



"Accountability"
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard
Los Angeles CA Vol VI
Week of September 25, 2011
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PREPARATION FOR A NEW YEAR

Vanguardians Purpose: To Inform, Educate, & Motivate people for their Non-Violent Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy in local government.

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VANGUARDIANS COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday September 29, 2011 – Land Use – Building Permits, Building & Zoning Codes
Moderator: Rick Barnes

Last Forum:

Thursday September 22, 2011 – Where has the money gone...\$450,000,000?
Are you one of the 1500 owed money by the City?
Discussion on GWP and Smart Grid
Plus a visit from a City of Bell stakeholder

New guests will receive a pocket-size copy of the Constitution of the United States compliments of 27th District Congressman Adam Schiff while supplies last

Reservations are suggested Make them by calling or emailing Barry Allen 818 243 1502.
Separate checks are provided. Minimum \$5 donation is encouraged.

Thursday, September 29, 2011 8AM – Foxy's on Colorado across from Americana
Bring a stakeholder

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson.

Three Council members Refuse to Answer these important Questions

Here are the questions:

- Mr. Weaver – Several years ago you retained a law firm to negotiate with the FPPC in what became a settlement for \$9,000 which you paid with a cashier's check. You didn't indicate on any of your required filings that the \$9,000 came from campaign funds.

Did it come from campaign funds or was the amount paid behest of ADI or another developer?

Then you showed only \$2,500 on your 460 form for legal expenses.

Was that amount the sum and total of your legal expenses or did the law firm provide the work on a pro bono basis or did someone else pay for it?

Where did that \$9,000 come from? What was the source of those funds?

We know that Mr. Weaver will do the right thing and file amended reports so he can recover the \$9,000, isn't that correct Mr. Weaver?

- Mr. Najarian – You made a slanderous statement last week about my taking money from the 710 Freeway developers.

Even though you didn't pose that as a question, I will respond thusly: I have no connection with any of those developers and have not accepted anything from them.

Maybe now you could answer a simple question.

Have you or anyone you are related to, have a business relationship or connection with, have any present or future interest in property that is within 5 miles of the 710 freeway northern terminus at or near the 210 freeway?

Is it a fact that the MTA Ethics Office is looking into an Encino land deal?

- Mayor Friedman – You avoided answering any questions last week so I will repeat them -
- 1- Did you ask anyone connected with ADI for money to help with your campaign debt?
 - 2- Did you visit with anyone connected with Modern Parking prior to your affirmative vote on the City Parking Contract?
 - 3- Did you refuse to accept money or anything of value from anyone connected with Modern Parking?
 - 4- According to your statement of economic interest you have a 50% interest in a landscaping business. Will you share with us how much that business has grown since you were elected to office?
 - 5- Have you had any meetings with Kosti Shirvanian or any of his associates with regard to his hotel without someone from Management services with you? Did that meeting include any discussion of money?
 - 6- Did you meet with Marc Nathanson or his emissary prior to your vote on the Laemmle project? Was there a discussion of financial support either for you or by the City?
 - 7- Is it true that you are the champion for Mr. Haghani's appointment to the City Manager's job?

Former Council member John Drayman also refused to answer questions last March and in April he lost the Council election and now he is faced with numerous investigations of wrong doing.

There could be a reason that Friedman and Najarian chose not to answer... [Title 18 US Code 1001](#)

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LOS ANGELES – An Altadena man who worked as an inspector for the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety was sentenced this afternoon to 21 months in federal prison for taking thousands of dollars bribes.

Raoul Joseph Germain, 60, was sentenced by United States District Judge Christina A. Snyder. Germain pleaded guilty on May 5 to a federal bribery charge, admitting that he took thousands of dollars in bribes to approve work done at residential construction sites in South Los Angeles, even though he had not inspected the work and, in some cases, had never been to the job site. Germain accepted \$6,000 in bribes from an undercover FBI agent, and this afternoon Judge Snyder ordered Germain to pay \$6,000 in restitution to the FBI.

“Corruption at any and all levels of government is simply intolerable,” said United States Attorney André Birtotte Jr. “In this case, a government employee betrayed the public trust and threatened an important public safety mission for his personal financial gain.”

According to court documents, in the summer of 2010, the FBI began an undercover investigation after an informant reported that City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety inspectors took cash bribes in exchange for necessary permit approvals on residential construction projects. The informant, who is described in court documents as a work site supervisor for a residential property developer, reported that building inspectors, including Germain, accepted bribe payments at the initial inspection stage of construction at residential properties and that the bribes covered all necessary construction inspections related to that property, up to and including final inspection.

