

BASTA
BELL ASSOCIATION TO STOP THE ABUSE



BELL ASOCIACIÓN PARA FRENAR EL ABUSO

For Immediate Release

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***BASTA Leadership Welcomes
City Hall Restructuring of Most of Rizzo Regime;
Demands Are Met Two-Months After BASTA Asks For The Plug To Pulled On
Over-Paid Administrators***

BASTA leadership welcomes the restructuring of most of the overpaid administrators of the Robert Rizzo regime. On August 6th, leadership demanded the removal or restructuring of the salaries overpaid administrators.

On August 7, Interim City Manager Pedro Carrillo commented in the Los Angeles Times regarding overpaid administrators:

“We will take some very firm and bold moves,” Carrillo added. “It could mean termination or reduction.”

Two months later, **BASTA** leadership’s demands have been met:

- Eric Eggena, Director of General Services \$421,402 (resigned)
- Loudres Garcia, Director of Administrative Services \$ 422,707 (salary cut 61%)
- Annette Peretz, Director of Community Services \$273,542 (retired)
- Luis Ramirez, Deputy Engineer \$247,573 (retired)
- Ricardo Gonzalez, Business Development Coordinator \$195,628 (resigned)

“It wasn’t as quick as we would have liked or as bold as we wanted, but we are happy to see steps being made by the current administration to dismantle the remnants of the abusive Rizzo regime,” said **BASTA** representative Ali Saleh.

BASTA leadership continues to demand the severing of ties with other members from the Rizzo Regime, including the firm D&J Engineering owned by Dennis Tarango. Tarango is the private contractor who served as Bell’s contracted Planning Director. He has billed the City of Bell \$10.5 million since 1995 (an average of \$800,000 plus a year). **BASTA** leadership is also demanding a thorough accounting of Tarango’s contracts and services during the last five years. It is not clear what is his current role.

Additionally, **BASTA** leadership is demanding a full accounting of Bell Police Lieutenant Ty Henshaw’s activities and his role in the Rizzo administration. **BASTA** leadership is particularly interested if Henshaw broke with traditional police chain of command and reported to and acted upon orders directly from disgraced city manager Robert Rizzo. And if and why Henshaw’s deferred compensation was paid completely by the City of Bell.

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“We need to keep working toward further disclosure and transparency, so we will remain diligent. However knowing that the worst salary abusers are now gone is a darn good feeling,” concluded **BASTA** representative Denisse Rodarte.”

All **BASTA** representatives are unpaid volunteers. **BASTA** remains committed to financial transparency and believes it is crucial to leave the ugly, divisive politics of the Rizzo regime behind. That only worked to divide us, not make us a strong, vibrant city capable of local control. We invite anyone who has a difference of opinion with us to sit down with us and discuss it. We remain committed to doing all in our power to **Take Back Bell**.

BASTA welcomes our community and others interested in reviewing our demands for transparency to visit our website at **basta4bell.com**

BASTA is a coalition of Bell residents, the Bell Police Officer’s Association and AFSCME Council 36 who are all committed to restoring ethical and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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