



“Accountability”
The Government Watchdog

Vanguard

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NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

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

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VANGUARDIANS GLENDALE COMMUNITY FORUM

THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2012 TOPICS:

COG SEEKS SUMMARY JUDGMENT ON 5 COPS LAWSUIT

WE HAVE OBTAINED COURT DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS SOME ARE QUITE SHOCKING

A discussion on the California Supreme Court Decision on Redevelopment Agencies.

A DISCUSSION WITH THE CPUC ON PROVIDING OUTSIDE OVERSIGHT OF THE GWP

JOIN US AT: 300 W GLENOAKS BLVD. SUITE 303

TIME: PROMPTLY AT 8AM TO 9:15AM. DOORS OPEN AT 7:45

COFFEE & BAGELS WILL BE SERVED

The meeting is streamed so you can watch from home or work. Go to www.justin.tv/vanguardians ask your questions via chat feature

Minimum \$5 donation is encouraged.
Share with and bring a stakeholder

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.

The Glendale News Press chose not to remove defamatory, unproven and untrue statements about Barry Allen the Director of Vanguardians, contained in the comments about a published letter. Editor-in-Chief Dan Evans invoked the editorial ‘discretion’ posture. As such, Vanguardians will no longer provide story leads or inside information for their follow-up. Among those in the past included the ‘tip’ on John Drayman’s alleged embezzlement investigation, a copy of the Complaint to the Attorney General regarding Drayman and the National Fire/ADI subcontractors who worked on the Drayman homestead; and a list of those contractors that was voluntarily provided to the FBI.

We have also provided the GNP with the blueprint of the strategy being deployed to combat the illegal water fund transfer, the rate hikes and the misappropriation of funds.

Vanguardians will continue to provide information to the Los Angeles Times, the parent of the Glendale News-Press; to the Daily News, Associated Press and Reuters among others.

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferior” Plato*

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

The City of Bell California became the poster-child of a government gone wild, a government that chose to denigrate their constituents by denying them access to their 'Policy Makers' who then took advantage of keeping their constituents in the dark while they picked their pockets.

The City of Glendale California continued to illegally transfer millions of dollars from their unregulated public utility to the general fund. This was exposed by one person who continually exercised his right to address the local Council, a right under the Ralph M Brown open meetings act.

Let me introduce Vanguardians. Vanguardians is an educational non-profit organization that trains advocates on their rights to access local government. We have been doing this since 2003, starting in Glendale, California and have encouraged, supported and helped create other such advocacy groups.

We assisted members of the public in getting the City Manager, who cost Glendale taxpayers unfunded liabilities over ONE BILLION DOLLARS, to retire.

Today, through bad policies, LA County's 3rd largest city is moving toward fiscal disaster.

Vanguardians emails 15,000 Glendale stakeholders every week with Vanguard News Service; hosts a weekly Community Forum; addresses City Councils, Boards and Commissions on areas of fiscal responsibility and has exposed the corrupt actions of a former city council member. Presently there are ongoing cases of political corruption, embezzlement and defrauding the public.

It takes fiscal and physical support to do this. Cost such as providing the posters to display at City Council to impeach a now former city council member; preparing and printing a complaint to the State Attorney General and preparation of documents regarding the misappropriation of taxpayer assets, represents a cost of almost \$7,000. We accept no government support.

Many people fear government, especially a government that is known for retaliation and intimidation. People fear that when they would like to address the policy makers. Glendale City Council has made it a point to discourage the public from speaking. They do this by rude gestures, beating up on the messenger, ignoring them while they busy themselves doing side-bars and by intimidation.

At least two residents had police knock on their doors and threaten them with arrest for being terrorists. In one case it was because the person asked too many questions of the Planning Department and in the other for the same reason at the Transportation Department.

We need your financial support to continue to prepare cases to take to outside oversight and the Courts. We need your physical support to advocate for accountable, transparent and open government; to participate in trainings and committees.

This year we will be streaming our meetings on the Internet and soon will stream city council meetings as well. We will be expanding the Vanguard Weekly News.

We can do this and more with your tax deductible contribution in any amount. Checks are preferred as they are not discounted by the banks. Of course *PayPal* works, too. Your name and contribution are confidential. Vanguardians protects your identity

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.

IT DEMANDS CONSTANT VIGILANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT BY ITS STAKEHOLDERS.

Make your contribution to: Vanguardians, POB 11202, Glendale, CA 91226.
For more information call me, I am Barry Allen, Director, at 818 243 1502
Contributions dated by December 31, 2011 will be receipted for 2011

"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.

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[Montebello – LA Times:](#) The state controller's fourth and final audit of Montebello found the city's internal controls severely lacking, [according to a report released Wednesday](#).