During a conversation recorded during the undercover investigation, Germain told the undercover agent: “I drive by every once in a while, take a look, I won’t even stop and get off.” In a plea agreement filed in United States District Court, Germain admitted that he took four \$1,500 bribe payments in exchange for signing inspection forms for four houses, even though he never set foot on two of the properties.

“The residents of Los Angeles deserve nothing less than honest building inspectors and this case demonstrates that public officials who are susceptible to bribes will be held accountable,” said Steven Martinez, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI in Los Angeles. “The FBI will continue to investigate allegations of corruption by those entrusted with public office and whose salaries are paid by the taxpayer.” From FBI Press Release 9-19-2011

Public Corruption Update


A Busy June Comes to a Close

06/30/11

The FBI works plenty of high-profile public corruption cases—including the investigation of former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich, who was convicted Monday [after previous indictments](#).

But many of our cases—worked closely with our investigative and prosecutive partners—don’t make national news. Yet they are just as vital to our public corruption mandate—to root out those who violate the public trust. In fact, June was a particularly busy month on that front. From Florida to Arizona, there were a string of legal actions taken against public officials serving in a variety of positions.

Here are some examples:

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- Two commissioners in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania were convicted of racketeering and other charges in connection with accepting and demanding payments and other benefits from people doing business with the county. [More](#)
 - A Nashville, Tennessee police officer was indicted for accepting cash while delivering drugs and drug money to several locations for local drug dealers—all while wearing his uniform and driving his police car. [More](#)
 - A special agent with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations was arrested in Arizona on charges that she illegally accessed, stole, and transferred sensitive government documents to family members and associates with strong ties to drug trafficking organizations. [More](#)
 - A county judge in Cleveland was convicted of accepting bribes, including campaign contributions, in return for fixing cases. [More](#) So far, this particular investigation has implicated dozens of elected officials, public employees, and contractors within the county.
 - A former mayor and a magistrate from South Daytona, Florida were both charged with accepting bribes from purported investors in exchange for lowering city code liens on a large investment property. [More](#)

Currently, the FBI—with our partners—is working more than 2,000 corruption investigations involving public officials around the country. These investigative efforts certainly pay off—during fiscal year 2010, our cases led to more than 1,330 informations/indictments and over 900 convictions (primarily at the federal level but also some at the local level).

Our ability to use sophisticated investigative tools and methods—like undercover operations—is one of the reasons why the FBI is in a unique position to investigate allegations of corruption. These tools and methods often give investigators a front-row seat to witness the actual exchange of bribe money or a handshake that seals an illegal deal.

Bribery is the most common form of corruption the Bureau investigates. But there are plenty more crimes—including extortion, embezzlement, racketeering, kickbacks, money laundering, and all sorts of fraud. A significant portion of our cases involve border corruption.

At the end of the day, the majority of public officials are honest, hard-working individuals determined to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. But a small number of elected, appointed, or contracted officials are only focused on their own good. The actions of corrupt officials—often with the help of private sector accomplices—undermine democratic institutions and threaten national security, which is why the FBI ranks public corruption as our top criminal priority.

From FindLaw: [What is bribery?](#) By Stephanie Rabiner

With a number of recent [high-profile cases](#) involving charges of bribery, it's a good time to answer this question. As defined, bribery is the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of something of value with the intent of influencing the actions of a government official or employee.

Both parties can be prosecuted under these laws--even if nothing is ultimately exchanged. A common misconception about bribery is that it involves only the exchange of money, when in actuality it involves the exchange of anything that the government official may find valuable.

This includes gifts, personal favors, discounts, jobs, and promises. Because bribery is an intent crime, meaning that the person offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting a bribe must intend to influence or be influenced, it's not difficult to see what kind of statements and actions can lead to prosecution.

But what about campaign contributions and gifts? Don't people ply candidates and politicians with the intent of influencing official decisions? Theoretically, yes. But campaign contributions are considered to be a form of free speech, expressive of one's political beliefs.

To contend with this dichotomy, in the *Sun-Diamond Growers* case, the Supreme Court found that giving a gift or contribution to a public official or candidate is not necessarily against the law. Instead, prosecutors must show an actual connection between the item of value and a specific past or future act.

In other words, prosecutors must prove that the donor actually wielded improper influence.

[Mayor Fulton](#): First, there is the claim that taxpayers in Ventura will be footing part of the bill for the outrageous pensions of two top city of Bell employees, each of whom worked in Ventura early in their careers. This is not true, partly because of a proactive approach by the city of Ventura.

