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BASTA Hails CalPERS Pension Reduction Reforms: Asks for Reimbursement of Bell 8 Pension Payments to Help Relieve City of Bell of Financial Woes and Asks State Officials to Make Top City Pensions Public

Last fall, **BASTA** leadership called for California state officials to restructure the outrageous pension packages of the Bell 8 to conform with the best practices of other California municipalities. Today, officials at California's Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) did just that by slashing Bell 8 pensions among others. CalPERS officials adjusted pension compensations to reflect only the base pay salaries of elected officials and city administrators. The Bell 8 had abused the pension system by spiking their pensions by including various commission salaries and stipends. "As much as we think the Bell 8 should not get a dime of Bell taxpayer money we are pleased that CalPERS understood that the spiking practices of the Bell 8 were wrong and needed to be adjusted", said **BASTA** representative Luz Moya.

BASTA leadership is now calling for CalPERS officials to make all pensions of all California elected officials and administrators that are over \$100,000 annually available to be posted online, much like public official salaries are posted on State Controllers websites. "We are proud that **BASTA's** efforts for good government have made a difference for us here in Bell but our goals are to have it make a difference for all California taxpayers. That starts with full transparency," said **BASTA** representative Denisse Rodarte. Rodarte concluded, "We won't stop until the abuses stop and every Californian has a local government they trust."

BASTA is a coalition of residents of Southeast Los Angeles that are dedicated to assuring transparency, best practices and ethical conduct among local elected officials. All **BASTA** representatives are unpaid volunteers.

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