The audit found that a breakdown in controls and internal communication might have led to "pension spiking" in the case of at least one city official. In March 2007, Montebello City Council members voted to fire City Administrator Richard Torres.

Torres contested the firing and the city's Human Resources Department never took him off the payroll, apparently because it was never told to stop paying him. He continued to receive his salary for nearly a year, even after the council approved a final severance agreement in November 2007. A new City Council majority brought in by a recall election that year voted to "rehire" Torres with a 49% raise, bringing his salary to nearly \$200,000 a year.

The combined effect was to increase his pension by more than \$4,000 a month when he retired in 2009, according to an audit released Wednesday by state Controller John Chiang.

Chiang called it a case of possible "pension spiking" and said he had asked the California Public Employees' Retirement System to investigate. The city said in its response that officials were working with CalPERS to rectify the "deficiently reported earnings." Torres could not be immediately reached for comment. He said his firing was not contested, but held up by city officials who lagged in signing his termination agreement, which included 18 months of severance pay. Torres said the salary he continued to receive was supposed to be deducted from the severance payment when he eventually got it. Torres said he ultimately forfeited the full severance due to him when he was rehired. "I had 18 months' severance due. I got seven months instead, and I left the rest on the table because I was happy to be rehired," he said. Torres also contested the idea that the pay raise was intended to spike his pension. He said a salary survey conducted by the city determined that his previous salary was exceptionally low.]

The handling of Torres "termination" was just one of many failures of financial controls in Montebello identified in Chiang's final audit of the troubled city.

The audit also found that the city mishandled other employees' retirements. In 2006, Community Development Director Ruben Lopez resigned under pressure and the city agreed to pay him 12 months' severance, which they included in calculating his pension. CalPERS rules do not allow severance payments to count toward retirement benefits, and in 2007

state officials told the city to reverse the credits. City officials ignored the instruction until this summer, when auditors from the controller's office pointed it out.

The city's response to the audit said the erroneously reported compensation had since been corrected with CalPERS.

Other problems included loose control of petty cash, failure to accurately report employee salaries to the Internal Revenue Service, and "systemic" problems in its bookkeeping, including a failure to balance city statements for nearly a year. In fact, out of 74 accounting standards that cities should follow, the controller found that Montebello practiced only eight, "opening the door to waste, fraud and abuse," according to Chiang's spokesman.

In a statement, Chiang compared the [financial issues in Montebello](#) to those in scandal-plagued Bell. "While the roots of Montebello's problems are different from Bell's, they both share the common trouble of having little or, at times, no accountability in their spending of public dollars," he said.

Previous audits this fall said the city had mishandled \$31 million and spent money intended to improve poor neighborhoods on golf games, travel for city officials and a "business lunch" at Chuck E. Cheese. Chiang's auditors also found that city officials allowed an engineering firm at the center of a federal bribery investigation to award about \$2 million in city funds to itself.

[California Supreme Court ruled that the State can do away with Redevelopment Agencies. In Glendale that could mean no Laemmle Theater with a \\$7,000,000 subsidy and no MONA for a couple of Million tax payer dollars.](#)

[Debt-ridden Stockton a battleground for police union](#), City Hall Officers have paid for billboards and bought a house next to the city manager in a fight to stop cuts in one of the nation's foreclosure capitals, which is near bankruptcy and has 20% unemployment.

[The district attorney isn't finished looking at Oxnard, documents show](#). Two detailed requests for information were filed by a Ventura County district attorney's investigator this month. Such requests are open to public view, unlike more than two dozen sealed search warrants that have been served since a criminal investigation of the city began in August 2010.

Supervising Investigator Wayne Simmons submitted an 11-point request Dec. 8 regarding a supplemental post-retirement benefit for top managers. The \$300 monthly perk for select retirees, previously reported about by The Star, was created by City Manager [Ed Sotelo](#) without the City Council's knowledge or approval, which Sotelo's office says is within his authority. While the District Attorney's Office had asked for information about the benefit in September, shortly after The Star's story ran, the latest request is much more extensive.

Simmons wants all related correspondence between Sotelo and the City Attorney's Office, copies of all checks issued to retirees, paperwork involving the perk's adoption, a comprehensive list of benefits for nonunion employees since 2002 and more.

Simmons' second request, dated Dec. 14, seeks background on the city's 2007 purchase of 21 acres at Oxnard Boulevard and Gonzales Road, where a sports park is planned. He wants to see city communications with sellers and developers, appraisal documents, internal files and other development proposals, as well as documents the city provided to resident Martin Jones, who previously filed several public-records requests regarding the land deal.

