



For Immediate Release

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Bell Council member Velez Announces Support for BASTA reforms

Today, Bell City Council member Lorenzo Velez announced his full support for the governance reforms proposed by BASTA (Bell Association to STOP the Abuse).

“I am outraged that my fellow Bell City Council members view being an elected official as a way to enrich their own pocket books. To me public service should lead to the enrichment of the community. I support the goals of BASTA and will carry reform motions at tonight’s council meeting.”

A recent Los Angeles Times report exposed the exorbitant salaries of not only council members but also City Manager Robert Rizzo, Assistant City Manager, Angela Spaccia, and Chief of Police, Andy Adams. It was mis-reported that Council member Velez received the same six figure salary as other members. In truth, he receives less than \$700 as a monthly stipend for his service. The LA Times has clarified the error.

The list of BASTA reforms supported by Council member Velez include:

1. Immediate full disclosure of City of Bell administrative salaries and any retainer or project contracts provided to outside consultants. This action will be followed by a forensic audit from a neutral 3rd party.
2. The immediate suspension of salaries and committee stipends of:
Bell City Manager Robert Rizzo
Bell Assistant City Manager, Angela Spaccia
Bell Chief of Police, Andy Adams
Bell City Council members: George Maribal, Luis Artiga, Teresa Jacobo, and Oscar Hernandez.
3. The immediate establishment of a residents’ committee to review and reestablish salaries at reasonable rates.
4. The immediate suspension of any plans to establish a regional police department or contract City of Bell policing responsibilities to any outside entity until reforms are established. This suspension of activities would also apply to any other actions by the Rancho San Antonio Police Authority (JPA)
5. An immediate end to the policy of Police Chief Randy Adams of impounding the vehicles of Bell residents. Many Bell officers are uncomfortable with the policy as it can lead to racial profiling. The policy also takes valuable time from officers hence impeding their duty to protect Bell residents from other more serious crimes.

The Bell Association to Stop The Abuse or BASTA is a coalition of concerned Bell residents and the Bell Police Officers Association. Our mission is help restore good governance to the City of Bell by ending the abuse of Bell taxpayers’ funds by various elected and appointed officials.