

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND JANICE HAHN

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The entertainment industry has always been central to the economy of Los Angeles County but currently, at both the national and international levels, there is fierce competition for film and television productions. In October 2016, the California Film Commission reported that, between 2010 and 2016, incentives provided by other states and countries had resulted in 164 “runaway” projects, accounting for \$3.7 billion in production spending outside California.

To reverse this tide, the County can take a proactive role in retaining and growing an industry that has historically served as a vital source of jobs and revenue. As of 2015, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation reported that roughly 250,000 people were employed in the entertainment industry, annually contributing nearly \$60 billion in goods and services, 10% of the County’s gross product. The County can enhance collaboration and support of the film industry through improved interaction with County departmental staff and improved communication related to County fees and permitting processes.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) currently has a Film Liaison that works with

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FilmLA, the County departments and the entertainment industry. In order to improve coordination between the film industry and the County, however, the roles and responsibilities of this coordination function should be reviewed as an important first step to making interaction as streamlined and efficient as possible. Further, in order to remain competitive with other jurisdictions at the local and national level, the County should undertake a comprehensive review of permit film fees and licenses for County and Non-Profit Foundations operating on County-owned property, particularly for film-related permits not required by other local jurisdictions such as road encroachment and road application permits.

Finally, although the County wants to encourage a film friendly environment, we must also be assured that private property owners and production companies adhere to the permitting and licensing processes established by the County; and that the County has the enforcement tools needed to ensure compliance and lessen potential filming related impacts on our local communities. To that end, the County Code sections related to film permitting and enforcement should be reviewed and, if necessary, amended to allow appropriate enforcement and compliance with the County Code.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

- 1) Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to examine the CEO Film Liaison's responsibilities and report back to the Board in 60 days with recommendations to strengthen its role in facilitating filming and relationships with film production entities;

- 2) Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to review film and license fees charged by the County and Non-Profit Foundations operating on County-owned property and report back to the Board in 60 days with recommended reductions, in order that Los Angeles County can be competitive with other local jurisdictions; and
- 3) Instruct County Counsel to coordinate with the Departments of Regional Planning, Parks, Public Works, Fire and the Sheriff's Department, and any other appropriate County code enforcement department to review and, within 60 days, provide recommended amendments to the County Code, as necessary, to ensure that County departments have the necessary enforcement authority to address violations of the film permitting process by property owners and production companies.