expected to retire with 75% of their last highest pay, got a retroactive application of a benefit they never expected but were content to live by.

There is a lot more to this subject than we have yet to expose, including the pay hiking gimmicks and the disability claims that over 50% of them claim. We have yet to expose the countless other supplementary pay options that allows them to claim more pay as part of their job description and other pay that does nothing to improve their efficacy or productivity.

Maybe we should have a lot more confidence in the voter that, if given the right information, they'll vote for a prudent and responsible approach toward pay and benefits.

Response from Michael Fuss: [Fuss is the author of the Save Our Budget initiative.

CALIFORNIANS FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE]

A thought for Rick, Churchill was right, a favorite quotable goes something like this, "Democracy is the worst form of government...except all the others". Hence it is an imperfect one. A direct democracy does have its pitfalls with regards to a public that either does not want to be informed or is incapable of it. Having said that there are a few thoughts I had with regards to answering his good concerns.

1) Though this initiative does not directly deal with setting retirement age but does infer that the voters would have the right to do so, Fire Fighters and Police officers could be given desk work after 55 if they are not fit for the risks and rigors of field duty. Physical Training Tests might hurt feelings but will probably save lives.

2) The proposed ballot initiative does have a few clauses to automatically correct for the excesses and ignorance of some of the voters. There is one that reduces compensation during deficit years to balance budgets in future public employee contracts and another one that requires that the voter's guide have simple to read comparable charts and graphs on items like pay scales, as well as whether or not their city, county or the state is in a deficit period; and a sliding scale to approve pay raises depending upon the financial condition of the voters jurisdiction.

3) I agree that a middle ground has to be developed with regards to dealing with the problem of excessive public employee compensation during this recession which is the worst since the end of WWII. But to do this without taking away the public employees right to collectively bargain, one has to acknowledge that their near complete penetration of the power of state and local government is caused by their ability to successfully game the system which allows them to consistently make large and very influential campaign donations to the very elected officials who have been largely given the responsibility to approve their contracts. It has almost been two years since the stock market crash and two years since the housing bubble started to pop and the majority of public employee unions have given up comparatively little compared to the private sector. They have caused great harm to the general public during this time with regards to cut backs in services and hikes in fees, fines and taxes on the public and they have been able to do this because, sadly, they own the elected officials they are supposed to be negotiating with.

Response from Bruce Philpott: [Philpott is a retired police chief and has spent 10 years auditing fire operations.]

Rick, You cite flawed premises. First, you assume uniform cops remain in patrol all their careers. Most leave patrol after 4 to 8 years and are assigned other duties such as detectives, supervision or management. Like the army, the young ones do the heavy lifting and those that survive a full service career -- which only half do because the other half takes questionable disability retirements about ten years into their jobs -- are generally taken out of patrol through promotions and experience.

As for firemen sleeping on the job, when you audit the actual call volume and types that most fire departments in California experience, you find that they are actually responding to emergency calls less than 5% of their on-duty time. Most firemen sleep through their entire sleep period without a call. When you overlay 10 and 12 hour shifts with a crew size that the latest and most complete study of staffing and performance are measured in fighting structure fires, a far more cost-effective staffing model appears. When a three person crew is only 6% slower on putting water on a fire as compared to a four person crew and a 5% slower time to complete a search and rescue, the reduced staffing to three from four and 10 and 12 hour shifts is far more productive than the current model of 24 hour shifts. By the way, the 6 & 5% slower performance also assumed they respond from a dead sleep. That figure would be lower compared to a three person crew when considering the crews on the new models would not be sleeping, but would be wide awake and ready to respond to those calls made when the fire station actually shuts down for the evening. The 6% slower performance time represents about 15 seconds. The added fourth fireman costs taxpayers over a billion dollars per year in the state, a figure that far exceeds the benefits.

