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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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November 22, 2019

Corey Johnson
Council Speaker
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Mark Gjonaj
City Council Member
1478 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

Rober Holden
City Council Member
64-69 Dry Harbor Road
Middle Village, NY 11379

Dear Council Speaker Johnson, :

At its Full Board meeting on November 21, 2019 Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Discussion and consideration of the following City Council bills concerning film permitting:

- **Intro 1495: Creates a local community and media bill of rights.**
- **Intro 0158: Mandates that the permit application fees for filming on City property are high enough to cover the costs to the City of reviewing and processing the application.**
- **Intro 0937: Requires production companies to provide advanced 72-hour notice when shooting will disrupt traffic.**
- **Intro 1515: Establishes task force to study the impacts and benefits of the film industry.**
- **Intro 1700: Requires those applying for a film, television production or photography permit to file their application no less than 14 days prior to the date of shooting.**
- **Intro 1722: Requires certain applicants for film and television production permits to pay a \$800 fee to cover the costs to the City of providing the permit**

Whereas, on September 26, 2019, the New York City Council Committee on Small Business held an oversight hearing regarding the impact of the film and television industry on residents and businesses, and in recognition of such impact six bills have been proposed in the Council as measures to alleviate the burdens resulting from filming on location; and

Whereas, the abundance of recognizable and “quintessentially New York” locations within Community Board 2, Manhattan makes its neighborhoods highly desirable as shooting locations for film and television and as a consequence its residents frequently experience disruptions to their quality of life, such as late night and early morning noise, bright lights, and impassable streets and sidewalks; and

Whereas, Community Board 2, Manhattan acknowledges that the film and television industry provides significant economic benefits to New York City and generates jobs and business opportunities for New

Yorkers but recognizes that the interests of those seeking permits for on-location filming must be balanced against the rights of residents to reasonable enjoyment of their homes and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Community Board 2, Manhattan supports legislative efforts to investigate the impact (and benefits) accruing from the film and television industry and to establish standards to protect community interests and residents' rights; now

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan supports the spirit of the proposed city council legislation and the creation of a bill of rights as part of efforts to address the ever-increasing burden placed on residents due to on-location filming; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan recommends that the proposed bill of rights contemplated in Intro 1495 and the task force study contemplated in Intro 1515 specifically address the disproportionate impact borne by those streets and neighborhoods recognized as particularly desirable for on-location filming and for which large numbers of filming permits are sought; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan recommends that community boards be given an active role in drafting the bill of rights proposed in Intro 1495 and that Intro 1515 include the requirement that the task force created pursuant thereto include community board members from districts that have been disproportionately impacted by on-location film and television shoots; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan supports increased enforcement of existing regulations, and penalties for violation thereof, in particular, those requiring notification of neighbors and provision of contact information for questions and concerns, and supports a requirement that applicants for on-location permits be required to notify the relevant community board(s) in a timely manner; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan supports additional legislation that would regulate the availability and duration of on-location film permits to take into account factors including, but not limited to, the frequency of requests for a particular location and/or neighborhood, its physical characteristics, neighborhood street closings, and the scheduling of maintenance or other location-specific activities not only on the streets proposed for permitting but on those adjacent thereto; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan expresses concern about Intro 1700 and its requirement that a permit application be filed no less than 14 days prior to the date of shooting, as this timeline could have a profound chilling effect on productions of all sizes; and urges elected officials reviewing this legislation to consider this issue and engage stakeholders from the industry; and

Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan recommends the creation of a comprehensive, publicly-accessible online system that will allow residents to identify when and where impediments to car and pedestrian travel are scheduled to occur, including but not limited to, on-location film and television shoots.

**Vote: Passed, with 38 Board Members in favor.
1 Recusal (S. Gammie)**

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair



Joseph Gallagher, Chair

Community Board #2, Manhattan

Quality of Life Committee
Community Board 2, Manhattan

CB/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Yuh-line Niou, Assembly Member
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member