Ventura, along with other cities the pair subsequently worked for, supported a bill in the Legislature — almost certain to be signed by the governor in the next few weeks — that will force Bell, not Ventura or other cities, to foot the bill for their inflated pensions.

As it turns out, CalPERS, the state retirement agency, has already taken action to slash the pensions that were estimated in early press accounts. Instead of getting \$411,000 a year, former Bell Police Chief Randy Adams will receive \$268,000 — admitted, still a huge number but far less than it otherwise would be. Former Bell Assistant City Manager Angela Spaccia, who worked for Ventura in the 1980s, had her pension reduced from an estimated \$250,000 per year to \$43,000 per year.

Montebello An audit by the State Controller found major issues with moving money around to cover their tracks. Read the [LA Times story](#).

From the LA Times article: "At the expense of local job development, street repair, and schools, Montebello has made it a habit to tap legally-restricted funds to cover its budget and cash shortfalls," said Controller [John Chiang](#) in a statement. "It appears that the City moved money wherever it wanted, whenever it wanted, regardless of the law or the intended purpose of those taxpayer dollars."

The controller called on the city to reimburse its redevelopment agency nearly \$3.6 million for "ineligible expenditures," including \$3.4 million in transfers to the general fund for "administrative costs" as well as golf games and travel for city officials. Among the charges questioned was a "business lunch" at [Chuck E. Cheese's](#).

If the city has to repay the money, its financial picture could worsen. The audit comes when the city is already low on cash and has been called on to repay the federal government for misspent housing funds.

But city officials said they have no intention of repaying the money and said they disagreed with many of the auditors' findings.

"There's nothing to pay back. We don't owe it," said new interim City Manager Larry Kosmont, who argued that the administrative costs the city charged to its redevelopment agency were well in line with those of other cities in California.

Councilman Frank [Gomez](#) said the city had made major strides in recent months in cleaning up City Hall and worried that the audit would hurt the city's prospects of getting a desperately needed loan.

"Airing old dirty laundry has put the city in a precarious position," Gomez said.

But state Sen. [Ron Calderon](#) (D-Montebello) took a harsher line, releasing a statement that said, "The taxpayers' trust has been violated in the most egregious way."

This is a must read as there are many parallels to your city. Double booking of payments; loss of revenue from transit and parking meters; a complicit council.

SAMUEL ADAMS: It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds.

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.

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 and are the opinions of the writer.

FROM THE PUBLISHER... SITTING IN THE CAT BIRD SEAT



Even though the concept of Vanguardians has been around since 2003, Vanguard News has been in continuous publication since October 2005 and here we are wrapping up our 6th year and preparing for our 7th.

It requires introspection especially as this year the beginning of Volume 7 falls during the 10 days of the Jewish New Year of 5772, [Rosh Hashanah](#) and ending on the 10th day with the holiest day in the Hebrew calendar, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

I looked at whether we have accomplished our goal to Inform, Educate, & Motivate people for their Non-Violent Involvement, Engagement & Advocacy in local government. It is a challenging goal; one that requires stakeholders to look at those things that are important not only to their quality of life but for those of the future generations, and those that are less fortunate.

We have reached out to many groups to engage them in dialogue; to provide information through Vanguard and our Weekly Community Forum. We have reached out to community groups, news media, and government and enforcement agencies to share our quest to achieve accountability in local government.

Vanguard gives a voice to the community through the publication of their letters and calls; to the Insiders, who are government employees that do their best for all the stakeholders; to our columnists and most importantly to the community through our media and weekly face-to-face meetings.

This year Vanguardians has grown, adding pockets of affiliates in California. We are sending Vanguard to 15,000 addresses and even a few by snail mail. Our IT/Social Networking team has expanded our reach and frequency. The Weekly Community Forums are growing in number and content. More people are aware of their local government and are using the Sunshine Laws to make their local government more transparent, open and accountable.

Our volunteers are second to none, always looking for ways they can do more.

Our supporters, financial and moral represent another cornerstone of Vanguardians.

Is it enough? No! Can we do more? Yes! Will we do more? Absolutely!!

I realize that the more Management and certain elected officials attempt to intimidate the messenger, the closer to the truth we are. Several years ago City Manager Starbird in an attempt to shut down speech disallowed the public to place media in the City Hall lobby and the Council allowed that. Just check the Administrative Procedures Manual.

