



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
COMMISSIONER'S DIRECTIVE NO. 2
CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS
March 20, 2020**

WHEREAS, there is currently an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), that continues to expand with a growing number of international locations, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services announced a nationwide public health emergency to respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, the first ever pandemic caused by a coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been detected in thousands of people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread throughout New York City impacts the lives and health of the public, and public health is imperiled by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Mayor Bill de Blasio issued Emergency Executive Order No. 98, declaring a state of emergency in New York City and authorizing all agency heads to “take all appropriate and necessary steps to preserve public safety and the health of their employees, and to render all required and available assistance to protect the security, well-being and health of the residents of the City”; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, to minimize the risk of person-to-person spread, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.3 that, among other things, required any large gathering or event to be cancelled or postponed if more than fifty persons are expected in attendance; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.6 that, among other things, requires each non-governmental employer to “reduce the in-person workforce at any work locations by 50% no later than March 20 at 8:00 p.m.” until April 17, 2020, unless such non-governmental employer is an “essential business or entity” listed in such Order or determined to be essential by the Empire State Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.7 that, among other things, further reduces the in-person workforce at any work locations by 75% no later than March 21, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. and until April 17, 2020, except for non-governmental essential businesses and entities, as described above; and

WHEREAS, news media is an “essential business or entity,” pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.6, but other types of media and entertainment businesses and entities have not been deemed “essential” under Executive Orders 202.6 and 202.7 or by a determination of the Empire State Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (“MOME”), Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting (“OFTB”) issues permits for film activity on public property pursuant to New York City Charter section 1301(1)(r) and 43 RCNY Chapter 9 (“Film Permits”); and

WHEREAS, activity authorized by a Film Permit often involves close proximity of cast and crew members to each other and to residences, businesses, and other members of the public, and many neighborhoods in New York City that are used for film shoots have high population density; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, I issued a Commissioner’s Directive (“Commissioner’s Directive No. 1”) limiting the total combined number of cast and crew members covered by a Film Permit to no more than 50 persons during the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to modify the Commissioner’s Directive No. 1 to suspend Film Permits for activity on public property, with an exception for Film Permits issued to the news media;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby directed:

Section 1. Sections 1 and 2 of the Commissioner’s Directive No. 1 are repealed.

Section 2. Film Permits issued by OFTB prior to March 21, 2020, in connection with activity occurring on or after March 21 through April 17, 2020, are hereby suspended.

Section 3. Until April 17, 2020, OFTB shall deny all Film Permit applications.

Section 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this Commissioner’s Directive No. 2 shall not apply to Film Permits issued to the news media.

Section 5. The terms of this Commissioner’s Directive No. 2 may be modified as necessary.

Section 6. This Commissioner’s Directive No. 2 shall take effect March 21, 2020, at 12:01 AM.



Anne del Castillo, Commissioner
Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment