

2.9 Determining the Costs for Filming/Calculating Parking Meter Fees

In order to remain competitive, City Council decided at the December, 2004 meeting on a new city initiative of a fixed exchange rate at 78¢ on all fees and charges assessed to the industry, by City of Toronto departments and ABC's. Council implement this policy to support the film industry and the fixed dollar rate applies to any service that a production company might incur when their filming involves the use of City of Toronto equipment or staff are required. For instance, should a production film in City Hall (which is a City owned property) overnight, and require a City of Toronto security officer, electrician and housekeeping staff, time will be charged to the production company at their normal rate of time and a half and the department involved will then invoice the production company showing the actual costs and show the charges at the pegged rate. The production company will pay the pegged rate. This pegged rate applies only to City charges

You may be considering filming that involves the use of City of Toronto-owned property or requires support from City services. Examples of typical uses include:

- Parking film vehicles on the street at metered parking spaces
- Filming in a City park
- Filming in a City building (civic centre, recreation centre, City-owned historic buildings)
- Filming involving City streets, sidewalks and traffic signals

Toronto City Council adopted a film-related cost recovery policy in 2000. The policy recognizes the City's fiscal realities while continuing to encourage and support Toronto's film industry. Departments, agencies, boards and commissions are compensated for direct costs incurred and/or established revenues lost as a result of filming. If City staff are needed to carry out specific tasks (e.g. security, electricians, labourers etc.) staff time is calculated at hourly wage rates plus an allowance for benefits. If overtime is involved, the wage rate is calculated at time and a half plus benefits. No charges will be included for general administration or overhead - the work associated with administering services is part of the City's commitment and service to the film industry.

Costs vary based on the type of facility being used, the areas of the City where you may be filming (e.g. parking rates vary across the City), and the type of staff necessary to support your needs. You should always contact the Toronto Film and Television Office first and they will work with the appropriate department or agency to develop an accurate cost estimate for you.

Use of Parking Meter Spaces

Production companies are required to pay for the use of all metered spaces used for parking production vehicles; the production company pays the same rate per hour as would a member of the public. Metered spaces are currently \$1.00, \$1.50 or \$2.00 per hour depending on the area of the City in which they are located and the time of day you may be parking. An example is shown below that will help you determine the costs:

Parking Example:

If you required 12 parking spots from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. the charge is:

7 a.m. – 9 a.m.: no charge
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.: \$1.50 per hour X 9 hours X 12 spots = \$162.00
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.: \$1.00 per hour X 3 hours X 12 spots = \$36.00
9 p.m. – 11 p.m.: no charge
Total cost: \$198.00

Parking rates in off-street parking lots operated by the Toronto Parking Authority vary across the City.