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**BASTA Leadership Asks,
“Will the Real George Cole Please Stand Up?”
Demands Answers from Former Councilman
Responsible for Ushering in Rizzo’s Regime**

Even though he represented the City of Bell as a council member for nearly twenty years, George Cole has been strangely silent in regard to the Bell corruption/salary scandal.

“BASTA leadership finds Cole’s silence even more disturbing because it was Mr. Cole who helped usher in many of the governance changes that have led to our current crisis,” said Violeta Alvarez of BASTA.

BASTA leadership is asking Mr. Cole to immediately provide the residents of Bell with answers to following questions:

Did you vote on contracts to provide funds to the Oldtimer’s Foundation at the same time you served as its Executive Director and a Bell Council member?

How many contracts did the Oldtimer’s Foundation have with the City of Bell and what were the dollar amounts of those contracts?

Do you or any members of your family have an interest in any companies that have received contracts with the City of Bell or the Oldtimer’s Foundation?

Who are the Board member of the Oldtimer’s Foundation?

Will you publicly release all Oldtimer’s Foundation financial records including a list of all their subcontractors?

Why did you support a City Charter that gave so much power to Robert Rizzo?

What was the criterion for hiring Robert Rizzo as city manager?

How many candidates other than Rizzo did council members interview?

Did you know about Rizzo’s prior personnel issues in the cities of Hesperia and Rancho Cucamonga prior to hiring him?

BASTA representative Diane Rodarte concluded, “For many years many people trusted George Cole as leader of our community. Now it appears he may have violated that trust. As residents of a city he claims to have loved, we believe it is his moral responsibility to provide us with immediate answers.”

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