



For Immediate Release
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BASTA Leadership Hails Local Clean Up Efforts and Plans to Sue Parties Responsible for Abuse, Recall Signature Gathering to Begin and City Attorney Recommends Concurrent Elections for Recall/ New Council Members

As the complex web of Robert Rizzo's tangled web of abuse of Bell taxpayers continues to unfold BASTA leadership praised several actions taken at a special session of city council on Friday.

Yesterday, the council voted to cease further plans for Bell to join a so-called Rancho San Antonio Police Authority (JPA), to sever the contract to provide administrative services for the City of Maywood, and that the City of Bell plans to sue former city administrators, consultants and attorneys for actions that led Bell's crisis including former Police Chief Randy Adams and Assistant City Manager Angela Spaccia.

"Reports and Respond has been an important tenet of our reform efforts. BASTA has been very disciplined about maintaining that focus. It is very, very encouraging to see the fruits of those efforts as the abuses of the Rizzo regime begin to be dismantled and legal action will be taken against by the City of Bell," said BASTA representative Denisse Rodarte.

BASTA leadership also announced that signature gathering for the recall will begin this weekend and that interim City Attorney Jaime Casso has circulated a letter to city council members saying it is his opinion that the recall and new council elections should be held concurrently.

"We are pleased that Mr. Casso has asked council members to vote to make both elections at the same time. After the nightmare of Edward Lee it's encouraging to have city attorney that's responding to our demands and seems to care about what's in the public's interest. But let me clear--- this just the beginning of the reform process. We have a long way to go," said BASTA spokesperson Dale Walker.

Finally, BASTA leadership announced the addition of the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees to their coalition. Said Cheryl Parisi the Executive Director of AFSCME Council 36, "I was raised in the City of Bell and have a stake in the community. More importantly, as AFSCME we want to make sure that the abuse of rank-and-file Bell city workers ends."

BASTA (The Bell Association to STOP the Abuse), a coalition of the Bell residents, the Bell Police Officers Association and the AFSCME Council 36, is committed to restoring ethical and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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