



For Immediate Release
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Monday, August 30, 2010

BASTA Leadership Hails Passage of AB 900 (Property Tax Reimbursement) Says Recall Election and Candidates Election Should Be Held Simultaneously

Earlier today, AB 900 passed unanimously through the State Assembly. This weekend, BASTA organizers gathered more than 300 letters in support of AB 900. The bill written by Assembly members Kevin De Leon and Hector De La Torre ensures that Bell homeowners will receive direct reimbursement of property tax overcharges. Under current California law overcharged property taxes are returned to an educational fund. "BASTA leadership made getting direct reimbursement of the "Rizzo property tax rip-off" a huge priority. We are glad and grateful that our elected officials are responding to the needs of the community," said BASTA representative Marylou Gonzalez. "We are hopeful the Governor will sign this legislation very soon," concluded Gonzalez.

Additionally, BASTA attorney David Alshire replied to a Los Angeles Times report that asserted the recall election of Council member's Artiga, Mirabal, Jacobo and Hernandez would be held at a different time than the actual recall election hence creating a gap where the City of Bell would have no city council members. Said Alshire:

"Section 1202 of the Bell Charter says that Bell elections will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the state Elections Code. The state Elections Code provides that at the same time the recall election is conducted, a nominating election will also be conducted so that the successors can be immediately elected if the recall of the incumbents is successful.

Based on this, BASTA believes that the nomination election and recall election can be conducted at the same time. The new City Attorney and City Manager of Bell, and indeed the Council members themselves have said that they intend to cooperate with the citizens seeking reform of Bell politics. BASTA expects these officials to fulfill their public statements in connection with the current recall effort."

"A lot of people are talking about moving forward with the process of cleaning up Bell governance. Now it's time for them to put their actions where their mouth is. Making the recall and candidate elections simultaneously will be a great start," concluded BASTA representative Dale Walker.

BASTA is a coalition of the Bell Police Officer's Association and Bell residents who are committed to restoring ethical and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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