

Communication from Public

Name: Epoch Media Group, LLC

Date Submitted: 02/19/2026 03:41 PM

Council File No: 25-1499

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Members of the Economic & Jobs Development Committee 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Support for Motion – Public Safety Reform and Film Permitting Improvements (CF: 25-1499) Dear Councilmembers: On behalf of Epoch Films, a commercial production company, I write in strong support of Councilmember Nazarian’s motion to reform aspects of the City’s public safety permitting process for on-location filming. Los Angeles is a global production center, and maintaining both public safety and a competitive filming environment is essential. As commercial producers, we strongly support public safety and recognize the important role that law enforcement plays in ensuring safe, orderly productions and protecting neighborhoods. Our industry depends on it. At the same time, modernization of the current system is necessary. The existing practice requiring productions to hire retired police officers as production employees is outdated and lacks transparency. Productions are required to hire these individuals as members of their crew, yet we have no ability to select who is assigned or how they perform their duties. Moreover, retired officers do not report to the Production Company in the same manner as production crew, since they are on our sets at the behest of the City, creating operational ambiguity and inefficiencies. Other jurisdictions—including major domestic and international production centers—do not require productions to hire retired police officers as their own employees. Los Angeles is an outlier in this regard, and as other cities improve their production capacities, such structural differences materially impact decisions about where to film. We support reforming the process for assigning police officers to productions so that officers remain City employees, assigned and supervised by the City, rather than being treated as production staff. We are willing to pay the necessary, transparent fees through the permit process to ensure appropriate public safety staffing. Aligning employment status with the City will provide clearer accountability, eliminate confusion in supervision, and better reflect the true public safety function these officers perform. We also strongly support the development of a civilian Film Safety Officer classification for duties that do not require sworn personnel. This approach would:
? Maintain appropriate public safety oversight;
? Allow sworn

officers to focus on core law enforcement responsibilities; ?
Provide transparency in costs and services; and ? Modernize a
system that has not kept pace with prevailing industry practice. In
addition, we support the motion's broader efforts to eliminate
duplicative fees, ensure consistency in staffing standards, and
improve community education regarding lawful filming activities.
These reforms strike the right balance: preserving public safety
while improving efficiency, accountability, and competitiveness.
We respectfully urge the Council to adopt and implement this
motion. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.
Sincerely, Melissa Culligan Managing EP + Partner Epoch Films
310 275 9333

EPOCH.

2/19/2026

Honorable Members of the Economic & Jobs Development Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Motion – Public Safety Reform and Film Permitting Improvements (CF: 25-1499)

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of **Epoch Films**, a commercial production company, I write in strong support of Councilmember Nazarian's motion to reform aspects of the City's public safety permitting process for on-location filming.

Los Angeles is a global production center, and maintaining both public safety and a competitive filming environment is essential. As commercial producers, we strongly support public safety and recognize the important role that law enforcement plays in ensuring safe, orderly productions and protecting neighborhoods. Our industry depends on it.

At the same time, modernization of the current system is necessary. The existing practice requiring productions to hire retired police officers as production employees is outdated and lacks transparency. Productions are required to hire these individuals as members of their crew, yet we have no ability to select who is assigned or how they perform their duties. Moreover, retired officers do not report to the Production Company in the same manner as production crew, since they are on our sets at the behest of the City, creating operational ambiguity and inefficiencies.

Other jurisdictions—including major domestic and international production centers—do not require productions to hire retired police officers as their own employees. Los Angeles is an outlier in this regard, and as other cities improve their production capacities, such structural differences materially impact decisions about where to film.

We support reforming the process for assigning police officers to productions so that officers remain City employees, assigned and supervised by the City, rather than being treated as production staff. We are willing to pay the necessary, transparent fees through the permit process to ensure appropriate public safety staffing. Aligning employment status with the City will provide clearer accountability, eliminate confusion in supervision, and better reflect the true public safety function these officers perform.

We also strongly support the development of a civilian Film Safety Officer classification for duties that do not require sworn personnel. This approach would:

- Maintain appropriate public safety oversight;
- Allow sworn officers to focus on core law enforcement responsibilities;
- Provide transparency in costs and services; and
- Modernize a system that has not kept pace with prevailing industry practice.

In addition, we support the motion's broader efforts to eliminate duplicative fees, ensure consistency in staffing standards, and improve community education regarding lawful filming activities.

These reforms strike the right balance: preserving public safety while improving efficiency, accountability, and competitiveness. We respectfully urge the Council to adopt and implement this motion.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Melissa Culligan
Managing EP + Partner
Epoch Films
310 275 9333