

From: [Lauren Cole](#)
To: ["outreach@filmla.com"](#); ["info@filmla.com"](#); ["Michael Amster"](#)
Cc: ["CJ Leavens"](#); ["traci.park@lacity.org"](#); ["Alisa M. Morgenthaler"](#); ["Marylin Krell"](#); ["Carolyn Jordan"](#)
Subject: South Brentwood Residents Association - Problems with FilmLA & "The Italians LLC " (831 Gretna Green Way, LA 90049, Permit #LA00102408-4) on August 13/14, 2023
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:02:00 PM
Attachments: [FilmLA Permit for The Italians LLC #LA0010240804.pdf](#)

Hi all,

I'm writing on behalf of the South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA). SBRA represents approximately 18,000 residents between San Vicente and Wilshire and Centinela and Federal in Brentwood.

We have a lot of filming in and around South Brentwood and do not often have problems with production crews or FilmLA but unfortunately we had many problems with filming of the independent film *"The Italians"* on Sunday August 13 and Monday, August 14, 2023. It appears that these issues were caused by both FilmLA and the Italians LLC so we wanted to bring those to the attention of FilmLA and Council District 11 (CD11) so that we can get on a call and set some policies to try to prevent issues such as these from occurring in the future.

The Italians LLC was issued Permit #LA00102408-4 to film in an apartment building at 831 Gretna Green Way, LA 90049 for Sunday and Monday, August 13 and 14. (see attached) The permit issued by FilmLA designated the production company to park at the Brentwood Science Magnet School at 740 S Gretna Green Way (LA ID: LA00108293-1) However, this permit should never have been issued for a Sunday because for 20+ years the Brentwood Farmers Market takes place in the 700 S block of Gretna Green Way in front of this school from 9 am to 2 pm (~7 am to 3 pm including set-up and tear down.) To make matters worse, the first day of LAUSD was Monday, August 14 so the area designated under FilmLA's permit was not available then either.

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We have many film and TV crews in the area and Star Waggon and other large vehicles are constantly parked on the south side of San Vicente along the Brentwood Country Club, a 0.6 mile stretch with no parking restrictions (other than no overnight parking of large vehicles) and no homes or businesses are immediately adjacent to this block. San Vicente along the golf course is exactly where production vehicles for filming in and around South Brentwood should park, and many long running series like *Modern Family* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm* have always parked there when in production, even though their shooting locations are several blocks away.

As such, the south side of San Vicente along the Brentwood Country Club is where The Italians LLC should have been directed to park on Monday, and on Sunday after 3 pm if they chose to start setting up for filming then. No neighborhood or San Vicente parking is available during the Farmers Market 7 am – 3 pm because customer cars and vendors are parked then.

It appears that The Italians LLC arrived and could not park in the location erroneously assigned to them by FilmLA so they parked in the middle of a residential neighborhood on Gretna Green and Gorham Avenue. The producers were unprofessional and as you will see below continually lied to residents about their permits. In other words, they are exactly the sort of film crew that gives filming

on location in Los Angeles a bad name. Any penalties that can be applied to this company would be warranted and could serve as a deterrent for future bad behavior by crews.

The Star Waggon parked on Gretna Green on Sunday and on Gorham on Monday had noisy generators that disturbed the area on what would otherwise be a quiet weekend --- many residents with homes next to where these vehicles parked had infants, toddlers, and small children. The crew set up their catering tables on the parkway strip in front of a residents' home and refused to move when asked by that resident and others trying to walk by.

While parking was certainly a problem during the Farmers Market, the production company also refused to move their vehicles out of the residential neighborhood over to San Vicente after the Farmers Market ended and even on Monday parked in the neighborhood instead of on San Vicente. We contacted FilmLA (CJ Leavens) several times as this was going on, and as far as we can tell, FilmLA never directed the production crew to move to San Vicente, only to "park where the permit says" which wasn't possible. Nor did The Italians LLC move on their own, stating that they were not allowed to move to an "unpermitted location" even though they were already parked in another unpermitted location. Instead, the company's multiple large production vehicles --- including at least two jumbo sized Star Waggon, a moving-sized truck, a U-Haul, tractor/truck units large enough to move the Star Waggon, and other vehicles of the crew all parked along Gretna Green and Gorham, including on the street in front of 831 Gretna Green that is always a "No parking" Zone and on both sides of the street in defiance of their permit.

This entire situation might have been avoided if FilmLA had fulfilled its obligations to provide notices to the immediate area at least two business days prior to filming. However, no notices were ever provided and no "no parking" signs were ever posted.

- I've personally spoken with residents at 820 Gretna Green, 853 Gretna Green, 859 Gretna Green, 863 Gretna Green (my house), 869 Gretna Green, 873 Gretna Green, 11218 Montana Avenue, and 12224 Gorham Avenue and none were notified of filming before the crew showed up and parked. At least two residents received "FilmLA surveys" in their mailbox Saturday night (it is unclear who put these into the mailboxes and why), but these were not notices of filming. Had the neighborhood been properly noticed two business days prior as required --- no later than Thursday, August 10 -- then someone could have pointed out to FilmLA that the designated parking was not available due to the Farmers Market and the start of the school year.

