



September 9, 2014

Council File 14-0471

Honorable City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 14-0471, regarding the proposed expansion of filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

On April 11, 2014, the City Council instructed the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to work with FilmLA to report on the possibility of expanding filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles. *See Motion.* The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council opposes expansion of filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles because expansion will likely negatively impact the quality of life of residents and increase tensions between members of the Downtown community and production companies.

It has come to our attention that certain production companies have disregarded their own “Code of Professional Responsibility” and as a result, have created a hostile environment with members of the Downtown community. Some examples of the blatant disregard of the Code of Professional Responsibility include intimidation by cast or crew (including the use of lewd or offensive language); threats to have parked vehicles towed from parking spaces where no production parking restrictions were placed; use of evasive lighting without any prior notice; and blockage of driveways or other entry points thereby preventing reasonable access to resident’s homes. In one specific example, on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, a location manager who identified himself as Monte Mars threatened to tow a vehicle that was legally parked on the 900 block of Grand Avenue. A posted sign clearly stated that parking restrictions were in place for a different day – “Friday Only.” Yet, despite of the fact that the noticed date (shown in the annotated photo below) was for a different day of the week, the location manager continuously threatened to have the subject vehicle towed.



This type of conduct is a major contributor to the rising tension between members of the Downtown community and production companies. Without an effective system in place to curb this type of unacceptable conduct and protect residents and businesses from abusive production companies, expansion of filming hours Downtown will surely result in more negative experiences.

In addition, we have received reports from certain business operators that monies paid by production companies often go to the landlord of a building, and not to a particular business operator who may have access to their business impeded by filming. As a result, compensation for filming does not necessarily flow to those most affected. To the extent expansion of filming hours further harms these business owners, we further oppose efforts to expand filming hours.

Accordingly, until the concerns outlined above are adequately addressed, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council vehemently opposes any effort expand filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles. In addition, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council respectfully requests that it be consulted before any decision is made regarding the expansion of filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles to allow it an opportunity to provide additional input from the community regarding this issue.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on September 9, 2014, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of \_\_\_ yes, \_\_\_ no, \_\_\_ abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

**Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to maintain the current limits on filming hours in Downtown Los Angeles.”**

Council File 14-0471  
September 9, 2014  
Page 3

Sincerely,