L'Shanah Tovah

Vanguardians cannot do it alone. We need volunteers to staff an Audit Committee – CPAs, Consultants and Attorneys to review public documents to provide information to our elected officials that are often the last to know the full story. Management has a way of distorting the truth as to whether there is adequate and proper project management; that the tax dollars that are being spent are being spent wisely. Just as a for instance: A recent public record response showed that evidence was received prior to it being sent which may cause the City to be liable. Call me and we'll discuss your opportunity to use your professional knowledge and skill to benefit the community.

We are also looking for members for the Vanguardians Land Use Committee. There have been many issues of late regarding unnecessary appeals, Boards overstepping their boundaries by making policy and what appear to be inequitable sanctions against certain sectors of the community. As with the Audit Committee we need your help. The information needs to be evaluated by the many heads and hands of a well versed committee composed of realtors, contractors and developers. Call me and we'll discuss your opportunity to use your professional knowledge and skill to benefit the community.

"If you can't drink a lobbyist's whiskey, take his money, sleep with his women and still vote against him in the morning, you don't belong in politics." Jesse Unruh. And the same holds true for municipal unions and their PACs.

Hootin' tootin'

The horn section of the city's orchestrated image



Does character matter? Most of us tend to think so. Even local politicians recognize it, if only to play it up to the public. The city managers think so. The school district board and administrators think so. Their actions and policies prove it.

The Glendale Unified School District recognizes the value that such initiatives to create the perception of or a morally correct institution. They not only have a list of 12 words, one for each month, but they also have created an organization around it. But is that enough? Do public officials live the intent and objectives of that initiative?

In the past twelve years, during Jim Starbird's reign as city manager, I've observed this determined and focused directive at demonstrating the trappings of character in full public view – the appearance of it.

The character and ethics program, as conducted by the GUSD, has as one of its objectives, a nomination process to recognize members of the public whose character and contribution to our society demonstrates the values imbued in the list of twelve moral traits we all recognize. I began to wonder, who gets nominated? Who nominates them? What can I tell of the process?

About three or four years ago, I attended one of their functions. I knew at least one of the nominees for the award and had some reservations about the process (I knew the nominee.) I wanted to see if I could negate my skepticism.

There, in the crowd, were about thirty city and school district employees. Managers, directors and a whole bunch of highly paid public employees lending their presence to the proceedings. There, before me, was nearly the whole staff of neighborhood services. They were about to honor one of their own.

The person being nominated, according to the reading of the meritorious award, was probably well-deserving of some recognition. She is very likely a conscientious worker and cooperative team player. But was such recognition worthy of a public ceremony aimed at recognizing members of the community whose quiet contribution needed a public outing?

The character-and-ethics award ceremony, on the day I attended, seemed promote exactly the opposite of what it was intended to do. Dozens of employees were taking nearly the whole afternoon off to celebrate one of their own and make it public. Although the city government has plenty of opportunities to recognize and award those employees, I've seen numerous such events at city council sessions. But it seems that the organizers and their brethren had taken over another public program and turned it into a self-serving horn-tooting event with plenty of time away from productive work.

The list of honorees included personal friends of those who submitted the names. These events are, to me, the most cynical demonstrations of the PR propaganda so prevalent during the city manager's years at the helm of city governance. To many of his management entourage and administrators, placing any lofty words on paper and announcing them as if they had earned them is all that matters. The substantive work and quiet, earnest daily contribution to an improved quality of life for city residents is something else. Those results don't get measured or publicized regularly.

Now I bring up this event about neighborhood services, because it is one of the units charged with measuring the city's quality of life. There are good, hard-working, and decent people in this department. There are employees who do care about public service. They have, sometimes, taken criticism for being candid about reporting on the city's negative trends. But my point deals with the pervasive horn tooting.

The list is nearly endless. The fire department has its charitable drive for money by handing out their boot to collect coins. The police display its canine unit at show-and-tell events; there are the pancake breakfasts, barbecues, retirement honorific good-byes, prayer breakfasts, and the mayor/council gold-leaf embroidered commendations. To them, the bigger the print, the bigger the con. How big can they print a "whereas" introduction? It all depends how cynical they want to be.

