



MUNICIPALITY ^{of} PRINCETON

Office of the Municipal Clerk

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Council of the Municipality of Princeton
From: Dawn M. Mount, Municipal Clerk
Subject: Amendments to Ordinance #2026-10- "Filming"
Date: February 17, 2026

On February 9, 2026, Ordinance #2026-10, entitled "An Ordinance of the Municipality of Princeton Amending "The Code of the Borough of Princeton, New Jersey, 1974" to Add thereto a New Chapter Entitled "Filming" was introduced. The proposed establishes permitting and other requirements for the filming of motion pictures and television shows in Princeton.

After introduction, the ordinance was forwarded to Film Ready NJ for their review and compliance with the certification process to become a "film ready" municipality. Film Ready NJ is a five-step certification and marketing program by the NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission that prepares municipalities to attract, support, and facilitate film and television productions. It standardizes permitting, educates local leaders on industry needs, and connects filmmakers with trained local liaisons to boost local economies in New Jersey. Upon review of our ordinance, Film Ready NJ made several corrections to our proposed ordinance that did not conform with the "film ready" designation. They suggested making the following corrections, **denoted in red**, to help us achieve the compliance needed to earn the "film ready" certification:

- **B23-3. Issuance of permits.**

(a) No permits will be issued by the Municipal Clerk unless applied for at least four **(instead of 5)** or more business days prior to the requested shooting date; provided, however, that the Administrator may waive this period if, in his or her judgment, the applicant has obtained all related approvals and adjacent property owners or tenants do not need to be notified.

- The hiring of an off-duty police officer for the times indicated on the permit, **according to agreed upon public safety plan**

- **B23-5. Filming in residential zones.**

Filming in residential zones shall be permitted Monday through **Sunday (instead of Friday)** between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. **(camera wrap) and 10:00 pm (crew wrap)** (removed: *and Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.*). **Night filming restrictions shall only apply to Project with exterior filming.** The setup, production and breakdown required by all filming shall be included in the hours as set forth herein.

- **B23-7. Refusal to issue permit; employment of patrolmen and electrician.**

(b) The **Chief of Police** (instead of: *municipality*) reserves the right to require one or more on-site patrolmen in situations where the proposed production may impede the proper flow of

traffic **and according to agreed upon public safety plan**. The cost of said patrolman to be borne by the

- **B23-12. Special regulations for major motion pictures.**

This entire section is omitted.

- **B23-12. Fees.**

CATEGORY	FEE
Basic filming permit (4 (instead of 5) or more days advance notice of the first day of filming)	\$100 (one-time charge) + daily rates set forth below
Expedited basic filming permit (3 (instead of 4) or fewer days advance notice of the first day of filming)	\$250 (one-time charge) + daily rates set forth below
Basic filming permit for nonprofits, including student films	\$25 (one-time charge); no daily rate required
Additional charges	
<i>Daily filming on public property</i>	\$500 per day
<i>Daily filming on private property</i>	No charge by the municipality
Daily filming on public property: Film and television projects with a budget under \$20mm	\$150
Film and television projects with a budget over \$20mm	\$500
<i>Hiring of off-duty police and fire inspections, according to agreed-upon public safety plan</i>	Princeton's standard hourly rates for police and fire
<i>Use of Department of Public Works personnel</i>	Current salaried rate (instead of \$100 per hour for each person used)
<i>Street closures</i>	\$1,000 for the first block; \$500 for each additional street that must be closed if it extends through an intersection with another street. Not to exceed \$5,000

	per day
<i>Properties in background - or used - in shot</i>	Fee to be negotiated between the production company and the private business or residence
<i>Daily prep of business that is being "dressed"</i>	Fee to be negotiated between the production company and the private business
<i>Daily filming of business that is "dressed"</i>	Fee to be negotiated between the production company and the private business
<i>Parking fees</i>	Same rates that are charged to the public

If the above noted changes meet with your approval, please approve the amendments to the ordinance and carry the public hearing and adoption to the March 9, 2026 regular meeting.