The Internal Revenue Service in September 2010 also filed a records request regarding the sports park transaction. The agency has declined to say whether an investigation is under way.

On Aug. 13, 2010, investigators from District Attorney Greg Totten's office, aided by FBI agents and sheriff's deputies, shut down Oxnard City Hall and collected boxes of paperwork, computer files and cellphone records.

A grand jury was convened. Investigators searched Oxnard officials' homes. They also searched businesses that worked with the city and returned many times to city offices seeking more information. Details of those searches remain sealed. No one has been charged.

The probe involves possible misappropriation of public funds, the city's handling of public works and other contracts, and potential conflicts of interest, Totten has said. [ED – Sotelo was Pasadena Assistant City Manager in early 1990s; Martin Jones heads up the Vanguardians Oxnard chapter.]

Rhode Island Pension Reform: <http://www.pensionreformri.com/> Is this the new model?

[Municipalities have been reluctant because public pensions are protected by statutes](#) and constitutional provisions meant to make them nearly airtight. And even if the rules could be broken in bankruptcy, that would present a different problem. Local

officials who want to cut pensions do not, as a rule, want to shortchange their bondholders for fear of not being able to borrow in the future — yet bankruptcy law requires that both types of creditors be treated equitably. Rhode Island sought to sidestep the issue with a law that gave bondholders more protections than retirees. Central Falls's retirees used that issue to gain some bargaining power, extracting a commitment from the state to seek extra money for the next five years. The extra money is not a sure thing, though, and would not cover all the cuts to the retirees over those years.

The last American city to work its way through Chapter 9 bankruptcy was Vallejo, Calif., which finished the process this year. It had to navigate similar stumbling blocks. Initially, it planned to cut its workers' and retirees' pensions, but it changed course when California's giant state pension system, which administered Vallejo's plan, threatened a costly and debilitating court battle.

Vallejo instead cut pay, health care and other benefits, as well as city services and payments to its bondholders, and left the pensions intact. Even though the bondholders faced a loss, all parties eventually agreed they had been treated equitably, and the state passed a law making it easier for Vallejo to continue borrowing.

California Redevelopment Agencies demise. Here is the POV on Eminent Domain: <http://www.ij.org/propertyrights/4235>

Laemmle closes two theaters: <http://www.laemmle.com/2011-12-update.php>

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.

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 represent the opinion of the writer.

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

LOSER OF THE YEAR



The GNP named deposed leader John Drayman as the 'Newsmaker of the Year' – The article covered some of what he did while a Council member but the article didn't cover the fiscal damage he caused like the purchase of the white elephant called Rockhaven that to date has no economic value. \$10,000,000 and counting. Then the decision to offer taxpayer subsidy to a losing proposition called MONA – The Museum of Neon Art. All one has to do is look at their financials. \$2,000,000 and counting. Then, to date, another \$7,000,000 tax subsidy to Marc Nathanson and Greg Laemmle that could have been changed by his colleagues.

Then he campaigned hard to get demagogue Laura Friedman elected to guarantee his control of the dais.

But greed did him in.

Drayman joins another former Council member who was a 10 percenter, getting 10% of every deal by investing his vote.

Then another who hasn't gotten caught yet on a complaint of pedophilia because the GPD didn't want to take a complaint just like former Chief Randy Adams quashed a complaint involving another recipient of Glendale taxpayer dollars because of her standing in the community. Then there was a witness regarding the alleged embezzlement. A witness who was familiar with GPD retaliation policy

The Drayman issue being handled by the GPD isn't going anywhere. Nor is the complaint regarding the building permit issue that extended to a number of homeowners in Stancrest who replaced their old windows with new vinyls that require DRB approval and permits. Will Director Haghani, Building Official Tom or Neighborhood Services administrator Engel take action? Ha Ha.

Drayman holds the cards and they all know it. Drayman would sit friend and foe in his office and wear them down with his droll conversation. After three hours of 'water-boarding' anyone would give up his or her secrets.

Advanced Development and Investment (ADI) the affordable housing developer that spread their ill-gotten taxpayer wealth to Council and Staff; the nice folks in Sacramento that dole out taxpayer tax allocation bonds; was brought down

by a divorce. Not by the contractor the Council approved to vet the 'adjusted invoices'; nor city staff nor even the top level team that surveyed the property and approved it as safe even though they had pictures of cut rebar. It was brought down by a divorce.

Ara Najarian is concerned that his divorce may demonstrate through certain filings that he hasn't been exactly forthright about his real estate holdings. Like ADI, a divorce will represent his fall from Grace.

We, taxpayers, ratepayers and stakeholders are the Losers of the Year.