Whereas the city council, in their supreme wisdom, has worked diligently at extracting hundreds of millions of dollars from Glendale city stakeholders, and

Whereas, the city Fire, Police and Management unions have extracted for themselves outrageous pension and other benefits, and

Whereas, the city has significantly increased the fees on basic services such as electricity and water, and

Whereas tens of thousands of unemployed, underemployed and fixed-income families are struggling to meet higher fees and live with diminished services, and

Whereas the infrastructure of the city's core services has been deteriorating significantly, and

Whereas the city council has put residents into hundreds of millions of dollars of additional debt, and

Whereas, the city is now in a deep financial hole with huge deficits looming for many years,

Therefore, be it recognized that the values, character, and ethics that we traditionally uphold as uniquely American, among them, frugality, productivity, and the common good, be played with the highest fanfare, with the most golden of trumpets, from the highest parapets of the city. **HERBERT MOLANO** [Click here FOR Glendale Today](#)

GLENDALE WATER AND POWER FINDS THE PERFECT MPA

Telephone rings at the home of a dad who cosigned his son's Masters in Public Administration.

Son: "How you doin' dad? Are you and mom getting ready? Nine more months to go before the big day."

Dad, "We will all rejoice at your graduation. Any prospects for a job in government next June?"

Son, "Of course dad. I am right on course, that is, of course if my car can hold up a little longer."

Dad, "I know the car is a little old, what's wrong?"

Son, "Dad, I took it to the mechanic and when he checked it for overheating, he also noticed that the transmission and the suspension were in really poor shape. I may get stranded on the freeway."

Dad, "Ok, let me have it. How much do you need?"

Son, "Not much dad. How about three-thousand dollars?"

Dad, "What!?! Holy Toledo! That's about as much credit as I have left on my Visa."

Son, "Hey dad. It's for a good cause, you know. After all, who'll take care of you when you get old?"

Thirty days later, the phone rings again

Son, "How you doin' dad? Eight months before graduation. Can you and mom believe it?"

Dad, "Let's hope my bank account holds out a bit longer and have some money left over for a celebration."

Son, "That reminds me. Dad, you have another credit card I can use?"

Dad, "What's the expense now? I have one last credit card with an available balance."

Son, "Well I need about three-thousand five hundred dollars to fix my car."

Dad, "But I thought you had the car repaired already."

Son, "Dad, with the price of gas what it is, and the environmental pollution problem, I put a new dashboard that tells me the Miles per gallon at any instant. I couldn't help it. I am an environmentalist at heart."

Dad, "What!?! You didn't spend it on the basic repairs? You put it on a Fancy Yancy dashboard? Godalmighty! What were you thinking?"

Son, "Dad, I got an award at my Environmental Leaders class. That new technology is terrific! I'll probably get a special recognition at graduation. You'll be so proud of me."

Dad, "For God's sake, son, get your priorities straight. I can't continue to borrow like this. Your mom and I are not getting any younger. I sure hope you can land a steady job in government next year."

Son, "Not to worry dad, I found the perfect place for me. And that city is loaded with money!"

Dad, "Well, that leaves out Vallejo, California, the city of Bell, and maybe 90% of the cities in California."

Son, "Its' closer to you than you think. I got a friend who tells me he can land me a job with the Glendale Water and Power. You know, the utility that is blazing trails with the new smart meters!"

Dad, "Well, I'll be darn! Guess you'll be a perfect fit. Make sure they get to see your Fancy Yancy dashboard. They'll be sure to issue another bond to fit that into every one of their cars."

Son, "Sure dad. Now how about coughing up some dough for that transmission work, eh?"

HERBERT MOLANO [Click here FOR Glendale Today](#)

HAVE BAGGAGE WILL TRAVEL

Wonders never cease. The man who had achieved his life-long dream of becoming city manager of the city where he was born, takes an early exit from Burbank and heads for the hills – The Glendale Hills that is, swimming pools, movie stars.

What will prompt such a concerned public servant to jump ship? Some people have told me that he has a special connection to Jim Starbird, Glendale's current city manager. This seems to be a case of more than just sister cities, it is a case of soul brothers.

Now let's see. Glendale has been plagued by an inability to control debauchery and abuse in its employee ranks, especially the police department. It seems as if every year there is one policeman or another wanting to get a few million dollars by filing some lawsuit or another against the city. If it isn't sexual harassment one year, it's discrimination in another, or some racial insensitivity in yet another. So Glendale has searched far and wide across these United States, only to find the most qualified right next door.

But wait a minute! A quick Google search shows me that Burbank may be even worse than Glendale in the police-lawsuit category. In the city of Burbank, where so many movie and television studios thrive, Girls-Gone-Wild makes room for Cops-Gone-Wild. Great city management, exceptional human resources policies, and top-of-the-line risk management is probably included in every resume of every manager leaving city employment. Burbank is probably not an exception. But are the claims true?