PROBLEMS AND REQUESTS TO FILMLA

Given these problems, SBRA's board is requesting that Council District 11 work with FilmLA and our group to implement the following rules for filming in South Brentwood (from Centinela to San Vicente and San Vicente to Wilshire):

- **No production is allowed within half a mile of the 700 S Block of Gretna Green Way (the location of the Farmers Market) on Sundays from 7 am to 3 pm.**
- **All productions shall be required to park all vehicles on the south side of San Vicente along**

the Brentwood Country Club only.

- If LAUSD is not in session and grants permission to park on the 700 S block of Gretna Green, that is also acceptable as there are no residences on this block.
- FilmLA must provide the required notices of at least two business days' advance notice to residences within 500 feet and to CD11 and to the South Brentwood Residents Association and the Brentwood Community Council.
- The zip code 90049 (which covers all of Brentwood) should promptly be added to the list of communities where residences, businesses, and other groups can sign up for e-notifications. <https://filmla.com/communities/notification/>
 - I have spoken with neighborhood groups in other parts Brentwood and they all report having problems with FilmLA. They say that FilmLA sends CD11 notices of production for any filming in Brentwood and then CD11 sends them out to the corresponding neighborhood groups. It is clear from the website that many areas of Los Angeles including neighborhoods like Cheviot Hills which is similar to ours can sign up for e-notifications of filming. Implementing e-notifications for Brentwood would eliminate unnecessary work by CD11.
- FilmLA should have clear policies as to what happens in situations when producers are parking in areas that are not allowed under the production companies' permits and how quickly the companies must move their vehicles to abide by these conditions.
 - SBRA would like to discuss in this case what should have happened, as we were consistently told by FilmLA that The Italians LLC had been told to move their vehicles to the area designated in their permit (Brentwood Science Magnet) and Italians LLC claimed that they had not been given another location where they were allowed to move their vehicles. Clearly one group or the other was not accurately stating the situation.
- Appropriate financial penalties must be in place between the City of LA and FilmLA so that FilmLA or producers committing violations to these and any policies implemented by other areas should be appropriately penalized.
 - If these measures already exist SBRA would like to understand what those are and to ensure that they will be implemented in this case.

BAD BEHAVIOR BY THE ITALIANS LLC

Following are examples of poor behavior by The Italians LLC which are simply unacceptable.

- Production company told me (863 S Gretna Green Way) and my neighbor (853 S Gretna Green Way) multiple times that they either didn't have copies of their permit handy or that they were too busy filming to give us copies, even though their permit clearly states (and I knew) that they are required to provide a copy upon request. I finally told them I wasn't leaving the steps of their Star Waggon until I was given one so I got one.

Production company lied and as they handed me their permit told me that it said they were allowed park on the 800 block of Gretna Green Way and on Gorham. I told them I could read it, and it said clearly that they had permission to park in front of the school but did not give them permission to park on other streets including Gretna Green and Gorham.

- Production company lied and told me the neighbor at 853 S Gretna Green Way gave them permission to park their vehicles on Gorham next to his property. In fact, according to my neighbor, the production company told him that they had permission and that if he didn't move his car out of the way promptly off of Gorham so they could park their Star Waggon that the city of Los Angeles would come by and tow it.
- Production company lied to the neighbor at 853 S Gretna Green Way and claimed that they had permission to put their catering table on his parkway strip when he asked them to move it. Other people in the area were standing next to the catering table and complaining that it was in the way but the production company refused to move it.
- Production company lied to me and said that there was no one I could call at FilmLA on a Sunday so I'd have to wait until Monday to talk to anyone. They claimed not to have a phone number for me to call FilmLA. (I googled it.) When I pointed out that I'd spoken to CJ Leavens at FilmLA more than once that day they claimed to be "shocked" and said that they couldn't get anyone at FilmLA on the phone. CJ Leavens told me more than once that she was in touch with them on Sunday which they denied.
- Production company parked a very large moving van-size truck on the west side of the 830 block of S Gretna Green that is always designated as no parking because the street is narrow and curved. Parking the truck there was highly unsafe and I called parking enforcement who appeared to have gotten them to move. The production company also had large vehicles parked across the street even though the permit says they can park only on one side of the street.
- The production company failed to move their vehicles by the 9 pm deadline and only moved them by 9:20 pm because I stood outside my house and insisted they move them. However, they refused to move the vehicles including the Star Waggon to San Vicente or to Brentwood Science Magnet, insisting that they were told to move them around the corner to Gorham and that the neighbor on the corner (853 S GG) had given them permission.
- Production company told me that they pulled in a truck in front of the Star Waggon so that they could move it off of Gorham on Monday. However, when I went outside a few hours later the truck was still sitting there and hadn't moved the Star Waggon. The production crew member claimed that she had never told me it was going to be moved. They left both the Star Waggon and the trailer on Gorham for the rest of the day and evening.

