



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Corporate Report

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**Report from** Economic Development and Customer Service, Economic Development and Tourism

**Date of Report:** August 7, 2013

**Date of Meeting:** August 12, 2012

**Report Number:** EDCS-247-2013

**File:** 56.2.3, 10.13.5

**Subject:** Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd.,  
Request for Use of City Laneway for Filming Purposes and for Exemption to  
Noise By-law 95-198

### Recommendation

That Council delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services to temporarily close portions of St. Paul Street and the stairway and path of 132 St. Paul Street and the lane behind 88 - 142 St. Paul Street, to permit location filming by Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., on dates between August 15 and August 27, 2013, to be confirmed prior to filming; and

That this permission for location filming be conditional upon Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., entering into an agreement providing for appropriate fees, insurance and indemnification, and such other terms and conditions acceptable to the City Solicitor, to permit the use of City highways and lands, prior to the commencement of filming; and

That Council approve the request from Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., for an exemption from Noise By-law 95-198 (A By-law to Regulate and Prohibit Noise), for the purposes of filming on dates and times to be confirmed; and

That Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., inform the surrounding neighbourhood and businesses of the filming; and

That the Clerk be directed to make the necessary notifications; and

Further, that the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary agreement and by-law. FORTHWITH

### Report

City staff was approached on August 6, 2013, by Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd. (the proponent), requesting permission to film on the stairway at 132 St. Paul Street that leads to the lane way behind 88 - 142 St. Paul

Street. The proponent is intending to film for one day between the dates of August 15 and August 27, 2013, from approximately 2 pm to 5 am. Due to the scheduled times of filming, a noise by-law exemption will be required for the dates and times provided by the proponent on nights that filming will occur.

The goal is to dress the area to look like Mumbai, India and various pieces of set dressing may be brought in. The proponent has advised that all fire and emergency lanes will be maintained at all times. The scene includes a vehicle that drives out of the shot, down the lane way with some simulated gunfire. Due to the use of simulated gunfire, Niagara Regional Police Services (NRPS) must and will be informed of the activities taking place throughout the filming process. The proponent has indicated that they have been in contact with the NRPS and is making the necessary arrangements to satisfy their concerns.

Subject to the approval of the City, the production may require the use of lighting cranes to illuminate the area. The proponent will also have light stands and cameras positioned in the laneway and on private property of the adjacent building owners.

A site visit with City staff was conducted on August 7, 2013, and the film representative provided assurances that all affected building owners and businesses, as well as construction crews behind the buildings have been informed. Area businesses are supportive of the filming and are currently awaiting further details regarding equipment placements, set dressings and filming date and time.

### **Financial Implications**

A fee of \$530 + HST per day pursuant to the City's 2013 Schedule of Rates and Fees is to be received as revenue.

Nikita Films Inc. will be responsible for compensating the City for all lost revenue at the parking meters. This will be invoiced at a rate of \$22.50 per meter per day.

In the case of large productions, the municipality may require staff to be present during filming to liaise with the filming personnel and assist with emergency requests. The fee for municipal staff of \$300 per day is to be paid by the proponent should it be necessary.

If road closures are required, a traffic control plan must be submitted and approved by the City. The applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with traffic control. At this time, minimal road closures may be required for the parking of large production vehicles. A fee of \$250 will be required for the application and removal of City barriers in the laneway where filming will occur and an additional fee for any other closures requiring City staff.

Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., will be posting the necessary securities to cover potential damage to the laneway and spaces and to ensure reinstatement to the City's satisfaction. The necessary insurance coverage

naming the City of St. Catharines as additional insured will be provided to the City Solicitor, and Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., will be required to pay all actual costs incurred by the City for reinstatement of all properties. All necessary indemnifications will be provided upon entering into an agreement with the proponent.

### **Conclusion**

Given the Economic Impact of the industry on the local and provincial economy, staff is of the opinion that the request from Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd., should be approved as it will have minimal disruption on local residents while providing an opportunity to further develop relationships with the filming industry that may lead to future filming requests within the municipality.

### **Notification**

It is in order to notify Nikita Films, A Division of Hannah-Rachel Production Services Ltd.

### **Prepared by:**

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### **Submitted and Approved by:**

Dave Oakes