RESOLUTIONS FOR GLENDALE:

As we welcome our new City Manager, Scott Ochoa, I want to share with him the benefit of community input so that he will have the opportunity of dialoguing with stakeholders who want a fiscally responsible government.

Here are some of my suggestions for Glendale New Year's resolutions:

1. Stop the Civil Service Commission Hearing on the demotion of Edith Fuentes by reinstating her with full pay to her former position and promoting her to the Supervisor of Planning Hearing Officers.
2. Requiring the City Council to appoint members of the Civil Service Commission that are not conflicted by their membership in organizations that promote management.
3. Make the Police Department accountable for its expensive retaliatory practices that continue to prove very costly to the Glendale taxpayers.
4. Place the public safety departments under a Public Safety Commission that is appointed based on knowledge rather than politics.
5. Reduce the number of Managers and mid-managers.
6. Place the Glendale Water & Power utility under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.
7. Stop borrowing.
8. Stop the use of P-Cards.
9. Reduce the number of 'take-home' vehicles.
10. Reinstate all three police officers who took the sojourn to Las Vegas while on duty; suspend and demote them along with their supervisor who seems to have been forgotten.
11. Stop hiring back retirees for an additional 960 hours of pay as there is no valid reason for so doing.
12. Return all cops who are on paid administrative leave, especially those that have been off since January and February 2011. If the issues against them haven't been proved in 30 days then there is no case.
13. Stop placing gag orders on cops. That is the province of the Courts. The public needs to hear about the managerial wrong doings as we, the public, pay for them.
14. Turn the Drayman embezzlement investigation over to an outside agency such as the State Attorney General.
15. Prosecute Randy Adams for conspiracy to defraud the taxpayers. Once convicted he will lose the employer paid portion of his pension.

"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.

THE MYTH OF MUNICIPAL DEMOCRACY



We'd all like to think that this is America, and that by the sheer magic of the founding fathers we have been bestowed a government responsive to the people. That's the myth that I'd like to dispel. Look carefully, and the evidence shows city governments to be not much better than petty and despotic little fiefdoms.

Governance in a truly democratic state has wide-ranging representation that is measured by the benefits to its greatest number of constituents. Yet these measures, albeit available, are the last measures to which elected officials want to be held accountable. The money from taxpayers and the rewards generally go to the select insiders. That's the sad reality of our despotic municipal regimes.

Take the development and maintenance of city parks as a brief example. The Adams Square mini-park which is no larger than two residential lots took over twelve years from conception to completion. The adult recreation center adjacent to the Central Library took nearly as long from initial plans to fruition. Yet when we look at their costs, even at the inflated costs negotiated by the city, they make up a fraction of one percent of the money received in a single year. When it comes to taxpayer money, the name of the game is Zero-Sum – The money will go either to service the public good or it will go to benefit the select insiders who really know how to play the political game. Grudgingly, the insiders would let some money go towards public benefits, so long as it is augmented by money taken from some other agency.

On even more essential city needs like adequate maintenance of essential infrastructure like water mains, power plants, pumps, reservoirs, roads, sidewalks, the hallmark of cities like Glendale is to postpone and delay that investment for as long as possible. So long as there is no outcry from the public, the entrenched insiders will pocket as much of the money for themselves either individually or as a group.

In the last ten years, the gross pay and benefits for the police chief and fire chief has more than doubled. The budgets for the departments they lead have also increased at an exponential rate. Yet, when we look at the performance of these two departments in either decreased crime or the survivability of cardiac-arrest patients, there is hardly any improvement. One thing you'll never see under the current city council is a public session evaluating their performance. There is a good reason. They, police and fire departments behave just like the military in most dictatorial states.

Under most dictatorships, there is a very small number of participants. In Glendale, for example, the winning number of votes is roughly 8,000 out of a population that approximates 200,000. What separates the winning candidate from the loser is a mere thousand votes. Such a small winning difference is what a police endorsement makes to the elderly and the uninformed, the picture of the candidate with the police, fire, or sheriffs' endorsement is the winning impression that will sway their vote. So it is not unexpected that in return for that endorsement, these two entrenched groups would want as much of the taxpayer's money for themselves as the taxpayers would allow them to take. To secure the reciprocity, these organizations fund, and actively push their candidate during elections.

In America, since these para-military units can't simply crush the opposition by deadly force, they'll do it through the sheer force of massive and persistent public relations efforts, paid by the taxpayers. That's why they need all the police-dog displays before family events, or the fire-fighter presence giving away firemen's hats at elementary school events, or concoct charitable contribution gimmicks by handing out their boots to collect donations. Nothing sells like appearing nearly broke and benevolent in one single deceptive action. But it's all for a good cause – their growing paycheck and overly generous benefits.

