

Guidelines for Filming in Huntsville, TX

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Guidelines for Filming in Huntsville, Texas

I. PURPOSE

The Guidelines contained in this policy are intended to create a program for promoting economic development activity within Huntsville and the vicinity of the City. The following Guidelines are also intended to protect the personal and property rights of Huntsville, Texas residents and businesses, and to promote the public health, safety and welfare. The City Manager reserves the right to impose additional regulations in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, or if otherwise deemed appropriate by the City Manager.

These Guidelines cover requests for commercial use of City-owned property (including but not limited to streets, rights-of-way, parks, and/or public buildings), commercial use of private property which may affect adjacent public or private property, and the use of City equipment and personnel in all types of motion picture production, including, but not limited to, feature films, television programs, commercials, music videos and corporate films.

II. CITY CONTROL/CITY MANAGER AUTHORITY

The City Manager may authorize the use of any street, right-of-way, park, or public building, equipment or personnel for commercial uses in the filming or taping of movies, television programs, commercials, or training films and related activities. In conjunction with these uses, the City Manager may require that any or all of the conditions and/or remuneration herein and as specified on the application be met as a prerequisite to that use.

The Applicant agrees that the City of Huntsville shall have exclusive authority to grant the Applicant the use of public streets, rights-of-way, parks and public buildings of the City, as well as authority to regulate the hours of production and the general location of the production. The City reserves the full and absolute right to prohibit all filming or to order cessation of filming in order to promote the public health, safety or welfare.

The Applicant shall allow City departments (e.g., Police, Fire, Building) to inspect all structures, property, devices and equipment to be used in connection with the filming and taping, as deemed appropriate by the City Manager.

III. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Before filing an application for filming in Huntsville, the Office of the City Manager must be contacted to discuss the production's specific filming requirements and the feasibility of filming in Huntsville, TX.

Any commercial producer who desires to undertake a commercial production in Huntsville is required to complete and return the attached application for filming to the Office of the City Manager, within the time frames below:

- **Commercials or episodic television:** a minimum of two (2) business days prior to the commencement of filming or any substantial activity related to the project.
- **Feature films:** a minimum of five (5) business days prior to the commencement of filming or any substantial activity related to the project.

The Applicant acknowledges that Smoking is PROHIBITED in City parkland and agrees to comply with the smoking prohibition. Smoking by actors or models is authorized under this Agreement and the permit issued solely as required for the authorized filming or photography.

IV. APPLICATION FEE

An application processing fee of \$25.00 should accompany each application for filming in Huntsville.

The City Manager may waive this fee upon proof of an organization’s non-profit status or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the City Manager.

V. USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

The Applicant shall pay for all costs of any Police, Fire, Public Works, or other City personnel assigned to the project (whether or not specifically requested by the production). Remuneration rates for the use of any City equipment, including police cars and fire equipment, will be established on a case-by-case basis as determined by the City Manager. The Applicant shall pay all costs in full within ten (10) days after receipt of an invoice for said costs. The City Manager may, at his/her discretion, require an advance deposit for all costs related City personnel and/or the use of City equipment.

The City Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police and/or Fire Chief, shall have the authority to stipulate additional fire or police requirements and level of staffing for same, at any time during a film project if it is determined to be in the best interest of public health, safety and welfare, which cost shall be borne entirely by the Applicant.

Off-duty police officers and firefighters shall be paid by the production company at a rate no less than one and one-half times their hourly rate.

VI. USE OF CITY-OWNED REAL ESTATE

The City Manager may authorize the use of any street, right-of-way, park or public building, use of **Huntsville**, Texas name, trademark or logo and/or use of City equipment and/or personnel for commercial uses in motion picture production. In conjunction with these uses, the City Manager may require that any or all of the conditions and/or remuneration as specified herein and on the application be met as a prerequisite to that use. A security or damage deposit may be required within the discretion of the City Manager.

The City grants to Applicant permission to bring personnel and equipment onto the City’s properties for preparing, rehearsing, filming, and recording of scenes and sounds for the production.

The Applicant shall reimburse the City for inconveniences when using public property. Following is the rate schedule:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost per calendar day for a maximum of eight (8) hours/day</u>
Total or disruptive use (regular operating hours) of a City of Huntsville building, park, or public area that is not subject to set rental fees.	\$500 per day
Partial, non-disruptive use of a City of Huntsville building, or park facility	\$250 per day
Total closure or obstruction of public street or right-of-way, including parking lots and on-street parking. Applicants must submit an events permit request to the Huntsville Police Department	\$50 per block or per lot, per day

Partial closure or obstruction of public street or right-of-way, including parking lots and on-street parking	\$25 per block, per day
Use of City parking lots, parking areas, and City streets (for the purpose of parking film trailers, buses, catering trucks, and other large vehicles)	\$50 per block or lot, per day

The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the City of Huntsville, Texas, possesses and retains exclusive authority to grant the Applicant a revocable license for the use of its name, trademark, and logo, public streets, rights-of-way, parks and buildings of the City as well as control over the hours of production and the general location of the production. The City reserves the full and absolute right to prohibit all filming or to order cessation of filming activity in order to promote the public health, safety and/or welfare. The Applicant shall include a credit providing the following or similar statement: *“Thank you to the City of Huntsville for its generous support of this production. Filmed on location in Huntsville, Texas, USA.”* This requirement applies only if the production is a film or television program.

