



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2020

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

**FROM: MICHAEL RUSSO
 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

**MAUREEN TAMURI AIA, AICP
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-384, REVISING CMC 5.04
 MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION**

MEETING

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2020

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council introduce Ordinance No. 2020-384, revising CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production

BACKGROUND:

Staff and the Communications and Technology Commission are recommending that the City Council enact revisions to CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production. The code changes in Ordinance 2020-384 serve two primary purposes:

- 1) They update our Film Permitting code to include Digital Media, a new film technology; and
- 2) They address the Council’s directive to plug code 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 were prepared by Staff, the City Attorney and the City Prosecutor, and a task force of the CTC. The proposed Ordinance was reviewed by the Communications and Technology Commission and unanimously recommended to the City Council for approval on September 24th, 2020. The revised code offers 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;
- 7) Simplification of the signature gathering process and thresholds for film permit extensions;
- 8) Delegation of authority from the City Council to the City Manager for extensions to film permit days.

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.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The impacts from disruptive events associated with unregulated and unpermitted filming require enormous hours of Staff, Los Angeles County Sherriff and City Prosecutor resources, resulting in thousands of dollars in direct labor and other City costs. By strengthening areas of the code in order to clarify the laws of the City,

and to close the opportunity to host disruptive events, Staff hopes to reduce enforcement costs and increase the potential for recovery from violators.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council introduces Ordinance No. 2020-384, revising CMC 5.04 Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production

ATTACHMENT:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2020-384