Many of us in the neighborhood work in the entertainment industry, so we are not opposed to filming generally and we recognize that multiple strikes are underway. This does not give production companies free reign, however, to behave in an unprofessional manner nor to lie to neighborhood

residents about their permits. The principals of this production should pay any fines in place to handle these situations and should not be granted similar permits for this or other productions without these penalties being implemented and without future safeguards for other projects.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Can we set up a follow up call between SBRA, CD11, and FilmLA to determine appropriate remedies and procedures going forward? I appreciate your help and prompt attention to how we can avoid these problems in the future.

Lauren Cole

Vice President and Incoming President, South Brentwood Residents Association

1-310-259-9391 (cell)



Permit #LA00102408-4

FilmLA

6255 W Sunset Blvd, 12th Floor

t: (213)977-8600

www.filmla.com

Summary Information

Location 2 of 2 LA00102408-4 (G-27988)

Location Activity Type: Production, Base Camp

Production Title:	The Italians	Location Manager:	Michelle Danner
Production Company:	THE ITALIANS LLC	Primary Phone Number:	(310) 313-0279
FilmLA Coordinator:	Autumn Desmarests	Secondary Phone Number:	(310) 729-7174
		Email Address:	allinfilmsca@gmail.com
Location Address:	831 S Gretna Green Way, Apt 103, Los Angeles, CA, 90049, USA		
Location Type:	Apartment Building		
Jurisdiction:	Political: CD 11 SD 3	Police: LAPD West Los Angeles Division	Fire: LAFD
Film Dates:	Start Date	End Date	
	8/13/2023 08:30:00	8/13/2023 21:00:00	
	8/14/2023 09:30:00	8/14/2023 22:00:00	
Open/Closed to the Public:	Closed		
Coordinator Notes:	WITH CONDITIONS STATED AND NO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR LAFD APPROVAL, A SPOT CHECK IS APPROVED. ANDERSON		
General Conditions:	<p>*LA CITY AND/OR LA COUNTY FIRE CHECKLIST ATTACHED TO FINAL PERMIT. THE PERMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING CHECKLIST PRIOR TO FILMING ACTIVITY AT THIS LOCATION. NON COMPLIANCE MAY RESULT IN ASSIGNMENT OF A FIRE OFFICER.</p> <p>Community Survey Obtained</p> <p>**POSTED PARKING: Equipment staging and vehicles may park on one side of the street only. No cast or crew parking on area streets. Must Maintain 5' Clearance on Sidewalks/Walkways. Must maintain local/emergency access. No camera or equipment in street or posted parking without curb lane or street closure. No steps from trailers, trucks or motorhomes may be facing road. Neither motorhomes nor motorhome popouts may extend into adjacent traffic or bike lanes. May not interfere with adjacent traffic lanes or adjacent bike lane unless a closure is implemented.</p> <p>**PRODUCTION MUST HAVE A PRINTED COPY OR COPIES OF THE PERMIT ON-LOCATION AND AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY THE PUBLIC AND CITY REPRESENTATIVES.**</p> <p>**THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND THE USE OF DRUGS, INCLUDING MARIJUANA, ON LOCATION BY ANY CAST, CREW, OR INVITED GUESTS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**</p> <p>CROSSOVERS/CABLING ACROSS STREET I: Not allowed on street without prior approval.</p> <p>No stopping and setting up in residential areas before 7am or after 10pm without prior approval</p>		
Please See Attached Document:	LAFD FILM - Fire Safety Inspection Checklist 2017.pdf, Permit General Terms and Conditions_Min Refund Edit_2023-06-06 g.pdf, Filmmaker_Code_of_Responsibility.pdf, B_Permit General Terms & Conditions_2020-09-09.pdf		
Equipment On Location:	Category	Quantity	Details
	5-Ton	1	
	Trailers	1	
	Cast/Crew Vehicles	5	
	Cube (1 to 3 Tons)	1	
Personnel On Location:	Role	Quantity	Details
	Crew	20	
	Cast	5	
	Spot Check	1	
Filming Activities	Type	Details	
	Interior B-Roll/BTS		
	Other	UNIT 103	
	Exterior Establishing Shots.		
	Camera on Sidewalk.		
	Camera on Sticks		
	Interior Establishing Shot		
	Interior Catering		
	Handheld Equipment		
	Dolly Track (on property)		
	Interior Dialogue		
Approvals	Los Angeles City Police Department		Chris Ignacio

Base Camp:

Notes: Basecamp will be in the apartment

Associations:

Crew Parking

Locations:

LA ID: LA00108293-1

Address: Brentwood Science Magnet School, 740 S Gretna Green Way, Los Angeles, CA, 90049, USA

Notes:

Posting Parking:

Approximate Footage: 300

Work Order: 386477

Date(s): 8/13/2023 00:00:00 - 8/14/2023 00:00:00

Description S/S Gretna Green Way, from W Gorham Ave 300' North :