

1 [Establishing the Film Rebate Program.]

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3 **Ordinance amending section 57.1 to make technical amendments; section 57.4 to**  
4 **designate the Executive Director of the San Francisco Film Commission as the sole**  
5 **liaison between film companies and City departments; section 57.7 to clarify the**  
6 **application of Chapter 57 to certain City departments; and adding section 57.8 to**  
7 **establish a Film Rebate Program to rebate qualified production costs for qualified film**  
8 **productions.**

9 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
10 deletions are ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman*~~.  
11 Board amendment additions are double underlined.  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

12 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

13 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by amending  
14 Sections 57.1 and 57.4, to read as follows:

15 **SEC. 57.1. DEFINITIONS.**

16 (a) "City" means the City and County of San Francisco.

17 ~~(b)(e)~~ "*Commission*" means *the Film Commission of the City and County of San Francisco*;

18 ~~(c)(b)~~ "Film" means feature motion pictures, video tapes, television programs,  
19 commercials, still photography, documentaries, travelogues, music videos and other visual art  
20 forms; provided however, that "film" shall not mean films or video tapes for private-family use  
21 or films by any news service or similar entity engaged in on-the-spot broadcasting of news  
22 events.

23 ~~(d)(e)~~ "Film company" means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership, or other  
24 organization however organized engaged in film production.

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1           ~~(e)(d)~~ “Film production” means the activity of making a film for commercial or  
2 noncommercial property where that activity (1) requires the use of City employees or  
3 equipment or (2) interferes with the ordinary use, safety and enjoyment of public right-of-ways  
4 or other property under the jurisdiction of the City.

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6           **SEC. 57.4. AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

7           In addition to any other authority vested in or duty charged to him or her, the Executive  
8 Director shall serve as the sole liaison between film companies and the various City  
9 departments. In performing the duties of liaison, the Executive Director shall assist film  
10 companies in locating suitable locations and shall coordinate the efforts of the various City  
11 departments in connection with film production utilizing City property or employees. The  
12 Executive Director shall also be responsible for coordinating any film permits required by the  
13 City for film productions.

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15           **SEC. 57.7. EXCEPTIONS.**

16           ~~Sections 57.5 and 57.6 of this~~ ~~This~~ Chapter shall not apply to film production occurring in  
17 the buildings or on the grounds of the San Francisco War Memorial Performing Arts Center,  
18 the Fine Arts Museums, the Asian Art Museum, the San Francisco Convention Facilities, the  
19 San Francisco Port Commission, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission, or where  
20 inconsistent with State law, the Charter or contractual agreements.

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22           Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
23 Section 57.8, to read as follows:

1           **SEC. 57.8. FILM REBATE PROGRAM**

2           (a) Purpose. The purpose of the Film Rebate Program is to increase the number of  
3 qualified film productions being made in San Francisco, increase the number of City residents  
4 employed in the filmmaking industry, and encourage the resulting economic benefits to increased  
5 filmmaking in San Francisco.

6           (b) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following  
7 meanings:

8           (1) "Principal photography" means the time period and phase of film production during  
9 which the main photography occurs.

10           (2) "Qualified low-budget film production" means a feature-length film, television film,  
11 television pilot, or each episode of a television series, regardless of the medium used to create or  
12 convey it, that is: (i) produced by a film company that expends at least 55 percent of the total principal  
13 photography days exclusively in the City and (ii) has a total budget of no more than \$3,000,000.

14 "Qualified low-budget film production" shall not include: (i) a documentary film, news or current  
15 affairs program, interview or talk program, instructional film or program, film or program consisting  
16 primarily of stock footage, sporting event or sporting program, game show, award ceremony, film or  
17 program intended primarily for industrial, corporate or institutional end-users, fundraising film or  
18 program, commercials, music videos, or "reality" program; or (ii) a production for which records are  
19 required under Title 18 United States Code section 2257, to be maintained with respect to any  
20 performer in such production.

21           (3) "Qualified film production" means a feature-length film, television film, television pilot,  
22 or each episode of a television series, regardless of the medium used to create or convey it, that is  
23 created by a film company that expends at least 65 percent of the total principal photography days  
24 exclusively in the City. "Qualified film production" shall not include: (i) a documentary film, news or  
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1 current affairs program, interview or talk program, instructional film or program, film or program  
2 consisting primarily of stock footage, sporting event or sporting program, game show, award  
3 ceremony, film or program intended primarily for industrial, corporate or institutional end-users,  
4 fundraising film or program, commercials, music videos, or "reality" program; or (ii) a production for  
5 which records are required under Title 18 United States Code section 2257, to be maintained with  
6 respect to any performer in such production.

7 (2) "Qualified production cost," means the following expenses of a qualified low-budget film  
8 production or a qualified film production:

9 (A) Any fees or taxes paid to the City, or any of its constituent departments, the proceeds of  
10 which are placed in the general fund;

11 (B) Any moneys paid to the City, or any of its constituent departments, for the use of City  
12 property, equipment, or employees, including, but not limited to additional police services as described  
13 in Chapter 10B of this Administrative Code; and

14 (C) Any daily use fees charged by the Film Commission, pursuant to Section 57.5 of the  
15 Administrative Code, to engage in film production in the City.

16 (c) **Rebate Program.**

17 (1) Allowance of Rebate. A qualified low-budget film production or qualified film  
18 production that pays qualified production costs shall be entitled to a rebate, to be calculated as  
19 provided herein.

20 (2) Amount of Rebate. The City shall pay, from the general fund, one dollar for each dollar  
21 the qualified low budget film production or qualified film production paid in qualified production costs.

22 (3) Implementation. After holding a public hearing, the Controller shall promulgate rules  
23 and regulations to establish the procedures for implementation of the Film Rebate Program. Such  
24 rules shall include provisions describing the application process, the standards used to evaluate the  
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1 applications, the documentation that will be required to substantiate the amount of the rebate, the  
2 appeal process, and any such other provisions as deemed necessary and appropriate to carry out the  
3 Film Rebate Program.

4 (d) **Annual Report.** The Controller shall report annually to the Board of Supervisors on the  
5 implementation of the Film Rebate Program. The report shall include a list of each qualified film  
6 production, the total of qualified production costs submitted and paid to each film production, and a  
7 recommended budget allocation for the Film Rebate Program for the following fiscal year.

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9 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
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11 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Amy S. Ackerman  
13 Deputy City Attorney

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