

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Scientology-connected filming in Los Angeles deserves far more scrutiny than it has been getting, and frankly the continued silence around it is embarrassing. Sea Org members are not paid wages in the normal sense. Their maximum weekly stipend is about \$47. Not a starting wage. Not a minimum. The maximum. And that only happens if they are considered “productive.” If they are not, they can receive nothing at all. Zero. If someone is on the Rehabilitation Project Force, it can be a fraction of that. That pay structure exists because it is supposed to apply to religious ministry. Prayer, counseling, internal church duties. It is not meant to subsidize commercial production labor, standing on film sets for hours, appearing as extras, assisting with production logistics, or supporting filming operations connected to FilmLA permits. Los Angeles has an entire entertainment industry built on union contracts, minimum wages, and worker protections. Actors have unions. Crew has unions. Trades have unions. The city issues permits assuming those standards are being followed. So here is the uncomfortable question that nobody seems eager to ask. When Scientology receives filming permits, who is doing the work? Are those individuals union members? Are they being paid standard wages? Or are people who legally receive only a religious stipend being used to support productions while the rest of Hollywood politely looks the other way? And yes, that question extends to celebrity influence. Hollywood celebrates its biggest stars endlessly. But if any celebrity environment relies on Sea Org members performing personal or production tasks while those individuals earn at most \$47 a week, then the industry needs to stop congratulating itself about labor ethics. Hollywood unions speak loudly about protecting workers. Studios lecture the public about fairness. City leaders approve permits under the assumption that labor standards are being respected. Yet when Scientology is involved, everyone suddenly becomes very comfortable not asking questions. That double standard is the problem. The City of Los Angeles should not be approving filming permits connected to Scientology until there is clear verification that everyone participating in those productions is being compensated and protected under the same labor standards that every other production must follow. Labor protections cannot be optional. They cannot disappear when a powerful organization

is involved. And they certainly should not be suspended just because someone famous might be involved. Los Angeles likes to call itself the global capital of the entertainment industry. Fine. Then act like a city that actually enforces the rules it claims to believe in.