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Contact: Cristina Garcia (213) 215-2621

BASTA Leadership Questions Public Purpose of Rizzo's City Loan Policy Calls Cessation of Program Good News, Ask for Further Clarification

The latest revelation coming from Bell public records reveal that nearly $900,000 in city loans went out to various Bell administrators and elected officials including Council members Luis Artiga and Oscar Hernandez. Interim City Manager Pedro Carrillo told an Associated Press reporter that the program has been terminated.

"While we certainly welcome the cessation of the loan program, we think further clarification is certainly necessary," said BASTA representative Marcos Oliva. She continued, "This is just another example of Robert Rizzo's plot to enrich himself and his cronies with a city policy that has absolutely no public purpose."

Apparently there is no documentation showing that city council ever voted to approve the program or what the process was for approval. Additionally, the city did not release documents showing who still owes money on any of the loans and if any of those loans were in default.

"It is important for everyone to understand that we condemn Rizzo's policy based on public purpose. There may very well be people who took these loans and paid them back according to the terms of the loan. Where we see a need for further clarification is in who has not paid back these loans and why were city council members allowed to take part in the program," said BASTA representative Denise Rodarte. "We hope to have answers to these questions soon," she concluded.

BASTA is coalition of the Bell Police Officer's Association and Bell Residents dedicated to restoring clean and ethical to the City of Bell. Currently, BASTA is in the process of recalling Council members Artiga, Hernandez, Jacobo and Mirabal.

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