



For Immediate Release  
Cristina Garcia 213-215-2621

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## Citizens of Bell Must Unite in Taking Back Our City

### **BASTA/Take Back Bell** Calls on Congress to Enact Federal Relief Fund for Unfair Debt Obligation

News that the SEC is launching a wide-ranging investigation into sales and issuance of bonds totaling \$70 million is the latest black eye for the City of Bell. The federal agency will be looking into alleged fraud related to the bond issue, including \$50 million raised by Rizzo for a municipal sports complex that remains a dirt lot with a concrete fence around it.

In light of all the ugly politics this city has endured at the hand of the corrupt Rizzo administration, **BASTA** is now calling for unity among all the resident of Bell in moving forward. We must all rally behind **Taking Back Bell**. Here are **BASTA/Take Back Bell's** priorities:

**Federal Relief Fund:** **BASTA** is calling on Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard to craft emergency federal legislation to create Federal Relief Fund for Bell. The Relief Fund will forgive and modify Bell's considerable bond obligation and provide much-needed tax relief to property owners, who have seen no change in their tax liability. "Bell owners just received their taxes in the mail and it was so disheartening to see no real change in our taxes. Families are losing their homes because of these fraudulent bonds. We need help," said lifelong Bell resident Ali Saleh, **BASTA** representative.

**Additional \$35million bond due Nov.1:** **BASTA** urges the SEC to look into an additional \$35 million bond that will be due on Nov. 1,2010. "Not only did Robert Rizzo and his goons rip off Bell taxpayers, they strapped us with generations of debt. We'll never rebuild Bell unless we get some fiscal relief," said Bell resident Marcos Olivas, a **BASTA** representative.

**Monitor vs. Receiver:** **BASTA** believes that a monitor is a better solution for Bell, but we understand the decision of who will run our city until a new election is scheduled is beyond our control. Whatever the Attorney General decides, **BASTA/Take Back Bell** will work within that framework.

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**Take Back Bell Encourages voter turnout Nov. 2:** **BASTA/Take Back Bell** wants to remind residents that every election is important, and encouraging healthy civic engagement will be key to taking back our city. Voting is a habit we must develop and every election matters.

Now that we have achieved our goal of forcing a recall, our work to improve our city is just beginning. We are dedicated to uniting business, community organizations and resident to get active and involved in the process.

All **BASTA** representatives are unpaid volunteers. **BASTA** remains committed to financial transparency and believes is it crucial to leave the ugly, divisive politics of the Rizzo regime behind. That only worked to divide us, not make us a strong, vibrant city capable of local control. We invite anyone who has a difference of opinion with us to sit down with us and discuss it. We remain committed to doing all in our power to **Take Back Bell**.

**BASTA** welcomes our community and others interested in reviewing our demands for transparency to visit our website at **[basta4bell.com](http://basta4bell.com)**

**BASTA** is a coalition of Bell residents, the Bell Police Officer's Association and AFSCME Council 36 who are committed to restoring ethical and honest governance to the City of Bell.

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