



L.A.'s Premiere Arts Publication

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

The Honorable Bill Rosendahl
The Honorable Greig Smith
The Honorable Richard Alarcon
Members, Public Works Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall, Room 425
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 11/27/07
Submitted in PW Committee
Council File No: 07-1386
Item No.: 11
Deputy: ADAM L. W.

Dear Councilmembers:

As the community media coordinator for the Arts District, a downtown community that hosts more than 800 filming days a year, I have worked on behalf of our community non-profits over the past several years to help avoid conflicts with location productions and community activities, mitigate filming practices that could disturb the public tranquility or deprive residents and local businesses of public resources (such as parking) and address the occasional abuses of productions that exceed the terms of their permits or our special use conditions. Our goal has been to preserve our community as a renewable resource for filming by creating and enforcing sensible rules negotiated with the film industry under the guidance of FilmLA and our council offices, principally Council District 9.

I am concerned that the current RFP does not acknowledge the authority of the City of Los Angeles in the film permitting process and would seem to open the door to a system in which permitting, oversight and the manner in which complaints are addressed are separated. We now have a system in which adequate notification of filming activities are provided with sufficient notice to avoid conflicts and mitigate potential annoyances. Of greatest significance, we now have a system that is immediately responsive, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, to address complaints of possible abuses when they are happening. In brief, after years of negotiation, we have a system that works for us and that helps to preserve our community as a renewable resource for filming. We hope that this system is not now jeopardized just as it is succeeding so well.

We hope you will consider reconfiguring the current RFP in such a way as to acknowledge the role of the city and our elected council members as the ultimate authority in the permitting process and preserve the integrity of a centralized system to regulate filming and enforce the terms of permits and the special use conditions of individual neighborhoods.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jonathan Jerald, Managing Editor
Citizen LA