How much has Burbank's public debt grown in the past ten years? How many employees per capita? How has the median income of managers grown in the past five years? In what kind of condition is the city's infrastructure? The number of Key performance Indicators are Many. Did the city's top-flight personnel recruiters from Beverly Hills look into that data? I really doubt it.

Now it wasn't more than six months ago that the city of Burbank Water and Power offered one of Glendale's GWP high paying employees a bigger salary to entice him to leave. Now Burbank and Glendale partner in the Magnolia Power Plant, they both belong to the Southern California Power Authority where common interest in distribution and power generation requires deep cooperation. So why would a sister city help neighboring employees play the game of salary hop-scotch? Don't they care about the impact on salaries and pensions have on the cost of utilities? Has Mr. Michael Flad rendered his opinion and given his approval?

This much we know for sure. In January of 2011 the Glendale News-Press and Burbank Leader filed a lawsuit against the city of Burbank for failing to disclose the secret bonuses it was paying its employees. So was that action directed and approved by Mr. Flad? That was similar to the actions that Jim Starbird took when city stakeholders filed for the disclosure of public records to get at the city's detail gross pay records and secret bonuses. We had to wait for a decision from the California Supreme court. So did Mr. Flad bother to read the news? Would he not ask one of his top legal employees, Mrs. Howard, the wife of just retired Glendale city attorney. He had to comply with the constitution after failing to provide good legal advice. Would Mr. Flad not have saved his city plenty of taxpayer money in legal fees?

In just about every city in California, police and fire departments have had a field day in extricating amazing salaries, pensions and benefits to the detriment of the city's budget and the residents' quality of life. It seems as if no-one is able to control the excesses and the rampant abuse that these departments have extracted from their residents. But Burbank and its police department stand out as exceptionally poorly managed. Assistant city managers are the operations managers and take an active part in the selection of department heads. That was the role that Mr. Flad held in Burbank for many years. Is that the exceptional and extraordinary leadership that Glendale is searching for?

It is nothing short of astonishing that two of Glendale's current department heads, who have no history of managing or providing oversight to police, fire or the city's Electric Utility felt this outrageous self-regard to apply for the city manager position. Yet nearly 2/3 of the city's budget is locked in there.

I can understand when superb leadership shines in creating an exceptional organization. The hallmark of that leadership is the ability to plan and nourish those who will ascend to the CEO position. So what makes for great organizational leadership? Stanford Professor Jim Collins in his book, Good to Great, puts forth the attributes of that kind of leadership. There is an excerpt on the [Web](#) that all city stakeholders should read as they see this selection unfolding before their eyes.

The city needs a truly great and visionary leader unshackled from any obligations to the current city employee unions and willing to restore a city to prudent and responsible management.

We don't need more baggage. Glendale needs a special delivery. **Herbert Molano**

CONSTITUTION DAY, 2011

I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!
Howard Beale - Network



The options considered by the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention were broad. What kind of government were we to have? When the Convention ended, anxious citizens waiting outside Independence Hall wanted to know what had been produced behind those closed doors. The answer was provided immediately. A Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Without hesitation, Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Here we are, 224 years later, their posterity, inheritors of the greatest *Blessings of Liberty* the world has ever known ... at a time of deep global, social, cultural, political and economic challenge ... with a Congress having historically low approval ratings and a President whose approval ratings keep falling.

A republic, if we can keep it.

*"We are in the very midst of revolution, the most complete, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the history of the world."
John Adams-July, 1776*

Thirteen years before the Constitutional Convention in 1776 we were mad as hell ... at the Monarchy and the British Parliament ... and in our refusal to take it anymore *our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

A hundred and fifty years ago, again mad as hell-but this time at each other-we *engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.* By the time our Civil War ended 4 years later, over 600,000 American soldiers lay dead. As Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes learned from his battle-field experiences in the Civil War, "certitude leads to violence."

And now it's our turn to be mad as hell-mad at Congress, mad at the President, mad at the Supreme Court, mad at corporations who pay no taxes while shipping jobs overseas, mad at the insurance and drug companies, perhaps the only beneficiaries of Obamacare, mad at gays and lesbians and fundamentalists and atheists-mad at each other.

Just like 1776 and 1861, we are mad as hell and we aren't taking it anymore. Through our fury, though, we must answer a fundamental question: "What are we going to do about it?" Do we go to war with each other, like we did in 1861? Or do we find an alternative?

*If two people work for me and they agree all the time, one of them is worthless.
If they disagree all the time, they're both worthless.
Sam Goldwyn*

Fundamental to American liberty are factions. As Madison taught us factions are as American as apple pie. Different people think differently and have different interests. Those with similar attitudes and objectives often bond together, seeking to accomplish their agenda in the political marketplace. The result is faction. Liberty, as Madison so wisely understood, was the very cause of faction.