Nothing could be so striking as to follow the trends since the start of the recession in 2008. The police in a two-year span got 11% increase in pay. Now, this past month, the fire department received from 8% to 16% pay increases less than six months after massive increases in fees to city residents and stakeholders.

So why have these city council members run for office? If taxpayers' money is only grudgingly given back, what's in it for them? Like in any despotic or authoritarian state, it is the financial rewards that attract them. If you can save a developer millions of dollars by re-adjusting zoning requirements, or if you can hand out tens of millions of dollars in subsidies, their expectation of a sizeable reciprocal favor is not far behind.

Let's summarize it. Police, Fire and Management employee organizations are never held accountable to performance objectives. In fact, in Glendale, they can screw up massively and still get big promotions. Deteriorating Quality of Life indicators are quickly noted and filed away to squelch discussion. Then the city council fights like hell to save their redevelopment programs where the major source of subsidies are extracted.

Ever think that the John Drayman case with his association with Advanced Development and Investment (ADI), the corrupt low-income housing developer was unusual? It wasn't at all. The sobering point is that we got lucky. Had it not been for the nasty divorce of the CEO of ADI, we would never have known.

We may get lucky again if the divorce of councilman Ara Najarian exposes the extreme narcissism and unrelenting greed many of us perceive from his disdain of the public, and for the favor he bestows on the city insiders. Think Laura Friedman has brought an honest woman's touch to the city council? Dream on. Corruption is a gender-neutral opportunity game. But there is hope nonetheless.

We learned plenty from the courage of young people displayed during the Arab Spring. But it was a courage allowed to blossom by the acquiescence of the military. Democracies are not born. They have to be fought for. The entrenched and corrupt insiders will fight the public all the way even if they have to bankrupt the very cities that employ them or the ignorant constituents who elected them.

Let's start the New Year by dispelling the myth that the government we have is anything akin to a real democracy directed for the general public benefit. Let's begin 2012 by getting a good dose of reality.

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

Vanguardians gets frequent calls about what Herbert Molano does for his day job, so we asked him. Following is his answer.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND PREDICTIONS— WASSUP FOR MICROSOFT DYNAMICS IN 2012 AND BEYOND?

Technology year-end predictions for the coming year shouldn't be too difficult. After all, most successful companies have a well-polished view of the competition and the statistics of where the market is headed. In the words of Andrew Grove from Intel, "Only the paranoid survive." Meaning the prediction game is often a sober assessment of competitive trends, a re-evaluation of forward-looking strategic objectives, and a measured dose of wishful thinking - Find the pain and wish it weren't there.

The most obvious trend for 2011 was the huge increase in the popularity of tablets like the iPad and the pervasive move towards practical mobile computing. But have we inadvertently added more bulk with this trend? We now travel with our laptops, tablets, and smart phones. Something's got to go. According to leading market research firms like Gartner, tablets are expected to outsell laptops in about four years. But the traveling workforce is not waiting for their IT departments to work this out. Road warriors and field staff, already ahead of the trend, now want their devices connected to meaningful back-office data and Windows 8 might just be the platform we need for robust mobile computing.

Those of us in ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) sales know that enhanced productivity and organizational efficiency are the real justifications for new system purchases. Enterprise-wide mobility applications and simple interaction with the back-end applications is now seen as a "should-be" or "must-be" solution for the New Year. That's where Microsoft's entry into the tablet market just might be headed. And we may be a little late arriving into the mobile app trend, but if executed right, we'll have both the right UI and the right middleware to take Microsoft's robust ERP applications on the road. Who knows? We may be distancing ourselves from the mobile tablets we got this year and embrace Microsoft's O/S.

We are part of the way there. Solugenix has both the UI and the middleware for the mobile workforce with **Jogg**. We improve the efficiency of tracking and recording time while in the field. Time assigned to different projects can be apportioned while away from the office. Timesheet approvals move through to approval seamlessly to supervisors. Productivity becomes more efficient as we record the time and activity as project tasks occur and not at the last moment when the memory of what should be accounted for has diminished.

The next steps for software development efforts are in bringing enterprise information in a simplified, effective and secure way. We already have a role-based capability and we need a task/situation-orientated push of relevant data to the people working in the field. Windows 8 has both a complex desktop-like simulation and a more simplified UI for those on the move.

You may see some Microsoft partners push their solutions ahead of the Microsoft release expected for the third quarter, and they may even find a willing purchaser in Redmond. That has been the trend in the Dynamics AX ecosystem as we moved toward robust focused vertical software solutions. Solugenix is investing now to provide Microsoft Dynamics AX mobile solutions to service professionals. We can't be sitting idly by as our competitors will be touting their mobile capability at every opportunity.

