



For Immediate Release
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BASTA Leadership Demands Interim CAO Pedro Carrillo be Terminated, His Replacement Include the Community's Input

Over the last several months the office of the State Controller's John Chiang has been conducting an extensive audit of Bell's finances during the Robert Rizzo Regime. Yesterday his audit brought into question \$710,459 of state and federal expenditures made between July 2008 and August 2010. The report states that these payments "were made without a valid contract or were outside the scope of the contract. In addition none of the goods or services was procured through competitive bids."

These companies included Great Western Park and Playground (\$199,528), MBH Architects & SMS Architects (\$180,368), Medina Construction (\$56,854), D&J Engineering (\$99,882), Graffiti Protective Coating, Inc (\$99,542), Relia-Tech (\$74,285). Additionally the controller's report found that these type of issues also existed with \$220,000 in payments to the current Interim CAO's firm Urban & Associates, Inc. The audit points to the fact that neither the city staff, nor the interim CAO have provided any records that these contracts were generated in an ethical manner.

BASTA leadership is very disturbed by these findings as they raise serious questions about conflict of interest, favoritism, and ties to the Rizzo Regime by current interim CAO Pedro Carrillo. Moreover, the community and **BASTA** have clearly been asking for full disclosure from Mr. Carrillo as to the scope of his involvement with Robert Rizzo. His failure to self-disclose shows his disregards for the community needs.

BASTA acknowledges that Mr. Carrillo has worked hard to meet almost all of our demands to rid the city of individuals and practices connected to the Rizzo regime, the latest revelation raise serious concerns and further fuels mistrust of Mr. Carrillo. Without trust, good governance cannot be achieved. Moreover, we feel that the only way to build trust between the residents of Bell and city officials is through change, thus **BASTA** demands the termination of Mr. Carrillo as interim CAO and anyone else connected to the Rizzo regime.

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BASTA also demands that the current council work to appoint a qualified city manager in an open and transparent process that includes the community's input. **BASTA** demands that the new city manager have no connection to past or current councilmembers or administrators, and should have extensive experience as a city manager as opposed to a political appointee. Moreover a committee of community members should immediately be created to help select the new interim city manager. The candidate selected needs to establish open and transparent communication.

BASTA will not stand for anything less than Bell city officials following due process and using a code of best practices to make appointments and grant contracts.

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 committed to restoring ethical and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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