I couldn't help but laugh at Drayman and Quinteros' trained seals as they came to do a number on Vanguard. Apparently they want accountability from Vanguard because they don't have the cojones to demand accountability from their employees, city management. You had previously explained the deal with those SLAPP

victims in Vanguard. Looks like the more you guys dig the more dirt you turn up. Keep up the terrific work and don't let the bastard's get you down. AGF

[ED – Allen responds: When advocates for accountability take on the job they are aware of the consequences. In Glendale, with police cooperation, two advocates had visits from the police accusing them of being terrorists. I had the call from the financial crimes unit that didn't have a required complaint number to begin their investigation which proved no wrong-doing. At an earlier meeting with a police detective on another matter where I witnessed the dumping of evidence crucial to a police case, the detective didn't want to hear of an alleged sexual predator who was a city official. This is the way elected officials retaliate through unsubstantiated and uncorroborated hearsay. They dog pile on those whose questions they can't answer, like, as Herbert Molano asked, what is the payroll for the fire department? Wouldn't you expect that after so many budget study sessions they would know? Even better when the City Manager and the Finance Director are sitting right there and available to answer the question.]

If Quintero and Drayman are concerned about money laundering, they need only look at their colleague Dave Weaver who paid a fine for money laundering. Weaver seems really up on nonprofit issues as he owns one that solicits money from companies doing business in Glendale. Having been involved in Glendale government for many years, I know how it works. Drayman, for instance, can tell the voters that he voted against the increase in refuse fees as he knew that at least three of those on the dais would vote for the increase. Drayman will always look good to the voters. Please sign me, a former city employee who knows the secrets and where the skeletons are buried.

Why is it that the same small group of people attack Vanguard, you, Molano, Mohill, Espiritu and Philpott along with Drayman and Quintero? It seems as if you folks are the ones that have no fear in speaking up for the rest of us. You give us good information and these people bring up non-sequiters. What does a matter between you and a donor have to do with the City Council? GK [ED – Thanks for asking. Our records show a credit card contribution for \$300 was made. The credit card was processed through our fiscal partner according to IRS regulations. One check for \$360 was sent to the Thompsons for legal fees which their attorney never received. Another check was sent directly to the attorney. Vanguardians has not received a receipt – other than the cancelled check nor an acknowledgement. Vanguardians Board has chosen not to air our issues. Council members and staff will seize every opportunity they can to ignore the legitimacy of issues that are brought before them. This issue reminds me of a quotation: *Why do the wicked always form groups, whereas the righteous do not? Because the wicked, walking in darkness, need company, but the righteous, who live in light, do not fear being alone.* - - - - Anonymous]

For anyone who thinks politics only gets personal in Glendale. Here's what the European Parliament is like. Democracy is supposed to be close quarters and personal sometimes. UK parliamentarian yells at EU president <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqovTGjYjM4> Vanguardians writers and associates bring like to the Council meetings. Keep standing up for our rights. All that was missing Tuesday night was the 'Applause Card'. MP

As the accountability organization, what shall I do with the pictures I have about cash changing hands at the Harvest Market? TM [ED – There have been allegations about that issue for years and Vanguardians has been compiling the data. Call Barry Allen 818 243 1502 for a meeting.]

Is it true that former Police Chief Randy Adams got a female friend (I hesitate to say GF as his wife is such a good person) a job at the Glendale Jail? DP [ED – Wrong city...right players.]



"Just the facts"

The City of Glendale refuses to provide the names of the recipients, the amounts of and the reasons they were given performance bonuses.

The City of Glendale refused to provide the nature and the locations of employee injuries as they were redacted from the OSHA report.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, ELECTIONS, FAMILY LAW, GOVERNMENT LAW [Doe v. Reed, No. 09-559](#)
In a First Amendment case arising out of a state law extending certain benefits to same-sex couples, involving a

challenge to the Washington Public Records Act based on its provision permitting the disclosure of referendum petition signers' names and addresses, the Ninth Circuit's reversal of the district court's preliminary injunction in favor of plaintiffs is affirmed where disclosure of referendum petitions does not as a general matter violate the First Amendment. [Read more...](#)

"All truths are easy to understand once they have been discovered; the point is to discover them." - Galileo Galilei.

[Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)
Meetings at City Hall (CH) are in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor at 613 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Municipal Services Bldg. (MSB) are in room 105 at 633 E Broadway.
Meetings at the Perkins Bldg (PB) are in the Conference Room at 141 N Glendale Ave.
Phone numbers are in area code 818 unless noted otherwise

Monday, June 28

Historical Preservation Commission – 2:00 pm, MSB 548-2140
Transportation and Parking Commission – 6:00 pm CH 548-3960

Tuesday, June 29

2:00 pm CH **Special Joint Meeting** – Glendale City Council/Glendale Water & Power Commission –
RE: Water Rates and Revenue Impact --548-4844
2:30 pm CH Housing Authority -- 548-2060
2:30 pm CH Redevelopment Agency 548-2005
6:00 pm CH City Council – 548-4844

Wednesday, June 30

Planning Hearing Officer -- 9:30 am, MSB 548-2140
Grand Opening – Chester Street Project – 11:00 am, 615 E. Chester St., 548-2060

Community Meeting – Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Master Plan – 6:30 pm Environmental Management Center, 780 Flower St. 548-3735

Thursday, July 1

Comm.for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale – 8:30 am, PB 548-3700
Design Review Board #2 – 5:00 pm, MSB 548-2140

4 *Vanguardians* **Vanguardians websites down for renovation**

Order your bumper stickers now. Display them on your car and the note book you bring to government meetings. Speak out on the issues that spoil your quality of life. Make certain the elected officials and the government bureaucrats know the pain you are feeling while you continue to heap benefits and pensions on them.

SEND YOUR UNION DUES TO VANGUARDIANS AS ALLOWED BY The [Meyers-Milias-Brown Act](#) LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS act allows union members to have their dues go to Vanguardians -- (c) An employee who is a member of a bona fide religion, body, or sect that has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting public employee organizations shall not be required to join or financially support a public employee organization as a condition of employment. The employee may be required, in lieu of periodic dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees, to pay sums equal to the dues, initiation fees, or agency shop fees to a nonreligious, nonlabor charitable fund exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**IF YOU'RE NOT
OUTRAGED
YOU'RE NOT PAYING
ATTENTION**

Vanguardians is establishing a City Wide Financial Oversight Committee to review public documents and report on them. If you have an interest, contact Barry Allen for details and a meeting.

Vanguardians, a local government accountability organization, **needs a volunteer construction project manager**. We sometimes find it necessary to review public documents such as construction plans, bid documents, work and change orders and want a chartered professional to prepare our reports.

FOR SALE.... a 1975 34' Silverton twin engine Cabin Cruiser located in Long Beach. Serious inquiries only. Revenue will be used for Vanguardians operations.


Vanguard is following these lawsuits: the 5 GPD officers; Rodriguez; Gillespie; Hayn; Brooks; Ovasapyan. The cases cited were from the Randy Adams regime.

VANGUARDIANS needs your Continuing Financial Support

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

- The [Ralph M Brown Act](#) mandates legislative bodies to provide each person an opportunity to speak and requires that agendas are posted and meetings are open.
- The [California Public Records Act](#) (PRA) is the tool to get information about the operations of government.
- The [Political Reform Act of 1974](#) allows public access to the financial reports of public officials.

To become more involved in your community, to learn how to use these important tools, you can call 818 243 1502

5  **the Insider** is written by city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



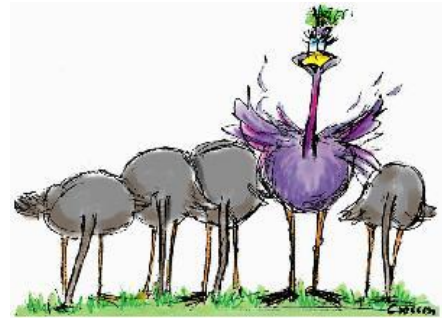
Molano is right. Gantus is very powerful in the City. He has many employees afraid of crossing him as he can get them through the Civil Service Commission.

It's been really quiet. Everyone has stopped doing anything except for the budget and McFall's farewell tour. The next big thing to hit the fan will probably be the remodel of the old police building and where the money will come from. Also, with the hiring freeze, it's amazing how managers are fighting for more building space. There is also the fact that City is having a hard time getting its own staff electronically interconnected let alone trying to connect the community.

6 THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

The ability to see and create the future is the essence of leadership. It is the secret of outstanding success in any field. wfs

Quintero and Drayman show their fear of Vanguardians by their relentless attack on Barry Allen. They spent less time questioning the Budget than they did posturing. The use of the Glendale Police Department for their personal political gain could cost the City management more than the effort that exonerated Vanguardians and Allen from any wrong doing.



