

# **BASTA**

BELL ASSOCIATION TO STOP THE ABUSE



BELL ASOCIACIÓN PARA FRENAR EL ABUSO

**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, September 02, 2010**

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## **Public Opinion Survey Shows Nearly Unanimous Discontent, Support for Councilmembers' Resignation Amongst Bell Voters, BASTA Reform Efforts Have Lead to Widespread Recognition of Our Organization, AFSCME is the Latest Organization to Join BASTA's Expanding Coalition**

Public Opinion survey was conducted by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates and commissioned by the Bell Association to Stop The Abuse (BASTA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and Bell Police Officers Organization reveals almost unanimous anger among Bell voters surrounding the Bell salary scandal. The anger is so widespread that nearly 93% of voters are calling for an immediate resignation of the four council members Hernandez, Mirabal, Jacobo, and Artiga.

In fact, in a rare occurrence in current public research, issues of corruption outweigh economic issues. The survey shows that 58 percent Bell voters think the salary issue is an extremely serious problem compared with 43 percent who think unemployment and the lack of good paying jobs is an extremely serious problem. "From our grassroots efforts we have seen an intense level of anger and will to change governance, the survey simply verifies from a scientific standpoint what we have seen from our community" said BASTA representative Susana Lopez.

BASTA welcomes AFSCME to our growing coalition. "As someone born and raised in Bell I have a stake in the community," said Executive Director of AFSCME Council 36 Cheryl Parisi. She continues to state that "AFSCME believes that part of the change in governance needed is to empower workers with decent wages and benefits. One of the things that have not been discussed enough but needs to be discussed is how exploited Bell workers were. While administrators were being rewarded with over inflated salaries, Bell employees were working for \$8 to \$11 an hours and had no benefits. That is just wrong!"

The survey also showed that The Bell Association to Stop the Abuse is by far seen as the most plausible organization to lead the reform. Nearly 70 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of BASTA. The survey also found that Bell voters rate the "Rank and File City of Bell police officers" and the Bell Residence Club favorably. Poll memo included.

The Bell Association to Stop The Abuse or BASTA, a coalition of concerned Bell residents, the Bell Police Officers Association, AFSCME and is dedicated to restoring clean and ethical governance for the residents of the City of Bell.

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