



For Immediate Release
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BASTA Leadership Denounces *Johnny-Come-Lately* Politicians Former Assembly Member De La Torre and Current Supervisor Gloria Molina's Efforts to Usurp A Community-Based Candidate Endorsement Process

BASTA calls their candidate endorsement process prearranged, a conflict of interest and no different than Rizzo regime machine politics

Even after repeatedly ignoring community pleas to investigate City of Bell property taxation policies, former Assemblymember Hector De La Torre and current County Supervisor Gloria Molina *now* find it necessary to intervene in City of Bell affairs by arbitrarily endorsing city council candidates for the March 8th Election.

“When we really needed Molina and De La Torre they ignored us. Molina gave us the bureaucratic *that's the way it is* answer and De La Torre was apparently too busy raising money for his failed insurance commissioner race to pay attention to us little people,” said **BASTA** representative Ali Saleh. He continued, “I met with him in 2009 and asked him for an endorsement and he told me he didn't endorse local politicians and when the salary abuse scandal first broke one of his staff members told me this was a local problem and he could do nothing about it.”

Both Molina and De La Torre have announced they will be interviewing candidates today Tuesday December 7. The process not only comes more than two weeks before the candidate nomination period ends but most of the twenty-something candidates who have pulled papers with intent of filing for city council were not informed about it until late last night.

“In the first place, we believe it's a conflict of interest for Molina to be endorsing candidates as the county will be running these elections. She should show some respect for basic ethics and withdraw her involvement. As for De La Torre, I guess anyone has a right to endorse but his behind closed door process is no different than the way Robert Rizzo did things,” said **BASTA** representative Marcos Oliva.

BASTA is asking for Supervisor Molina to concentrate her effort for the March 8th Election on ensuring high voter participation and preventing voter fraud. They are calling on former Assemblymember De La Torre to reestablish his endorsement process and make it open to all announced candidates for city council and ensure his committee is truly representative of the community.

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 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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