The trend for 2012 is for more enterprise mobilization and Tablet-Anywhere development concepts as we move native applications with the right workflow and the right content into the hands of the new unwired user. Professional Service Organizations such as architects and construction firms can now add mobile decision agility and business intelligence to their productivity in the field. 2012 may turn out to be another great productivity year for professionals in the field.

HERBERT MOLANO

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

2 Common Area

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 are published at the editor's sole prerogative.

You have soo much info in last week's Vanguard that you may have to send it out twice. The questions are clear and to the point! We may have to look at security for you very soon. BR

LATEST Civil Service Commission hearing dates for Edith Fuentes appeal:
WEDNESDAY, **JANUARY 18, 2012** - 3:00pm-8:00pm - Council Chambers (Motions Hearing)
THURSDAY, **FEBRUARY 9, 2012** - 3:00pm-9:00pm - Council Chambers
MONDAY, **FEBRUARY 13, 2012** - 3:00pm-9:00pm - MSB Room 105
WEDNESDAY, **FEBRUARY 15, 2012** - 3:00pm-9:00pm - Council Chambers

It looks like Mayor Laura Friedman is preparing to run for higher office just like Sarah Palin did. Friedman has gone to Armenia, Korea and was in France for the new law that makes it a crime to deny the Armenian Genocide. In those three visits she is ready to take on foreign policy from the White House just as Palin was when she stated that she was an expert on foreign policy because she could look out her window and see Russia.

Dan Evans

I missed Mayor Friedman at the last Council meeting of the year. I asked about and found she had gone to France. This was the third major trip she has taken since being elected to office. Armenia, France and Korea. Travel like that must be very expensive especially for someone that complains about having no money. Who paid for those trips, that is what I want to know, was it the taxpayers or special interests? Maybe she is like John Drayman and when she is out of office we'll read about her. JS

Wasn't it nice of my friends Jason and Dan to publish my comment about you, Barry? I want you to know that John D. denies there was ever an affair with Jason. They only met to dangle the carrot. Why do you think the article about JD was truncated in the News-Press? They owed. And paid off. They always well. Keep your eye out. ima_sudonem

How to get more Vanguardians on our air is a matter of hearing interesting story ideas or getting good story tips that our journalists follow up on.

I would be glad to hear from anybody in the Vanguardians organization in response to this link:
www.scpr.org/network/questions/boondoggle This one asks if they are seeing government projects that are money-wasters.

Or

They can use this one, which asks about all kinds of crime including white collar and government-related crimes.
www.scpr.org/network/questions/crime Hope this helps,

Sharon McNary, Public Insight Journalism at KPCC, Southern California Public Radio, 626-583-5126
smcnary@scpr.org | www.scpr.org, On Facebook: Sharon KPCC McNary, and Twitter: KPCCsharon

Every person can be a news source, and improve news coverage. Want to help? Join KPCC's Public Insight Network.

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

3 **Public Information**

December 30, 2011: I am writing to request inspection of the following records, which I understand to be in the possession of your agency:

For the period beginning Jan. 1, 2000 through and including Dec.30, 2011 provide the following:

1. Documents showing agreements between the Glendale Redevelopment Agency and the recipients of its services, as examples, services provided to the Embassy Suites, the Americana, Disney, that offers rebaters, refunds, targeted uses of funds generated by the entity such as Sales Tax, Property Tax, TOT or other funds or increments thereof.
2. Documents showing the amount and use of such funds.
3. Documents showing the amount of bonded debt balance and the balance of interest created by those obligation(s).

A spreadsheet showing the above information is acceptable.

December 16, 2011: Please provide all documents as defined in Definitions 2 below from, to and between the CoG and the consultant Willdan from January 1, 2008 to and including December 15, 2011. Please provide all invoices from and payments to Willdan for the same period.

The City exercises its right pursuant to the Government Code to extend the time to respond by an additional 14 days. The additional time is needed to search for, collect, and appropriately examine voluminous amount of separate and distinct records.

Lucy Varpetian Senior Assistant City Attorney, Office of the Glendale City Attorney

The City is still delinquent on fulfilling the following public record requests:

DECEMBER 2, 2011: The Glendale City Charter indicates the GWP has 5 funds: the Waterworks Revenue Fund, the Electric Works Revenue Fund, the Sinking Fund, the Surplus Fund and the Depreciation Fund. Provide documents demonstrating the income to and expenditures from each of those Funds from January 1, 2001 to and including December 2, 2011.

