



For Immediate Release
Contact: Cristina Garcia (213) 215-2621

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BASTA Leadership's Reaction to Statement by Councilman Luis Artiga

As residents of the City of Bell whom have come together to save our community from an unethical and abusive city government by forming BASTA we welcome the powerful statement of contrition by Councilman Artiga. He is a relatively new councilmember having been appointed in 2008 and reelected last year and many of the abuses, which have been uncovered, started long before his tenure.

We appreciate that his intentions may have been pure, but it is far more important that he acknowledges his poor judgment and that he did not rule with wisdom, and that he accepts the consequences of such mistakes: that he should not continue to make decisions affecting the lives of the residents of Bell.

The Council members who are the subject of the recall must, like Councilmember Artiga, understand that they can only serve the citizens of Bell by stepping aside and expediting the recall and a replacement election process to give us new leaders dedicated to reforming Bell. Until there is a majority on the Council dedicated to this, we accept that Councilmember Artiga should remain and work with Councilmember Velez. The goals should be:

1. Open government facilitating the investigations of all authorities;
2. Expedite the recall and a replacement election with Council members supporting the recall;
3. The current Council should not initiate any programs or actions and should avoid making any decisions unless critical for the operation of the City.

We appreciate Councilmember Artiga's efforts at reconciliation. But we will judge him based on his future actions not his recent words nor by his past misjudgments. If the other three Council members can join Council members Velez and Artiga in implementing our requests, the reform and healing of Bell can begin. They cannot regain your power, but their redemption lies in ensuring that city governance is returned to the residents of the City of Bell in a prompt and orderly fashion.