To eliminate factions is to destroy liberty, replacing it with tyranny; a *remedy ... worse than the disease*, as Madison put it. Factions are evidence of the resiliency of liberty and it is through their growth and decay that the blessings of liberty evolve through history.

So factions we must have. Indeed we should glory in them, for they are the very expression of the liberties we hold so dear.

Except right now, our factions are mad as hell at each other. And we've got work to do. Difficult challenges to solve. A future to build. Right now, at this moment in our history, in the midst of all of our anger at each other, our factions are proving worthless.

America is 14 months away from our next election. Republican candidates are already lining up for the opportunity to take on Obama. The House and Senate are both in play. The media is ecstatic as interest is high. And we know from our long history that politicians play to their constituents.

It would be the height of naivety to expect there to be any lessening of factional anger before the election; indeed, factional anger will most likely rise as we get closer to the election.

But that doesn't say that *we the people* have to stay mad as hell, that we have to buy into the institutional anger in our midst. Each one of us has the opportunity to personally get past his or her own set of angers, not to take it, but to work to prepare the ground for what we will need after November 2012.

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there.
Rumi.*

Out beyond our anger live the verities, those eternal truths that have shown up over the course of our sojourn on our home planet, truths about how we connect to each other, how we build trust, how we learn to cooperate.

The first of these great truths is the Golden Rule, a general principle found in all of mankind's traditions: Treat others as you would be treated. Love others as you love yourself.

The Declaration-that we are all created equal, with equal rights-is but a political corollary of the Golden Rule. We all want liberty for ourselves. Therefore, there must be liberty for all. We are all created equal.

So today, the 224th anniversary of the American republic, at the beginning of our mad dash to what Jon Stewart calls "Indecision 2012," it's time to slow down, take a deep breath and remember Lincoln's words from his first Inaugural Address:

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living

heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Let freedom ring.

Stan Stahl, Ph.D.

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Constitution Day was Friday, September 16, 2011

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

The penalty good men and women pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. PLATO

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

2 Common Area [ED Note the name of the Vanguard community input area was suggested by former Council

Member John Drayman on March 1, 2011] 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 may be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.

- Of course the Vanguardians Weekly Forum should be listed in the GNP Calendar section. The sponsor is a non-profit organization with an open government public advocacy agenda and significant community support.

The listing should include a bit of copy and the GNP would be wise to sometimes include a photograph. The weekly event is thoughtful, relevant, well-attended and brings in customers for breakfast at Foxy's--an iconic local eatery on Colorado Blvd.

All are invited and the more the merrier with a chance to enjoy the wisdom, humor and energy of veteran gadfly Barry Allen and friends. This is a 'don't miss' event that offers networking opportunities galore in an informal setting. **NAJ**

- In response to the points of authority of where a city manager need live...

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SEC. 10. (b) A city or county, including any chartered city or chartered county, or public district, may not require that its employees be residents of such city, county, or district; except that such employees may be required to reside within a reasonable and specific distance of their place of employment or other designated location.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE 50083. No local agency or district shall require that its employees be residents of such local agency or district.

Norman Roberts, Roberts Consulting Group, Inc., Phone: (818) 783-7752 Fax: (818) 783-6377

Email: robertsrcg@msn.com

3



Public Information



“Just the facts”

- **City has chosen to ignore the request for the contract between the CoG and the Collection Agency.**
- [65 Glendale retirees collect \\$7,000,000 a year – That is the \\$100,000 pension club.](#)
- **Vanguard is reviewing documents received in the past few days and will be reporting on them. Actual public records are available at the Thursday community forums.**
- **Councilman Manoukian has a webpage where readers can get data that is not easily obtained www.manoukian.us**

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



City Meeting Calendar for the City of Glendale CA
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, September 26

Transportation & Parking Commission – 6:00 pm, CH 548-3960

Tuesday, September 27

Housing Authority -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2060
Redevelopment Agency -- 2:30 pm, CH 548-2005
Joint Meeting- Funding Kenneth Village
City Council -- 6:00 pm, CH 548-4844

Wednesday, September 28

Civil Service Commission – 5:00 pm, CH 548-2110

Thursday, September 29 No Meetings Scheduled

Friday, September 30 No Meetings Scheduled

4 *Vanguardians*

- Christopher Mosquera who is our Twitter go to guy wants you to give us a tweet at VanguardiansCA.
- **Josh, our Facebook go to guy says, “Simply type “Vanguardians” in the Facebook search box, it comes up as a non-profit organization, then hit the "like" button! Can't wait to get more of a crowd engaged. The Vanguardians Facebook gives you access to the things that are important for accountable local government.**
- Larry, our webmaster wants you to let him know how our new website is coming along. www.vanguard-usa.org

We are missing some Vanguards from 2005, and the first 10 months of 2007. They were wiped out when our old site was hacked and destroyed. If you have any of those documents let us know or send them to info@vanguardians.org

- Not to forget Jake who is participating in all aspects of the Vanguardians electronic communications.