City acknowledges that City has no copyright interests in the film, video, photographs, or other product created by Applicant on the City Property under this Agreement. Applicant is solely responsible for:

- 1) obtaining any necessary approvals or permits to film or photograph individuals on the City Property, or to broadcast or publish images of individuals filmed or photographed on the City Property,
- 2) compliance with all intellectual property laws; and
- 3) for any claims or lawsuits that may arise from the film, video, photograph, or other product created under this Agreement

VII. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

The Applicant shall provide a report listing the number of vehicles and types of equipment to be used during the filming, including proposed hours of use and proposed parking locations. Such locations will need to be specifically approved by the City Manager. On-street parking or use of public parking lots is subject to City approval.

The use of exterior lighting, power generators, or any other noise- or light-producing equipment requires on-site approval of the City Manager.

VIII. HOURS OF FILMING

Unless express written permission has been obtained from the City Manager in advance, and affected property owners, tenants and residents have been notified, filming will be limited to the following hours:

- Monday through Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IX. NOTIFICATION OF NEIGHBORS

The Applicant shall provide a short written description, approved by the City Manager, of the schedule for the proposed production to the owners, tenants and residents of each property in the affected neighborhood(s). The Applicant, or his or her designee, shall make a good faith effort to notify each owner, tenant and resident of all such property, and shall submit, as part of this application, a report noting owners, tenants and/or residents’ comments, along with their signatures, addresses and phone numbers. Based

upon this community feedback, and other appropriate factors considered by the City Manager, the City Manager may grant or deny the filming application.

X. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

The Applicant shall attach a valid certificate of insurance, issued by a company authorized to conduct business in the state of Texas, naming the City of Huntsville and its agents, officers, elected officials, employees and assigns, as additional insured, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 general liability, including bodily injury and property damage with a \$5,000,000 umbrella; and automobile liability (if applicable) in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 including bodily injury and property damage.

XI. DAMAGE TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Applicant agrees to and shall pay in full, within ten (10) days of receipt of an invoice, the costs of repair for any and all damage to public or private property, resulting from or in connection with, the production, and restore the property to its original condition prior to the production, or to better than original condition. It is expressly agreed that the Public Works Director shall determine whether damage has occurred, the extent and amount of damage, and the cost of repairing the damages.

XII. HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

The Applicant shall sign the following Hold Harmless Agreement holding the City harmless from any claim that may arise from their use of designated public property, right-of-way, or equipment in conjunction with the permitted use:

I certify that I represent the firm which will be performing the filming/taping at the locations specified on the attached permit application. I further certify that I and my firm will perform in accordance with the directions and specifications of The City of Huntsville, Texas, and that I and my firm will indemnify and hold harmless the City of Huntsville, Texas and its elected officials, officers, servants, employees, successors, agents, departments and assigns from any and all losses, damages, expenses, costs and/or claims of every nature and kind arising out of or in connection with the filming/taping and other related activities engaged in pursuant to this Application.

I further certify that the information provided on this Application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I possess the authority to sign this and other contracts and agreements with the City of Huntsville, Texas on behalf of the firm.

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TX
Application for Commercial Filming

Title of project

Type of production (feature film, television production, commercial, corporate, music video, etc.)

Proposed Filming Locations (attach additional pages if necessary)

Date(s) of prep/filming

Primary Contact

Name

Cell phone

Email

Location Manager (if different from Primary Contact)

Name

Cell phone Email

Production Company Information

Name of Production Company

Address

City/State/Zip

Web Site

Primary Contact's Name

Primary Contact's Phone Primary

Contact's Email

Is this production already in contact with the Texas Film Commission? _____

If yes, who is your contact at the Texas Film Commission?

Name

Phone

Email

PRODUCTION (*Attach additional sheets if necessary.*)

1. Production schedule and activities, including stunts, pyrotechnics, special effects, aerial photography, amplified sound or use of animals: (Give dates and times and rain dates. Hours should include set-up, holding of sets and restoration.)

2. Approximate number of persons involved with the production, including cast and crew:

3. Anticipated need of City personnel, equipment or property:

4. Public areas in which public access will be restricted during production:

5. Describe alterations to public property:

6. Number and type of production vehicles to be used and location(s) where vehicles will be parked:

7. Location where crew will be fed, if not at filming location:

8. Location where extras will be held, if not at filming location:

9. Please attach map of anticipated street closure(s) or other public area use.

Applicant (production company representative):

_____ Date: _____ Name

Title

Application approved by Huntsville representative:

_____ Date: _____

The "Guidelines for Filming in Huntsville, Texas" apply to all motion picture production in Huntsville.

The Office of the City Manager may require the applicant to acknowledge receipt of the Guidelines prior to approving this application.