

MOTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

*Keep Hollywood Home - Fire Spot Check Fee & Public Safety Reform*

The City of Los Angeles, a global hub for film and television production, is continually challenged to balance the needs of the entertainment industry with the imperative of maintaining public safety and minimizing civic disruption. Reforming the complex, costly, and duplicative public safety permitting process for on-location filming is essential to keep Los Angeles film-friendly while maintaining safety and efficiency.

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) mandates a \$285 "spot check" fee for all productions. This fee is non-waivable, even when a Fire Safety Officer (FSO) is required on-site for high-risk filming, such as those involving pyrotechnics or other potential safety hazards. Furthermore, a production paying only the "spot check" fee is not guaranteed a visit from a fire inspector, meaning they may not receive the service for which they paid.

In 2024, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) processed 7,841 film permits for 13,359 filming locations, conducted 699 spot-checks (filming permit compliance checks), 104 calls for service (mostly illegal filming), issued 44 citations and 126 warnings, and authorized 252 secondary work permits for off-duty Motion Picture Officers (MPOs). MPOs are also mandated to receive proper firearm licensing.

Aside from permit approval, the LAPD is tasked with enforcing lawfully permitted filming activities established in LAMC Section 41.20. This allows the LAPD Film Unit to address scenarios where residents physically interfere with filming, such as using a bullhorn, playing loud music, yelling during takes, running loud equipment, or blocking production personnel. Preserving the film industry's capacity to conduct permitted shoots without disruption benefits the City, local businesses, and the industry itself.

The practice of providing "inconvenience payments" to residents, while not explicitly prohibited by the LAMC, establishes a detrimental precedent. This custom is perpetuated because residents increasingly request these payments, and productions—often operating under tight deadlines—agree to them to avoid delays and objections. This prevalent issue warrants attention and can be addressed through a dual approach: amending the LAMC and implementing effective community education.

The current public safety permitting and enforcement for Los Angeles on-location filming is inefficient and vulnerable, notably due to a duplicative, costly permitting process. These systemic issues necessitate reform to link essential services to fees paid and decisively enforce laws against financial misconduct to support the industry while ensuring public safety and civic stability.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to waive "spot check" fees for the following types of productions:

- Productions assigned a Fire Safety Officer (FSO); or
- Productions who pay the fee but are never visited by a Fire Inspector.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), in coordination with the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report within 60 days on the fiscal impact, including the ability of LAFD to recover costs, of waiving "spot check" fees for the following types of productions:

- Productions assigned a Fire Safety Officer (FSO); or
- Productions who pay the fee but are never visited by a Fire Inspector.

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**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the LAPD and City Attorney, with assistance from the Board of Public Works Film Liaison and in consultation with FilmLA, to report within 60 days on recommendations for a strategy for proactive enforcement and a public education initiative regarding Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 41.20, specifically targeting communities impacted by filming and production activities.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the LAPD, the City Attorney, FilmLA, and the Board of Public Works Film Liaison develop and implement a community education plan regarding lawful filming, including:

- clear notice that “inconvenience payments” are not required for permitted filming;
- information on how residents can report harassment, price-gouging, or unlawful disruption; and
- updated language on all FilmLA notices and the City’s filming website

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department, in coordination with FilmLA and the Board of Public Works Film Liaison, to establish a citywide Motion Picture Officer (MPO) staffing matrix to ensure consistent deployment standards across all patrol divisions, and to eliminate unnecessary staffing minimums unless justified by a documented safety concern.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council Instruct LAPD develop and implement a civilian Film Safety Officer classification for duties that do not require sworn personnel, including set supervision, perimeter control, and non-enforcement traffic coordination, to reduce costs for productions and allow sworn officers to prioritize core public-safety functions.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the LAPD to report back within 60 days on current procedures for MPO firearm licensing and recommendations for ensuring that every MPO is up to date on all requisite licensing requirements to do with firearms.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Adri Nazarian*  
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SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*J. L.*

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