

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM8.35	ACTION			Ward: All
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Authorizing Interior Filming at the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the General Government and Licensing Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize a one-time exemption to the Security Measures at Water and Wastewater Facilities for Filming Policy to allow for interior filming at the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant, with specific filming locations, a schedule for filming, and security requirements subject to the approval of the General Manager, Toronto Water or designate; all other provisions of the Application for Filming at Water and Wastewater Facilities will remain applicable.

Summary

The film, television and digital media industry is a major economic driver for Toronto, and contributes to the vitality, prosperity and creativity of our City. In 2018, the industry achieved a production investment of \$2 billion, supporting 30,000 jobs.

City staff have been approached by a major production with a request to film at the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant in 2019. The production is the forthcoming feature film by Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro who has a long and impactful history producing in Toronto and will again generate significant production investment and positive media coverage for the City.

In 2003, City Council adopted a policy for Security Measures at Water and Wastewater Facilities for Filming, which prohibited filming in the interior of water treatment plants. In order to authorize the issuance of film permits for this project, a one-time exemption to this policy is required. The policy will remain in force and this exemption is only being contemplated in recognition of the considerable economic impact of the production in question.

Specific locations and times for filming at the plant will be subject to the approval of the General Manager, Toronto Water, or designate, to ensure that the productions do not interfere

with any operational or security requirements and to ensure protection of City property. Staff from Toronto Water and Economic Development and Culture will review the results of the exemption to determine if other filming requests from major productions could be accommodated at similar facilities in the future.

This one-time exemption also supports the strategic objectives of Spotlight on Toronto: A Strategic Action Plan for the Film, Television and Digital Media Industry, which was adopted unanimously by City Council in 2017. Spotlight encourages the City to accommodate location filming requests on City properties where appropriate to enhance customer service and help to promote Toronto as a film-friendly City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.35