

APPENDIX A: Council Report - Filming in Residential Areas

Industry Scan & Best Practices

An environmental scan was conducted to collect information about municipal film policies and by-laws in other cities. Economic Development staff reviewed available film regulation processes for the following jurisdictions:

- City of Toronto
- City of Mississauga
- City of Hamilton
- City of Pickering
- City of Oshawa
- California Film Commission
- City of North Bay

As noted in the staff report of May 2015, some municipalities regulate filming on municipal property only, while others require that permits be obtained for all filming, including on private property. Based on industry practices and current resources, Greater Sudbury Council directed staff to develop the current film by-law to regulate filming on municipal property only, and allow filming in all zones.

Interviews and research of the film offices in the abovementioned areas concluded that, despite having varying volume of film traffic, there were several commonalities and best practices noted across these districts. For example:

- The effects of filming in residential areas resonate through all municipalities. Steps are taken to mitigate these impacts as effectively as possible, but issues consistently arise and are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- Guidelines, policies and codes of conduct are often in place to moderate film activities, upholding specific standards. Where by-laws are in place governing film activities, they are often accompanied by more extensive guidelines and codes of conduct that relate to the industry as it grows.
- Guidelines may stipulate standard hours for film activities, for example from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. for residential zones.
- When filming takes place on private property and does not require a municipal permit, notification is usually still required. For example, residents and merchants within a 500-foot radius of the film location must receive notice of filming dates, times, location address and production company contact at least 24 hours prior to the first film activity.
- When the proposed filming involves extraordinary activities, such as a full street closure, filming beyond standard hours or filming for extended periods of time, the neighbourhood would presumably be impacted in a larger way and would require consultation. For example, in these cases, in addition to notification, the affected residents and/or businesses within a 300-foot radius would be surveyed by the production company and a level of consensus (e.g.: 50%+1 or 80% depending on the type of activity).
- When parking production vehicles on a public street, residents and merchants impacted by the parking must receive notice at least 24 hours prior to the arrival of the vehicles.

- Filming on private property requires that the production company obtain the property owner's permission, consent, and/or lease for use of property not owned or controlled by the municipality.
- Productions are required to operate in an orderly fashion and to remove all trash and debris. Productions are required to return sites to original condition before leaving the site once filming has concluded.
- The responsibility of managing requests from film productions, handling the interdepartmental coordination and receiving inquiries from the public often falls to a dedicated film office representative.
- In some smaller and mid-sized municipalities the film offices reside within Economic Development or Cultural Services, which have the authority to issue permits.
- Centralized film websites act as a central point of information for both productions and residents, listing all regulations, guidelines, permit and insurance requirements, fee schedules and contact information.