The following story tells about the result of the careless, reckless manner that the Council has spent the financial reserves.



My daddy told me that I will not be able to go to 1st grade because I have to get a job in order to pay for every city employee whether they are pre-retirement or post employment. He told me that the City Council borrowed so much money that I have to pay back from my less than minimum wage job that I will never have a family of my own. He said for me not to get sick because we have no money for insurance. It all goes to city employees and **their** families. We could save money by camping in the parks but the police will throw us in jail and I only just graduated kindergarten. Why did you bad people, sitting in that dark place, do this to me?

Some men are born mediocre, some men achieve mediocrity, and some men have mediocrity thrust upon them. – Joseph Heller, Catch 22.

When did it begin?

Weaver*	Quintero	Najarian	Drayman*	Friedman
1997	2001	2005	2007	2009

* Drayman and Weaver terms end in April 2011

TRENDS IN REFUSE RATE DISPOSAL INCREASES

A letter to Council member Friedman

Though the 50 cent increase per single family-residence that was presented to you by the staff seems like such an innocuous amount, the comparative amount was deceptive in my opinion. Here are the reasons why.

1. Single family residents make up only 30% of all residents.
2. Apartment and condo dwellers also pay rates on the water bill. About \$15 per billing, I believe.

3. Apartment Owners pay it as well.
4. **Rate increases between 2005 and July 2010 will be 27% in just five years.** My bin charges will have gone from \$45.68 to \$58.15 next month
5. On this issue alone, the 3% amount may seem unimportant. But the trends show a very different picture.

I'd like to see what the trends have been in the last 10 years. A graph is what Public Works should have given you to truly reflect the impact on customers.

A trend on salaries and benefits by department would also have given us a better view of the trends in payroll expenditures for salaries and wages and separately for Pensions, Health Benefits and miscellaneous.

The city presentation really only focused on one side of the equation - revenues. We must address the costs.

I'd like for this letter to form part of the record, though the deadline has passed. Since I have my payments paid automatically and missed the inserted notification. Herbert Molano

7 NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Working under one of the most generous state leave policies in the nation – and the country's harshest furlough program – California government employees have built up the equivalent of \$2.75 billion of paid time off. - [Read More](#)

[UC Davis Whistleblower Gains Settlement After Retaliation in Theft Case](#)

[It's Politics: Whittier council members debate benefits](#) Whittier Daily News

The bill would not allow a local government to declare **bankruptcy** until the **California** Debt and Investment Advisory Commission gives approval. **Cities** oppose ...

[Leaders of 4 California employee unions](#) agree to pension rollback The agreement with the state firefighters, Highway Patrol officers and other workers is seen as a victory for Gov. Schwarzenegger. The tentative contracts now face votes by union members and the Legislature.

[In Budget Crisis, States Take Aim at Pension Costs](#) By [MARY WILLIAMS WALSH](#)

Many states are acknowledging this year that they have promised pensions they cannot afford and are cutting once-sacrosanct benefits, to appease taxpayers and attack budget deficits.

[Grand jury questions affordable housing, business loan programs](#)

Maywood says enough: Notice Of Intention to Circulate Recall Petition

At the special meeting, we will present notice of intention to circulate recall petition.

Pursuant to Section 11020, California Elections Code the undersigned registered qualified voters of the City of Maywood, in the State of California, hereby give notice that we are the proponents of a recall petition and that we intend to seek your recall and removal from the office of City Council Member, in Maywood, California, and to demand election of a successor in that office. The grounds for the recall are as follows:

We the citizens of the City of Maywood, as the result of the financial disaster you created in our local government and frustrated by your effectiveness [SIC] and for dismantling our Police Department and transferring our community services to an outside city, have decided to defend our city once again. United, those of us who sign this petition will carry out the democratic process of removing you from office and will work to reconstruct our city.

The officials that we plan on recalling are the following:

Mayor of Maywood - Ana Rizo

Maywood City Council Member - Felipe Aguirre

Maywood City Council Member - Veronica Guardado

Imposter Maywood City Council Member - Ed Varela

If you have any further questions you may contact the following individuals: [ED: A list was attached.]

