

MOTION JOBS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The motion picture, television, and recording industries are critical to the economic health and well-being of Los Angeles. These industries create critically needed jobs, especially at a time when the local economy remains troubled. The creative and technical talent located in Los Angeles, combined with the region's technical ingenuity, make this City the most important center for the development of movies, television programs, musical recordings, video games, and other entertainment products.

But other localities, states, and even nations have been tempting the entertainment industry with tax incentives, subsidies, and other enticements to move filming to their area. This runaway production has dramatically reduced the amount of filming that occurs in Los Angeles, with FilmLA recently reporting that only three major motion pictures are slated for production here in 2009.

A critical component of the television production activity that has historically occurred in the City is the filming of television pilots. A pilot is a standalone episode of a television series that is used to sell the show to a television network. If the network likes the concept and execution, the pilot will be developed into a series.

As reported by FilmLA, the City's permit service provider, there has been a dramatic reduction in the filming of television pilots the City over the last few years. In the past, the City captured over 80% of all television pilot production. But in 2011, only 51% of all television pilots were filmed here. This dramatic reduction in the production of pilots is an alarming trend. Much as we saw the loss of feature film production, we are witnessing the loss of television production as well.

The City must do everything possible to provide and encourage growth in the entertainment industry, to create much-needed jobs in the City, and to support the creative and technical achievement this industry brings to the City. Ensuring that television pilots are filmed in the City is an investment that will result in those pilots that are selected for full season runs continuing to film in the City. Incentives that keep pilots in the City will create long-term jobs in the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the CAO to report on the status of all fees charged for film and television productions and the impact of waiving all City fees for television pilots filmed substantially in the City;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Fire Department, Recreation and Parks Department, and Department of Transportation to report on the status of fees charged for film and television productions; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that FilmLA develop a fee waiver incentive to support television pilot productions filmed substantially in the City.

PRESENTED BY: E. Garcetti
Eric Garcetti
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Kreppner

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