

The Bell Police Officers Association
“Committed to public safety”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Bell Police Officers Association Denounces Former Police Officers’ Alleged Involvement in Voter Fraud and Rizzo, Adams’ Abusive Policies That Led to Unnecessary Overtime

Today the Los Angeles Times reported that L.A. County prosecutors were expanding their criminal investigation into the City of Bell to include allegations that as many as three Bell police officers assisted in alleged voter fraud in last March’s 2009 City Council election.

“We absolutely and thoroughly denounce these rogue police officers if in fact it is proven they participated in voter fraud,” said Gilbert Jara. He continues, “None of the people in question were active members of the Bell POA and all three were considered part of the Adam/Rizzo team.”

Of the officers in question, one was on administrative leave working directly with Robert Rizzo on the city council election, one had no apparent assignment at the police department and seemingly worked only at city hall for Rizzo and the third was a lieutenant who was not a member of the Bell POA.

Additionally, earlier today Bell City Administrators held a press conference announcing a so-called move toward transparency in the City of Bell by posting a document itemizing the salaries of city employees as ordered by State Controller John Chiang. .

The document found online at <http://www.bellcityclerk.org/> deceptively over-inflates the salaries of Bell Police Officers.

The document is deceptive as it fails to distinguish base salaries of police officers from overtime compensation. Also, the document doesn’t do anything to explain the reason why many Bell Police Officers are unnecessarily working overtime shifts.

“There are two main reasons Bell Police officers are being forced to work more overtime than usual and they’re both directly related to the policies of Randy Adams and Robert Rizzo,” said POA President Jara.

(Continued)

He goes on to explain, "In the time that Robert Rizzo was city manager four patrol officers have left the department and have not been replaced. Someone has to make up those hours and not hiring new officers has forced a lot of overtime."

Additionally, Jara explains, "that in order to punish officers who disapproved of his management decisions and inflated salary, Adams took away shift rotations from officers."

In a well-managed police department officers are allowed to rotate day, swing and graveyard shifts. Shift rotation allows officers to better plan family activities such as attending school events.

Jara concludes, "There is a reason we are part of the BASTA coalition that is seeking the recall of the four councilmember. That's because their complicity with Robert Rizzo has caused nothing but chaos and pain for Bell residents. As police officers, it is our duty to protect the peace and until city hall is thoroughly cleaned up there will only be chaos in Bell."

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