As a reference our four electronic communications volunteers interchange and collaborate on the website, Facebook and Twitter. We are amazed at the data and information that are provided on the sites. It is timely and relevant.

- **Vanguard goes to 15,000 Glendale stakeholders every week providing decision making information that affects our quality of life.**
- **CITY EMPLOYEES: 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.**
- Vanguard archives are available by clicking – [Home Page of Open Government \(???\) in Glendale California](#)
- People from all over LA County are asking for Vanguard and Vanguardians training. We are expanding our coverage of LA County activities to accommodate the needs of the community.
- Vanguard is following these lawsuits and others: In deposition - 5 GPD officers—Ethnic discrimination; In trial - Gillespie-discipline for refusing to obey an illegal order in violation of FAA rules; Hayn; The cases cited are from the Randy Adams regime and continue under Chief DePompa. As we review these lawsuits it is obvious there is a pattern of behavior that is illegal and harmful to a properly functioning police department. It also appears that the culprits are receiving promotions.

VANGUARDIANS thanks you for your Continuing 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.
- www.maplight.org to follow the money trail from special interests to the policy maker

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

[From The Glendale News Press 12-29-2003](#) the beginning of Accountability in Glendale. Claiming that the city needs better oversight to monitor its finances and actions, [Barry Allen] is calling on city residents to form a watchdog group to look into everything, "I think an outside, independent agency that isn't funded by the city; that's funded by a grass-roots initiative, is what we really need."

Our webmaster is creating a whole new web experience at www.vanguard-usa.org Let him know what you want to see on it by sending him your comments, just click [Web](#).

[Legislative Liaison](#)
[Web](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Fire](#)
[Special Projects](#)

Vanguardians contact information:

[General Mailbox](#)
[Glendale Claims](#)
[Vanguard Davis](#)
[Vanguard Oxnard](#)
[Vanguard Bell](#)

[Vanguard Alhambra](#)
[Vanguard Editor](#)
[Vanguard Publisher](#)
[Vanguard letters](#)

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](#)

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.



Edith Fuentes demoted. Moved from Zoning Administrator to a cube. Should be interesting with a public civil service hearing. Starbird and Hassan carried out their mission.

Four names have surfaced for the City Manager: Hassan Haghani, Steve Zurn, George Chapjian from Long Beach and Michael Flad from Burbank.

Another Draymanite bites the dust. School teacher, GNP Opinion Columnist Dan Kimber...the measure of the man

"Politics is entertainment. It's a sport. It's for the well groomed and well heeled. The impeccably dressed. Party animals. Politicians are interchangeable." - Bob Dylan

6

THE DENIZENS ON THE DAIS

Council spent more time deliberating over the Beeline fares than they have giving millions away as compensation and pensions. Weaver of course spent some time belaboring his opinion that if the schools wanted students to show up then the GUSD should pay for transportation. Najarian, the other Republican felt the same way but couched it more eloquently. Manoukian and Quintero felt that the City should do everything in its power to support education.

Najarian and Friedman carried on some of their deliberations in secret instead of publicly as they are required under the Brown Act.

Weaver, Manoukian and Najarian agreed that an appeal of a DRB decision should not have come before the Council. It appeared that the DRB overstepped its authority; neither staff nor the assigned City Attorney spoke up.

The Mayor hasn't a clue as to where the money goes. She approved a \$20,000 raise to one of the GWP managers that could have gone to the transportation system. It seems as if Glendale Fire is hiring a whole slew of ambulance drivers at an untold expense and replacing apparatus at huge expense.

"You can't win an argument with a Moron, an Idiot, or a Political Bigot" Kraft

Email info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact you. Vanguardians encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government. Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 educational non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. To ensure you receive Vanguard, please add our email addresses info@vanguardians.org, vanguardweekly@gmail.com and ba@fieldworks.net - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. **Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue. To unsubscribe -- reply with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.**
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