

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: September 17, 2009

TO: Honorable Members of the Jobs and Business Development Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 08-1783  
Assignment No: 09-09-1553

SUBJECT: Status report *Ugly Betty* and Runaway Production

## SUMMARY

On March 25, 2009, the City Council approved actions to address "runaway production" in the entertainment industry. Motion (Garcetti-Greuel, CF #08-1783) instructed the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to investigate the economic impact of the move of the television program *Ugly Betty* from Los Angeles to New York and to identify ways to ensure that film and television productions remain in Los Angeles. The CLA report provided seven recommendations aimed at providing incentives for the entertainment industry to continue to film in the City. Several of these recommendations requested City departments to report to Council and convene on-going meetings to enhance communications among the entertainment industry and the City.

## BACKGROUND

Council adopted seven recommendations provided in a CLA report in response to Motion (Garcetti-Greuel). These included:

1. Develop criteria for a tax credit or incentive program for productions that film in the City;
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the multimedia tax incentive;
3. Direct the Department of Water and Power to develop a plan to install utility nodes in key Downtown Los Angeles locations and evaluate and report on the effectiveness of these nodes;
4. Create a Downtown Film Parking Task Force to ease parking and mobility issues in Downtown Los Angeles;
5. Direct the Downtown Film Parking Task Force to identify parking lots in the Downtown area available for use by the entertainment industry;
6. Create a Citywide Film Task Force to enhance communications between the City and the entertainment industry, as well as to identify solutions to issues related to runaway production; and
7. Develop a website that lists available public and private filming and base camp locations.

Status of these recommendations is as follows:

1. The Mayor, City Administrative Officer, and Chief Legislative Analyst are continuing to evaluate criteria for a tax credit or incentive program;
2. Council has adopted a suspension of the multimedia tax;
3. City departments have met with the film industry to identify technical specifications for utility node installation and FilmLA has identified the key filming locations in Downtown Los Angeles where these nodes could be installed;
4. The Downtown Film Parking Task Force has met and identified key issues;
5. City staff are gathering parking data for the Downtown Film Parking Task Force;
6. The Citywide Film Task Force has met and continues to work through issues related to facilitating filming in Los Angeles; and
7. Scope of work for the website needs to be developed.



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