

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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December 11, 2009

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council file No. 08-1783, at its meeting held December 9, 2009.

City Clerk
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**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Your JOBS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

JOBS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the ten hardest to film locations in the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST FilmLA to report to the Jobs and Business Development Committee on a quarterly basis in regard to issues in connection with the ten hardest to film locations in the City of Los Angeles as defined by the Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399.
2. REQUEST FilmLA to prepare a rental cost survey of frequently filmed locations in the City of Los Angeles and report back to the Jobs and Business Development Committee with its findings.
3. REQUEST Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399 to report to the Jobs and Business Development Committee in regard to criteria used to create its list of the ten hardest to film locations in the City of Los Angeles.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer (CAO) nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On November 3, 2009, your Committee considered a November 2, 2009 CLA report relative to the ten hardest to film locations in the City of Los Angeles. According to the CLA, on October 9, 2009, Council directed the CLA and CAO to work with film industry location managers to create a "ten hardest to film in" location list, identifying the ten most difficult locations in the City of Los Angeles to film and seek solutions to the problems associated with filming at those locations.

In response, Local 399, the Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, provided information concerning several locations in the Los Angeles area have been identified as particularly difficult to film. These sites include government, civic, and private properties. Location managers are the link between the directors, producers, and artists creating a film or television production and the scores of people electricians, set builders, make-up artists, and others which are needed to make a production happen. Additionally, they are also the people responsible for obtaining film locations, equipment, and permits. Finally, location managers oversee coordination of all technical elements of a production on the ground and have expertise relative to the ease or difficulty in filming at any given location.

The Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399, represent Location Managers. Through their communication networks, they have provided information to the City concerning

locations that are difficult to film. These locations are: the AT&T Building in Downtown Los Angeles; County General Hospital; Farmers and Merchants Bank in Downtown Los Angeles; Griffith Park Observatory; the Japanese Heritage Museum; Library Park; the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Headquarters; the Los Angeles Zoo; and Terminal Annex in Downtown Los Angeles. Finally, the CLA noted that the Hollywood Sign, which is managed by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, should have also been part of the list but it was omitted from the report in error.

Next, the CLA stated that sites were identified by location managers as difficult to film due to rental costs, restrictions on filming at the site, contractual requirements that negatively affect business decisions, restrictions on food service, and other issues. Some locations are simply difficult to film, either as a result of their location or due to program activities at the location. Specifically, filming at the physical location of the Hollywood Sign is limited by a narrow, mountain road; limited parking facilities on the mountain; and extremely steep terrain. Filming at the Los Angeles Zoo is severely restricted due to on-going construction projects that restrict transportation throughout the facility. Further, the Zoo must comply with USDA and Association of Zoo and Aquarium regulations that may affect decisions regarding filming.

Based on an initial survey with identified property locations, it appears that communication issues and history are factors in the determination of difficulty. Perceptions of difficulty by location managers at times relate to experiences that are several years old. The current ease or difficulty of a given location is not fully known as location managers have not gone back to a site due to historical difficulty.

The Committee then questioned representatives from the CLA, FilmLA and Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399 in regard to the ten hardest to film locations in the City. Additionally, the Committee stated that the specific locations indicated on the list were determined through criteria set by Local 399 as opposed to any City entity and as such does not represent an official City position on the matter.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend: 1) requesting FilmLA to report on a quarterly basis in regard to issues in connection with the ten hardest to film locations as defined by the Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399 and in particular report on its efforts to resolve these issues; 2) requesting FilmLA to prepare a rental cost survey of frequently filmed locations in the City; and 3) requesting Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters, Local 399 to report in regard to the criteria it used to create its list of the ten hardest to film locations in the City of Los Angeles. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

JOB AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ALARCÓN:
PARKS:
KORETZ:

VOTE
YES
YES
ABSENT

ADOPTED

DEC 09 2009

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

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- Not Official Until Council Acts -

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