I, Victor Bello, hereby declare:

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- 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to
- testify I could and would do so competently as follows:
- 2. I have served on the Bell City Council for three years and I spend a considerable amount of time working on the schools in my community. I have one son at Corona Elementary who is eight years old. I have two older girls who went through Corona Elementary School and Bell High School. In my experience, the school conditions make a big difference in education.

## Nimitz Middle School

3. Nimitz middle school is very overcrowded. I was there recently and the students can barely pass through the hall. I have seen teachers roaming with whole classes of students because they don't have a permanent classroom. These teachers have to carry all of their books and supplies with them.

## **Bell High School**

- 4. I'm concerned about the quality of education at Bell High School. Many students read at an elementary level. Too many students drop out of the school.
- 5. Each of the three tracks begins with about 1500 kids and by the time they graduate it is down to about 800.
- 6. Bell is a multi-track school and it is extremely overcrowded. There are more than 3000 kids in the school at lunch time and there is not nearly enough room for students to eat. The students try to eat while sitting on the floor and on the stairs. When my daughter went to Bell she would often come home with bruises on her arms just from walking through the hallways. The conditions are so crowded that students often bump into each other and they must literally shove each other just to get through the sea of students to their next class.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 2 day of October, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.

Victor Bello