



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#26-0249

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 16, 2026

TITLE: Proposed Film Permitting Fee Structure and Public Property Use Fee for
Film and Photography Activity – Community Services Department
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

The City of Fort Lauderdale’s film permitting process plays a critical role in attracting high-value productions that support local employment, enhance the City’s national and international image, and drive economic growth across multiple sectors, including hospitality, transportation, small businesses, and the creative workforce. The City collaborates closely with FilmLauderdale through the Broward County Film Commission to support film, television, and commercial productions and to facilitate a streamlined, production-friendly experience.

Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale seek to maintain a streamlined process for film permitting that enhances the City’s attractiveness as a premier filming destination. An existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) formalizes a cooperative arrangement for film permit applications within the City of Fort Lauderdale and aligns with the Film Commission’s FilmApp system, powered by Apply4. Under this arrangement, the City retains the right to approve or reject permit applications, maintains control over film activities on public and private property within the City, and oversees filming activities on municipally owned land, including parks, beaches, and public streets. City costs for services associated with film permits are determined and collected in accordance with City regulations.

Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale do not assess an application fee for a film permit. Productions are responsible for all associated direct costs for City services including off-duty police officers, Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) permits and plans when applicable, reserved metered parking and/or parking lots, and required insurance documentation naming the City as an additional insured party. The City charges for City services and facility rentals when applicable, including use of the Aquatic Center; however, there is no standardized park fee or public property use fee currently in place for filming activity.

City sign off of film permits are coordinated through the City's Community Services Department's Cultural Affairs Division. City staff works in tandem with FilmLauderdale, to assess the productions impact with Risk Management, Transportation and Mobility, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Strategic Communications. Permits are frequently processed on short notice to support production timelines.

Recent production activity underscores the film industry's importance to Fort Lauderdale's economy and the program's effectiveness in supporting employment and visibility as a destination city. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the City issued 136 permits with \$81,653,364 in direct local expenditure and supported 2,897 local workers. In FY 2025, the City issued 122 permits with approximately \$49,530,639 in direct local expenditure and supported 3,929 local workers. In FY 2026 to date, the City has issued sixty-seven (67) permits with \$42,452,732 in direct local expenditure and supported 2,832 local workers. Productions consistently hire local cast and crew, utilize local vendors and suppliers, book hotel rooms, and spend money on food and beverage services.

While the City recovers direct service costs, it does not recover administrative coordination time to process film permits or costs associated with use of public spaces unless a rental fee is already established for a specific facility.

The presentation attached as Exhibit 1 provides an overview of the City's current film permitting process and potential cost-recovery options related to processing film permits and a fee structure for film and photography activity on City-owned property.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commission Priority, advancing Public Spaces and Cultural initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Business Growth and Support Focus Area, Goal 6: Build a diverse and attractive economy

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We are United and We Are Prosperous

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Element
- Goal 1: Enhance Fort Lauderdale's stature as a global, business friendly destination through the development of a business identity, enhanced marketing, branding, and support for enhanced local activities and tourism development.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Presentation on Film Permitting and Proposed Fee

Prepared by: Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer

Department Director: Porshia L. Garcia, Community Services Department