

Town of Mount Pleasant Filming Policy

Introduction

The Town of Mount Pleasant is pleased to welcome filming and production companies to our community. The guidelines below are intended to foster an environment where economic opportunities can thrive alongside the high quality of life enjoyed by Mount Pleasant residents and businesses.

Permitting

A Special Event Permit is required for all filming and commercial photography in the Town of Mount Pleasant.

A special event permit application is required for any filming activity taking place within the Town of Mount Pleasant town limits, whether on public or private property.

A complete listing of all anticipated locations with dates and times must be submitted with the permit application, as the Town may know of possible conflicts with Town services, local events and festivals, or other filming activities.

Permitting Conditions

Low Impact Filming

In general, low impact filming is defined as any filming activity which has a minimal impact on a neighborhood or surrounding area.

- Filming that will not disturb residents, businesses, visitors, or wildlife
- Limited disruption of traffic or pedestrian activity with either intermittent or no traffic control required
- Filming and set work limited to 6am to 7pm Monday - Thursday and 6am to 9pm Friday and Saturday
- Limited crew and vehicles
- No special effects (fire, smoke, amplified sounds)
- Limited light and noise, including generators

High Impact Filming

High impact filming activities may be defined as those which involve extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, extended hours, special effects, period shots, extensive set dressing, extensive nighttime lighting, loud noises, street closures, and larger than average base camps.

High Impact Filming includes *any* film activities that:

- Involve impactful intermittent traffic control or pedestrian control on any sidewalk, road, park, or other public area
- Street closures
- Filming that occurs after 7pm Monday- Thursday and after 9pm on Friday or Saturday
- Excessive lighting and noise that impacts adjacent properties
- Large crews and number of vehicles
- Filming that includes special effects including smoke, loud sounds, or any other disturbances

Filming in residential areas

The Town has certain expectations regarding the presence of film companies in our residential neighborhoods and in public areas adjacent to residential areas. Film companies should always remember that they are guests whose continued presence in these neighborhoods relies solely on the goodwill of the affected residents, and act accordingly. Filming in residential neighborhoods and neighboring public areas may be defined as either low impact or high impact.

Notification Requirements

Low impact filming in residential neighborhoods may happen in accordance with the conditions outlined on the permit and described below. Affected residents within a one-block radius minimum (including equipment trucks and base camp) must be notified by letter no less than three working days in advance. Notification shall include a cover letter from the production company, which should provide information concerning the location and duration of the filming activity in question, as well as specifics regarding lights, noise, traffic, and parking, where applicable, and contact phone numbers. Maps and other pertinent information may be included as well. Signatures are not required for low impact notification.

Notification requirements for high impact filming shall be determined in consultation with Town staff. Signatures from residents are due to Town staff before a permit will be approved. A wider radius of notification may also be required if the nighttime shot involves loud noises, special effects, or more extensive lighting than usual.

The Town of Mount Pleasant shall be advised by the Location Manager of any homes where residents are unreachable.

Additional guidelines are as follows:

- A. All equipment or support vehicles not in immediate use shall be parked so as not to cause any interference to pedestrians or vehicular traffic and generally shall not be parked along the roadway. Exceptions may be made for "period" scenes but will require the cooperation of the affected residents. For larger sets, the utilization of offsite parking and a shuttle service is encouraged and may be required.
- B. Lighting for filming, both during the day and at night, should be oriented away from neighboring residences or residential areas wherever possible.
- C. Production companies are responsible for vacating locations used with a minimum amount of noise and disruption at the end of each shooting day. Exceptions may be made for "period" shots or shots that are more than one day in duration.
- D. Production companies blocking or holding traffic on streets scheduled for trash/recycling pickup must allow trucks to access those areas for normal pickup.
- E. Production companies are responsible for returning any public rights of way used for filming, base camp, or equipment purposes to their original condition in a timely manner, and for repairing damage to foliage, grass, or public property.
- F. Wherever possible, base camps and dressing room trailers shall be parked away from neighboring residences, and/or take steps to control noise in the early morning before 8 A.M. and after 6 P.M.
- G. Where base camps are in residential areas, signatures of nearby residents will be required.
- H. Any filming activity involving holding, delaying, or re-routing of traffic must be accompanied by at least one police officer. The Town reserves the right to require the presence of a police officer at any filming activity taking place at public parks, or utilizing public property and/or rights of way

for base camps.

- I. In the case where filming is located within the Historic District and the design set requires modifications to the exterior to any buildings or landscaping, all details of the buildings and landscaping must be returned to their original form in accordance with the Historic District requirements.
- J. No film activity involving the use of explosives, pyrotechnics, fire, smoke-making machines or other special effects of this kind, may be undertaken unless specifically approved by permit from the Mount Pleasant Fire Department.

Fees

A special event permit is required for each filming location and each day of filming, however, filming at the same location for consecutive days may be approved through a single permit and fee payment. A special event permit is also required for any base camps.

- Low Impact filming= \$100/ permit
- High Impact Filming= \$250/ permit
- Base camp special event permit if different from the filming location= \$50
- Use of Town property (subject to availability and conditions as may apply)
 - Low impact, including use of Town property for a base camp: (park or facility must remain open to the public, have a small cast and crew, and a short timeframe for filming)= \$100/ day
 - High Impact: (typically has an extended timeframe, potential closure or limited access for the public, extensive use of the entire property)= \$500/ day
 - Closure of Town parks or facilities to the public for the purpose of filming is strongly discouraged and generally not allowed. Closure may be considered in unique circumstances for limited timeframes subject to applicable fees and any conditions as determined appropriate.
 - A Certificate of Insurance is required for high impact filming on Town property or in Town facilities.
- Use of Alhambra Hall for filming, base camp, or catering= subject to the Alhambra Hall Fee Schedule
- Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park event fees do not apply to filming; only special event permit fees are required for filming
- Police or Firefighters: current hourly off duty rates apply

II. Reservation of Rights

- A. The Town reserves the right to change, modify, update, or waive provisions of these guidelines where necessary for the public's safety and convenience.
- B. The Town reserves the rights to cancel filming permits and/or take further restrictive actions where necessary to assure adherence to these guidelines.
- C. The Town reserves the right to deny any permit request if it determined that there will be a significant negative impact to the surrounding area.
- D. Failure to comply with procedures and guidelines may result in loss of privileges, revocation of permit, or future prohibition of filming.