

**Citizens Union • League of Women Voters NYC • NYPIRG  
Reinvent Albany • BetaNYC • Common Cause NY**

Cynthia López  
Commissioner  
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment  
One Centre Street, 27th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

April 13, 2015

RE: Support for online notification of Film Shoot Announcements and production information.

Dear Commissioner López,

The New York City Transparency Working Group (NYC TWG) works with both city and state officials and agencies to promote the use of everyday technology to make government more transparent and accountable.

We write today to ask you to:

1. Publish film shoot announcements on the MOME website;
2. Publish all pending film shoots to the NYC open data portal with suggested data; and
3. Post relevant permits and signs in a visible location at film shoot sites that direct the public to the websites where they can find the above information.

The NYC Open Data law, Local Law 11 of 2012, calls for “making city data available online using open standards to make the operation of city government more transparent, effective and accountable to the public.”

At a January 21, 2015 New York City Council Technology Committee Hearing on Intro 84, a bill that would require monthly reports on the film industry in NYC, the line of people waiting to testify was out the door. By far the biggest request of the people who testified was to have more advance information about shoots taking place in their neighborhood. Posting the data online and on the open data portal would go a long way toward solving this issue.

Film shoot dates, times, and other necessary information should be published online as soon as it is formalized by MOME. We recommend the following data be published:

- Permit number
- Name of production company
- Name of production/phone number of production
- Type of activity
- Duration (i.e., times, dates and number of days, including prep and strike)
- Company contact (location manager, unit production manager), including name and cell phone number
- Location affected
- Community board
- Police precinct

We ask that you post this information for three reasons. First, it's the best way to ensure that the information reaches city residents quickly and accurately. City Council members do not have the resources to effectively and reliably disseminate film shoot information to their constituents, and there is no reason that they have to serve as intermediaries when MOME can share information centrally.

Second, one of the advantages of posting the data on the NYC open data portal is that it can be used by developers to create useful and timely smart phone and mobile apps that can reach a much broader public.

Third, it is easy for MOME to put data on the open data portal. NYC DOITT has a team of open data experts available to help agencies publish their data and they are particularly interested in publishing data that the public has shown a strong interest in.

Thank you for your consideration, we hope to see film shoot schedules published as open data very soon.

Thank you,

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