THIS IS WHAT WE RECEIVED FROM THE GLENDALE CITY ATTORNEY FOLLOWED BY OUR RESPONSE:

Information relating to your request below can be found online as follows:

http://www.glendalewaterandpower.com/reports/annual_reports.aspx

Lucy Varpetian

Senior Assistant City Attorney Office of the Glendale City Attorney

Thank you for the information that is unresponsive to our request for the specific fund information through and including Dec. 1, 2011 It has taken the City 20 days to provide no responsive documents pursuant to our requests which was in salient part... **DEC. 2, 2011:** The Glendale City Charter indicates the GWP has 5 funds: the Waterworks Revenue Fund, the Electric Works Revenue Fund, the Sinking Fund, the Surplus Fund and the Depreciation Fund. Provide documents demonstrating the income to and expenditures from each of those Funds from January 1, 2001 to and including December 2, 2011.

Your response is being forwarded to our legal counsel.

Excerpts from City Charter

Sec. 20. Waterworks revenue fund; electric works revenue fund.

All receipts by the department of Glendale Water and Power from the sale of water or otherwise derived from the waterworks of the city shall be credited to a fund hereby created to be known as the waterworks revenue fund. All receipts by the department of Glendale Water and Power from the sale of electric energy or otherwise derived from the electric works of the city shall be credited to a fund hereby created to be known as the electric works revenue fund. All disbursements (except those payable from the waterworks depreciation fund) provided in the Glendale Water and Power budget on account of said waterworks shall be charged to said waterworks revenue fund and all disbursements (except those payable from the electric works depreciation fund) provided in said budget on account of the electric works shall be charged to said electric works revenue fund. The credit balance, if any, or any part thereof, in each of said funds at the end of any fiscal year, the amount of which is in excess of the amount of all outstanding demands and liabilities unpaid from said fund on account of budget appropriations therefrom, shall be transferred to the Glendale Water and Power surplus fund.

Editor's Note: The catchline of this section originally read as follows: "Revenue funds."

Sec. 21. Glendale Water and Power sinking fund.*

For the payment of principal and interest of all Glendale city or municipal improvement district bonds heretofore issued for the acquisition, improvement or extension of waterworks or electric works operated by the city, the council shall transfer from time to time from the waterworks revenue fund or the electric works revenue fund, or both thereof, to the Glendale Water and Power sinking fund a sufficient amount each year to cover the total amount of payments falling due that year for principal and interest of said bonds. Nothing in this section shall impair the power of the council to levy such taxes as may be necessary to provide for the payment of interest and principal of such bonds, or the power of the council to pay from the waterworks revenue fund the principal and interest of any general obligation bonds of the city hereafter issued for waterworks purposes or to pay from the electric works revenue fund the principal and interest of any general obligation bonds of the city hereafter issued for electric works purposes.

* In connection with this section, see Charter, Art. XXVI, § 5.

Sec. 22. Glendale Water and Power surplus fund--Generally.*

A fund to be known as the Glendale Water and Power surplus fund is hereby created, to which fund shall be credited from the receipts of the department of Glendale Water and Power in the waterworks revenue fund and the electric works revenue fund, any amounts in excess of the requirements of the several funds as hereinbefore set forth. Except as otherwise provided in this section, disbursements from said Glendale Water and Power surplus fund may be made by the council by special appropriation for waterworks or electric works purposes only, which shall include payment of all or any portion of the tax of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, or its successors in interest, which the council may elect to pay out of the funds of the City of Glendale.

At the end of each fiscal year an amount equal to twenty-five (25) percentum of the operating revenues of the department of Glendale Water and Power for such year, excluding receipts from water or power supplied to other cities or utilities at wholesale rates, shall be transferred from said Glendale Water and Power surplus fund to the general reserve fund; provided, that the council may annually, at or before the time for adopting the general budget for the ensuing fiscal year, reduce said amount or wholly waive such transfer if, in its opinion, such reduction or waiver is necessary to insure the sound financial position of said department of Glendale Water and Power and it shall so declare by resolution. (1921; 1931; 1941; 1946; 1949.)

* In connection with this section, see [Charter, Art. XXVI, § 5](#).

It was held in the case of City of Glendale v. Crescenta Mutual Water Co., 135 Cal App. (2d) 784, 288 P. (2d) 105, that the council has discretion to pay all or a portion of the payments to the Metropolitan Water District from the public service surplus fund in lieu of the ad valorem tax of the district.

