

## MOTION

Film production is the City of Los Angeles' signature industry, and a myriad of efforts have been taken over the years to ensure the industry remains in Los Angeles. However, policies designed to relieve some of the burdens the film industry faces need to be compatible with other City policies that ensure public safety. Steps should be taken to ensure that safety regulations for filming activities is robust, but not onerous.

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) grants the Fire Chief the authority to require a Uniformed Fire Safety Officer (UFSO) be present whenever the Chief determines it is essential for the safeguarding of life and property from fire, explosion, panic or other hazardous conditions which may arise in the temporary use of an occupancy and/or premises. Often, the Fire Department requires that UFSOs be present at film locations. UFSOs are paid for by the person or entity that is required to have a UFSO present. The determination for whether or not a UFSO is needed at a production location is made by LAFD's Film Unit, based on a set of safety guidelines.

Certainty in costs and permitting goes a long way in ensuring the solvency and success of a film production. A production's success, in turn, creates economic benefits for the City of Los Angeles and the region. Therefore, LAFD's guidelines on when UFSOs are required should be made public so that film productions can better identify the budgetary and safety needs of their production. Both film industry representatives and LAFD Uniformed Fire Safety Officers have demonstrated a willingness to have open discussions that support filming in Los Angeles without jeopardizing the public safety of our residents, local communities, and participants in film shoots. There is a mutual interest in finding common ground.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department (LAFD) be directed to report on its current Uniformed Fire Safety Officer (UFSO) guidelines, and on the Department's decision making process for requiring UFSOs for filming activities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD, in consultation with the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City and the Motion Picture Association of America, be directed to report on possible cost-saving measures such as "spot-checks" which can allow a UFSO to stop by a production rather than be on a full assignment.

I FURTHER MOVE that Film L.A. be requested to report on their interpretation of all public safety guidelines/requirements pertaining to filming activities, as well as report on the feasibility of making these guidelines available to the public on the Film LA website.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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