To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

January 27, 2026

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATIONS FOR FILMING AND STREET CLOSURES

This Informal Report provides an overview of the film permit process in Fort Worth and outlines new steps the City is taking to improve communication with residents and businesses regarding filming activities that require street closures or otherwise impact the community.

Overview of the Fort Worth Film Commission

Established in 2015, the Fort Worth Film Commission supports the local film industry by connecting filmmakers with resources, locations, and local talent. Key services include:

- Film Location Services: Assistance identifying and securing suitable filming locations.
- Production Support: Guidance on permits, insurance, and logistical needs.
- Resource Directory: A listing of local industry professionals and support services.

More information on popular filming locations is available at www.fortworth.com/film/locations.

Filming Permits Within City Limits

Permit and insurance requirements vary by location. When any portion of a City street or sidewalk within the public right-of-way will be restricted or closed, a Street Use Permit from the Transportation & Public Works (TPW) Right-of-Way team is required. Applicants must follow the Special Events Street Use Policy & Process and submit:

- Synopsis of the filming project
- Event site plan
- Traffic control plan
- Street Use Permit fee of $250

Eligibility Criteria

Temporary street closures may be approved when:

- The closure does not interfere with necessary traffic circulation or emergency routes.
- The closure is determined to be in the public interest.
- Interstate highways or frontage roads are not involved without TxDOT approval.

Additional Requirements

Applicants must also provide:

- On-site Fort Worth Police Officers, if required
- Staffed barricades (18 years or older)
- Certificate of Insurance naming the City as additional insured for $1,000,000
- Signed Special Events Agreement
- Restroom plan for cast and crew
- Notification letter to all affected businesses and residents

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Event Holder Notification Requirements

The event holder must provide written notification (English and Spanish when appropriate) to all residential, nonprofit, and commercial properties within a one-block radius of the closure. Notices must include:

- Event dates
- Schedule of activities
- Times and locations of street restrictions

Event holders are responsible for addressing questions or concerns from affected stakeholders before a permit is issued.

Notification Best Practices

City staff reviewed filming permit and notification practices in Austin, Nashville, Atlanta, Los Angeles, New York City, Dallas, Houston, and Charlotte and found the following similarities and difference:

Similarities: Across all cities, the main similarity is that filming activities that impact public property or the public right-of-way (streets/sidewalks), especially involving traffic control or street closures, generally require a permit and coordination with city departments.

Differences: The biggest differences are in how residents are notified and the formality of the requirements.

- Austin relies on direct door-hanger notification for nearby properties
- Nashville has some of the strongest resident protections with required community notice and signature thresholds for closures
- Los Angeles (FilmLA) uses a centralized professional notification service
- Atlanta emphasizes clear closure timelines tied to emergency and stakeholder coordination
- NYC leans more toward official notice through community boards and government channels
- Dallas supports communication with standardized city templates
- Charlotte stands out for offering opt-in “Notify Me” alerts
- Houston focuses more on registration, insurance and police coordination for traffic impacts, with less centralized resident notification

The attached chart provides additional information for the cities researched.

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New City-Led Neighborhood Notifications
To enhance transparency and ensure consistent communication, the City will begin sending notifications to all registered neighborhood organizations within a one-mile radius of upcoming filming-related street closures. The Community Engagement team will distribute this information and post updates on Nextdoor. This is similar to the current notifications issued for zoning cases, West Nile positive testing and prescribed fires. This new notification plan will ensure that residents receive up-to-date information for closures in and around their neighborhoods.

Staff will also evaluate options for adding Special Event closures to postings of City Street Closures related to construction. A future update will outline the recommended approach and implementation timeline.

For any questions, please contact Lauren Prieur, Transportation and Public Works Director, at Lauren.Prieur@fortworthtexas.gov or Michelle Gutt, Community Services Manager, at Michelle.Gutt@fortworthtexas.gov.

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City Manager

Filming Permits + Resident Notification / Street Closure Requirements (Combined Chart)

City	Who issues / manages film permits?	What triggers permit?	Street/ROW closure process	Notification method	Lead time	Radius / who must be notified	Signatures required?	City-run alerts?
Austin, TX	City of Austin (ROW permitting + Austin Film Commission guidance)	Filming on ROW/public property; closures; blocking sidewalks	ROW permit for impacts to streets/sidewalks	**Door-hanger notification** for proposed ROW film permits adjacent to property	Not fixed in the form; required during permit process	Adjacent / impacted property owners & residents	Not specified	Not specified; production signage often used
Nashville, TN	Metro Nashville Office of Film & Special Events / Metro permitting	Filming/events requiring Metro coordination; parks have separate permits	Temporary street closure permit process	**Required community notification**; copy must be submitted with permit	**2 weeks prior** (temporary street closures)	Affected residents within closure footprint	**Yes – 66%** of affected residents (temporary street closures)	Not specified
Atlanta, GA	Mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment + ATL DOT	Public property filming; barricades; stunts; lane/street/sidewalk closures	Full closure permit with advance submission timelines	Permit-driven notice to affected stakeholders	**96 business hours** minimum for full closures	Includes affected property owners + emergency services coordination	Only in special/sensitive situations (not universal)	Not specified

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Los Angeles, CA (FilmLA)	FilmLA (multiple LA jurisdictions)	Public property filming + high-impact activities	Central closure permitting via FilmLA	**Notice of Filming** distribution via FilmLA (in-person + email)	Varies by permit type (not specified on summary page)	Defined area around filming site	Not specified	Notification service is the primary alert tool
New York City, NY	NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME)	Filming on city property/ROW	Managed through permit system + city agencies	Official notice to **community boards/official channels**	Not specified	Notice goes to community board district manager + officials	No	Via official district/community channels
Dallas, TX	City of Dallas Office of Special Events (Commercial Filming)	Filming on public property; lane/street/sidewalk impacts	Closures treated as permit triggers	Uses **official notification templates** (incl. street closure template)	Not specified	Impact area defined by city process/template	Not specified	Not specified

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Houston, TX	Houston Film Commission + city agencies (HPD / events / parks)	Public property filming; traffic control/lane blocking triggers city staffing	If traffic impacted → **police officers required** for traffic control per film guidance	Not centralized in film FAQ; agency/permit coordination driven	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified
Charlotte, NC	Charlotte ROW Use + Charlotte Regional Film Commission	Filming; street/sidewalk closures require ROW permit	Closure requires detour plan & emergency coordination	Permit process includes closure postings/communications	Not specified	Not specified		