



INFORMATION REPORT
TOWN OF NEWMARKET
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September 22, 2016

**CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT – LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
INFORMATION REPORT 2016-16**

TO: Mayor Van Bynen & Members of Council

SUBJECT: Film Policy Improvements

ORIGIN: Legislative Services

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

COMMENTS

The purpose of this information report is to advise Members of Council of Film Policy updates which clarify the scope of the Policy and streamline the application process, assisting both film production companies and Town staff, including:

- A simplified, web-based application form and key information (for example, parking location maps) accessible at www.newmarket.ca/filming;
- Designating a Filming Liaison (Licensing Officer) to act as central point of contact between Town staff and film production companies, easing coordination and improving internal communication;
- Limiting the requirement for a film permit for those productions which take place on Town property, or where the Film Liaison determines that such filming will significantly impact Town property or residents (e.g., explosions or special effects); and,
- Filming on private property requires notification to the Town, but does not require a film permit.

Film permit fees were also reviewed and will be brought forward in the fall. The potential for an annual filming fee with reduced costs for multiple film projects by the same production company was considered.

From staff's experience, an annual permit is problematic because it creates the potential for film production companies to film without notifying the Town in advance, and makes it difficult for the Filming Liaison to collect all the necessary information and documentation for each film project required to protect public safety and Town property and mitigate nuisances to residents and businesses.

In place of an annual film permit, revised film permit fees will provide film production companies with an option of including multiple locations per permit application, effectively reducing permit costs.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

The initiative relates to the Well-equipped and managed link of the Town's Community Vision- implementing policy and processes that reflect sound and accountable governance.

CONSULTATION

Film production companies having previously filmed in Newmarket were consulted and encouraged to provide feedback. Out of the twelve film production companies contacted, one response was received indicating support for the online application process and fee structure proposed. In addition, staff have consulted with various municipalities with respect to filming fees.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human resources considerations related to this report.

BUDGET IMPACT

Changes to the fee structure will be identified in the 2017 budget and monitored on a go-forward basis.

CONTACT

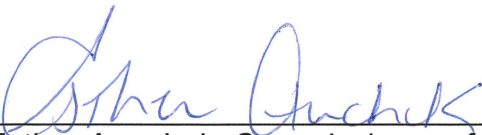
For more information on this report, please contact Florence DiPassio, Licensing Officer at fdipassio@newmarket.ca or at 905 953-5300, ext. 2206



Florence DiPassio, Licensing Officer



Andrew Brouwer, Director, Legislative Services/Town Clerk



Esther Armchuk, Commissioner of Corporate Services