



BELL ASOCIACIÓN PARA FRENAR EL ABUSO

For Immediate Release

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## **BASTA Leadership Welcomes AG's Indictments, Calls for Further Investigations, Demands Bell Tax Payers Do Not Foot the Bill for Legal Fees**

Today, Attorney General Jerry Brown handed down eight civil indictments against former and current Bell city leaders and administrators. The indictment listed a number of offenses including misuse of public funds and frauds. Additionally, Attorney Brown called for the immediate resignation of council members, restitution from offenders and that the indicted council members be barred from ever serving in public office.

The listed parties were former City Manager Robert Rizzo, former Assistant City Manager Angela Spaccia, Former Police Chief Randy Adams, Councilmembers Teresa Jacobo, George Mirabal, and Oscar Hernandez, and former councilmembers George Cole and Victor Bello. Not included were current councilmembers Luis Artiga and Lorenzo Velez. Both Velez and Artiga have pledged and are supporting BASTA's recall and reform efforts.

"We thank the aggressive efforts of the Attorney General in bringing these indictments against the people who are abusing the tax payers of Bell. I cannot understate the sense of anger and betrayal that myself, members of BASTA, and residents of Bell feel about the abuses that were taking place. We are happy however that the legal process is moving forward and the guilty parties are being brought to justice," says BASTA representative Alicia Romero.

BASTA leadership has long asserted that the abuses in Bell went far beyond excessive salaries and current council members or city administrators. In fact, on two occasions we have called for full accounting from former councilmember George Cole. These indictments further validate our aggressive efforts in asking for full disclosure from Mr. Cole and his Old Timers Foundation. Former councilmember Victor Bello was also indicted and BASTA leadership is calling for a full investigation of the Bell Food Bank.

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"It's evident from his appointment and abrupt resignation from city council and then the Bell Food Bank that further investigation into his practices are necessary," said BASTA representative Mario Estrada.

BASTA has launched a recall effort against Council members Jacobo, Hernandez, Mirabal, and Artiga. This week councilmember Luis Artiga joined our better governance efforts and will support the recall against himself and the 3 other councilmember. We expect that our signature effort will be done in less than 10 days. That would make a recall election likely by next January.

Jerry Brown's civil indictment justifies BASTA's call to Resign, Recall, Respond, and Repay. We hope the DA will parallel Brown's actions with criminal indictments against these individuals who have abused of the tax payers, bankrupted families, the city, and the democratic process," said BASTA representative Cristina Garcia.

BASTA is a coalition of Bell residents, the Bell Police Officer's Association and AFSCME District 36 dedicated to restoring ethics and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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