[Maywood council can't duck the blame or shame Hector Tobar LA Times:](#) The council is laying off all its City Hall employees and disbanding its Police Department because the city can't get insurance. Members say it's the last council's fault. Wrong, this one's on you and your incompetence.

8 Jump Page

Philpott responds: Having audited Pasadena, Glendale and LAFD, the average time on call is between 15 and 20 minutes. All you need left is the total number of runs per shift and you can calculate the time they spend on runs per shift. Pasadena averages about 5 runs and LA and Glendale about 6 runs per shift. One hour is consumed for every 3 or 4 calls, so most department's average about 1.5 hours out of 24 hour shifts on calls or about 5% of their on-duty time. D.A. investigating why Bell council members get nearly \$100,000 a year for a part-time job The district attorney's review of city records finds that each member in the working-class community of slightly less than 40,000 people gets \$8,083 per month. A \$400 monthly stipend was expected. By Jeff Gottlieb and Ruben Vives, Los Angeles Times *June 24, 2010*

Unable to obtain insurance, Maywood announced this week it would lay off nearly all its employees, disband its Police Department and entrust all municipal operations to the neighboring city of Bell.

But Bell may have problems of its own. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office said Wednesday it is investigating why council members of the small, working-class city are paid nearly \$100,000 a year for a part-time job.

In a June 8 letter to Bell City Manager Robert Rizzo, David Demerjian, who heads the district attorney's Public Integrity Division, said a review of city records showed that council members each received \$8,083.25 per month.

Demerjian said under state law and based on population, part-time council members in small cities should be paid a \$400 monthly stipend. He asked the city for an explanation. In contrast, council members in Maywood earn about \$300 a month.

Vice Mayor Teresa Jacobo said Demerjian's figures were misleading and that the monthly figure in Bell includes the cost of medical insurance, retirement and other benefits.

Mayor Oscar Hernandez said he knew nothing about the investigation.

"The average income for a person in our area is \$32,000 and \$38,000 a year," he said. "In a troubled city, the city council should get paid a little more." [ED-Emphasis added]

Councilman Luis Artiga said he welcomed the investigation. "I don't think we're stealing or doing anything wrong," he said. Beginning July 1, Bell will take over running the day-to-day operation in Maywood, which reached a crisis level this week after its insurance was canceled.

Officials with groups and associations that track California municipalities say Maywood is the only city they can recall that has dismissed all its employees, except for the city manager, city attorney and elected officials. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has been asked to patrol the city, located south of downtown Los Angeles. Maywood officials said they were forced to take the action Monday since they were unable to obtain insurance because of the city's history of lawsuits, mainly involving its Police Department.

Demerjian said his investigators have received complaints about Maywood. Normally, he said, his office would investigate the complaints but decided to back off "because of ongoing investigations by other agencies." He would not elaborate or identify the agencies or say what they are looking into. Demerjian called the Bell probe "an inquiry." He said it would become a full investigation if his office is convinced a crime has been committed.

His two-page letter outlines questions similar to those faced by five then-current and former Lynwood council members in 2007. In that case, the city leaders were prosecuted for allegedly boosting their salaries, which included for sitting on other city panels.

In his letter, Demerjian said that records appeared to show that council members received salaries of \$150 a month and \$60 a month for an organization called the CRA, which he said he assumed was the Community Redevelopment Agency.

The letter noted that council members received another \$7,873.25 monthly for others groups identified only by acronyms, which appeared to include the Public Finance Authority, Surplus Property Authority and Bell Community Housing Authority.

In the Lynwood case, a former councilman told prosecutors that council members were dramatically increasing their salaries by attending meetings of two city agencies. Demerjian said the Lynwood officials received \$75,000 to \$80,000 a year from those meetings. Charges against two Lynwood officials were dropped, one pleaded guilty and two are awaiting trial.

The small industrial cities in southeast Los Angeles County, where Maywood and Bell are located, have seen several of their officials charged with corruption by federal and local authorities in recent years, including those in Bell Gardens, Compton, Huntington Park and South Gate. Vernon pays its former city manager over \$500,000 a year pension.