NOVEMBER 28, 2011: Please provide the following documents, generated by PeopleSoft in a CSV format in electronic form on a CD or DVD, regarding GWP, its managers and others involved in financial transactions on behalf of GWP from January 1, 2008 until and including November 28, 2011: PeopleSoft "Transaction Detail Reports" for all Funds, Departments, Projects, Programs, Grants, and Bonds under the control or influence of the general Manager of GWP, or his subordinates. CSV is a standard form that is generated by PeopleSoft

CAFR - http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/admin-svcs/CAFR/YearEnd6-11/CAFR_Complete.pdf

[View the 2010 Glendale employee compensation from \\$75,000 to the highest.](#)

Councilman Manoukian has a webpage where readers can get difficult to obtain data: 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

NO MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 3, 2012

4 Vanguardians

Barry Allen is available to speak at your group to answer questions and share secrets; To discuss public records, the Brown Act, the Political Reform Act and the role of the whistleblower.

- 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, and 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
- Not to forget Jake who is participating in all aspects of the Vanguardians electronic communications.
- www.justin.tv/vanguardians is our streaming site.

Our 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.

- [Nominate Vanguardians for a Cy Pres Award](#)
- Vanguard archives are also 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.

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

Our webmaster is creating a whole new web experience for you at www.vanguard-usa.org Let him know what you want to see on it by sending him your comments.

If you need a great webmaster **contact** Larry Tuch whose website is www.elitetechsolution.com. Contact him at ltuch_1977@verizon.net or call 813-464-5448 if you need website services or specific software needs or technical training. Payment arrangements are available.

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.

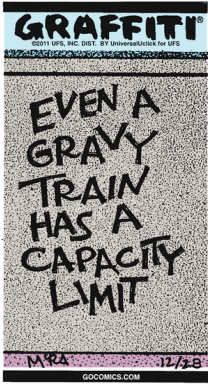


5 **the Insider** is written by city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are secret. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.



Looks like the new CM has made the rounds meeting with all of the Department heads, (sons of Jim), put in place by Starbird. Expect the new guy to fully support the status quo during his probationary period so he doesn't lose their support on Council. Therefore we can expect that all of the personnel issues out in all Departments will just continue to fester. The police chief will continue to mess with the officers that filed suit, planning will continue to find scapegoats, like Edith, whenever Hassan feels embarrassed over something in his department, IS will continue to pour money into past bad decisions, fire and police will continue to get rewarded in pay while the rest will be cut and throughout it all the Council can say it was all Starbird's fault and not address anything. Sounds like Congress!

"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

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. – Plato

Council will be scurrying to determine how they can find favor with Nathanson and Laemmle, Mona and others that are awaiting the largesse of taxpayers through redevelopment funds that have gone by the way of a Supreme Court Decision. Meanwhile they may have to find a way to repay the bonds. The RDA projects can be picked up again via the General Fund 'surplus.' 'That's a fine pickle you got us into, Jim. Ooops, I mean Mr. Policy Maker Najarian.

'Maybe the Mayor hooked up with the wrong Council man.'

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

7 WANTS & NEEDS

Vanguardians needs:

- 2 Microsoft compatible laptop or netbook computers with webcams.
- A digital video camera.
- Meeting space for committee meetings of 4-6 people.
- ~~\$400 to replace our 10 year old Toshiba 1560 copier.~~
- An iPod for presentations.
- \$500 for brochure printing.

We have available a Toshiba 1560 Copier with ADF & Sorter. Only 72,000 copies. Works. It will soon need a fuser.

You will receive a letter for your tax deductible contribution.

8 On a brighter note...

Committees: Vanguardians has several working committees and we are dedicated to working with the community to help them facilitate their needs. Now that we have better communications and can send to our 15,000 constituents – not including passalongs – we are able to get the word out quickly.

Utility: This committee is exploring the ways to control GWP spending; to roll-back the illegal water revenue transfers and to explore several other issues.

Aram Kazazian – Vanguardians GWP water committee member needs your help. Email him at aramk@earthlink.net He is pulling together a video presentation on the utility rate increases and the impact on Glendale ratepayers. One item he needs is your utility bills before and after the installation of the new Itron 'smart' meters. By helping you will be playing a significant role in the integrity and accountability of our city government. Aram attends the Thursday Community Forum (see above).

Legislative: This committee is involved in communicating to the State and Federal legislative bodies needed changes in legislation.

Land Use: Recently as more and more property owners are losing their rights to a very small, vocal NIMBY minority, we have found that there are some egregious applications of local building and safety codes, for instance the handing of the John Drayman saga that started in December 2009 and continues, unresolved, two years later. Join us on Thursday and lets review the case.

If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact us at the number on the masthead.

9. Parting Shot



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, and Barry Allen wiggio_thread-398cj@wiggio.com to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue. Copyrighted materials used with permission. ISSN 2158-7280 ©2012