



CITY of CALABASAS

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

TO: COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

FROM: MICHAEL RUSSO, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
MAUREEN TAMURI AIA, AICP, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CTC RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2020-XXX, RECOMMENDING REVISIONS TO CMC 5.04 MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION TO THE CALABASAS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING
DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

That the Communications and Technology Commission recommend adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-XXX, recommending revisions to CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production to the Calabasas City Council

BACKGROUND:

Staff is recommending revisions to CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production to address the Council's directive to plug loopholes and increase enforcement tools against entities who seek to use film permits to legitimize otherwise unpermitted activities in their homes and businesses. The proposed revisions to CMC by Staff, the City Attorney and the City Prosecutor offer strengthened protections to the quiet enjoyment of neighborhoods, and consist of the following:

- 1) Inclusion of "Digital Media" as a regulated activity under this code section;
- 2) A requirement for the property owners signature on the application;
- 3) Staff authority to deny or condition a Film Permit due to a past Code Enforcement history, or open violations;
- 4) Authority to Staff to deny a permit upon a finding that the activity would impact public health, safety or welfare;
- 5) Inclusion of definitions and controls to address the large assemblies;
- 6) Restrictions on overnight uses of property under a film permit.

The tightened regulations are not intended to halt legitimate production companies and artists, but as an additional "code enforcement tool" in prohibiting the unmonitored use of private residences for filming and digital production of large gatherings and events for social media distribution. Such unregulated events, often occurring well into the evening and involving upwards of 200 persons, have resulted in unwanted disturbances in at least three communities.

In preparing these ordinance revisions, Staff met on three occasions with the CTC Subcommittee on Film Permitting. In accordance with State of California Film regulations, Staff sought the opinion of the California Film Office regarding the proposed changes on two separate occasions, and have incorporated their comments. The Ordinance before you is recommended for adoption by the CTC subcommittee.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The impacts from disruptive events associated with unregulated and unpermitted filming require enormous hours of Staff, LAC Sherriff and City Prosecutor resources, resulting in thousands of dollars in direct labor and other consultant costs. Staff was directed by the City Council to strengthening areas of the code in order to clarify the laws of the City, and to close the opportunity to host disruptive events.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the Communications and Technology Commission recommend adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-XXX, recommending revisions to CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production to the Calabasas City Council

ATTACHMENT:

1. DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2020-XXX