



For Immediate Release

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BASTA Says Code Enforcement Video of Elderly Man Being Mistreated is Further Proof of Abusive Bell Administrative Culture

Today Channel ABC 7's Jovana Lara ran a story that exposes a Bell City Code enforcement officer apparently mistreating an elderly man who was gathering cans. The code enforcement officer then impounded and towed the man's vehicles.

BASTA leadership feels it is important to bring clarity to three points surrounding the incident:

It is offensive to all of us to see an elderly man being treated poorly by anyone especially a person in a position of authority.

The apparent attitude of arrogance and disrespect of the code enforcement toward the man are systemic to the City of Bell administrative culture. Our discussions with Bell City employees and residents confirms that this was not the exception but the rule. It is important to understand that this totalitarian behavior is symptomatic of the type of psychological terror that Robert Rizzo, and the people who followed him, perpetuated on Bell residents, city employees and police officers.

Another important point is that the Code Enforcement department is a completely separate entity than the police department. Code enforcement officers are not law enforcement officer but rather report directly to the city administrators.

BASTA welcomes further investigation into this matter and hopes that these types of situations will cease to occur as the City of Bell moves toward ethical and honest governance.

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