

**For Immediate Release**

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## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 19 RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FILM IN LOS ANGELES

**Los Angeles, CA** – Today, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a report from the Jobs and Business Development Committee that included nineteen recommendations (eighteen original recommendations and one additional recommendation made as a friendly amending motion) aimed at making it easier to shoot films, television shows and commercials in Los Angeles.

“With today’s vote, the Los Angeles City Council made a strong statement to the film industry that we want to keep filming in the City and we will work with all interested parties to find ways to retain and bring back film, television and commercial production,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “There is no single issue that keeps companies from filming in Los Angeles – instead, it is a death by a thousand cuts, each cut being a policy or practice that makes it harder to film in our City. I’m committed to help stop bleeding and start finding solutions to the specific challenges the industry faces in Los Angeles.”

The eighteen original recommendations approved today (*list attached*) include looking at opportunities to provide tax incentives and tax breaks for productions that shoot in Los Angeles, opening up City of LA and Department of Water and Power property for parking and base camp locations, working with the DWP to create utility nodes in Downtown, creating a list of the “Top 10 Hardest to Film Locations” and working to make it easier to film in these locations and expanding the scope of Film LA, Inc. to include a marketing aspect so that members of the community better understand the positive impact film production has on the local economy.

Councilmember Reyes also offered a friendly amendment to have the City of Los Angeles work with the Los Angeles delegation of State Senators and Assembly members to create a strategic plan to keep film production in Los Angeles and Council President Garcetti amended existing recommendations in the report to include creating a “Filmed in LA” logo and to review New York City’s tax incentives.

Councilmember Alarcón, chair of the Jobs and Business Development Committee, which oversees issues of filming, held a special hearing on film issues on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, focused on the economic impact of film, television and commercial production in Los Angeles and strategies to retain and attract production. This hearing included testimony from Paul Audley, economist Jack Kyser, the President of Film LA, Inc. and representatives from the Screen Actors Guild, the Motion Picture Association of America, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Television and the Association of Independent Commercial Producers. At this meeting, Councilmember Alarcón made the recommendations to and moved forward the report heard today.

Several of the recommendations approved by the Council today stem from a report released by the Chief Legislative Analyst, “*Ugly Betty and Film Production Flight*,” which outlined seven recommendations on how to improve conditions for filming in the City. Other recommendations voted on today were based on testimony from film industry representatives and ideas from Councilmember Alarcón, based on the needs of the industry. The recommendations approved today have specific timelines for implementation and Councilmember Alarcón will be focused on creating concrete and measurable results based on today’s action.