

# UNITE HERE! LOCAL 11

March 23, 2022

To the attention of Jay-Z and Beyoncé:

I write on behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11, a labor union representing over 32,000 hospitality workers in Southern California and Arizona. I am writing to inform you that the Gold Party that Jay-Z is reportedly hosting at Bar Marmont on March 27, 2022 at 11 p.m. might be affected by an ongoing labor dispute.

In March 2020, the famed Chateau Marmont fired over 200 of its workers. Workers who dedicated decades of their lives to the hotel were left without job security or affordable healthcare in the middle of the pandemic. In response, the Chateau workers successfully organized to help win a path-breaking city law to ensure that hospitality workers can return to their jobs as the crisis subsides. Many of the hotel's workers have since spoken out about abuses they experienced while working at the hotel, including disrespect, mistreatment, and a racially stratified workplace.

In particular, two Black women former workers have filed lawsuits against the hotel, which are still ongoing. Former events server Thomasina Gross, who served Jay-Z and Beyoncé's guests at past Oscars after-parties, filed a lawsuit against the hotel in January 2021 alleging that she experienced race discrimination and sexual harassment while working other events at the hotel. Former night auditor April Blackwell filed a second lawsuit against the hotel in April 2021, alleging that she experienced a racially hostile work environment and other unsafe working conditions at the Chateau. Her lawsuit alleges that, as the only front desk agent working overnight in the Chateau's drug and alcohol-fueled "anything goes" environment, she was subjected to racial harassment by guests while on the job.

Workers have called for a boycott of Chateau Marmont, which includes Bar Marmont, until the hotel has demonstrated a commitment to respecting their years of service by rehiring them in accordance with their legal rights and to ensuring that all workers—regardless of their race, sex, or background—feel treated with dignity and respect. The boycott has since been backed by prominent Hollywood figures and thought leaders including Gabrielle Union, Spike Lee, Issa Rae, Samira Wiley, Robin Thede, Quinta Brunson, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Roxane Gay, Ashley Nicole Black, and the productions *Being the Ricardos* and *The Offer*. The boycott has also been backed by Hollywood unions like Writers Guild of America - West, as well as by civil rights organizations like the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) of Southern California.

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We know you stand with us on these issues, and so we ask you to respect the boycott and celebrate the Oscars somewhere else. You can find hotels where workers are treated with dignity and respect here: [fairhotel.org](http://fairhotel.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to:  
Kurt Petersen, UNITE HERE Local 11 co-president  
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(213) 840-3589

Sincerely,

Kurt Petersen

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