



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

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT  
COMMISSIONER'S DIRECTIVE  
CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS**

**March 14, 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, to minimize the risk of person-to-person spread, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202 that, among other things, (i) cancelled gatherings and events throughout New York State for which attendance is anticipated to exceed 500 people and (ii) limited gatherings and events throughout New York State for which attendance is anticipated to be fewer than 500 people to operate at less than 50% occupancy; 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, the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, 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 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, pursuant to 43 RCNY sections 9-02(b)(7)(a) and 9-02(d)(2), OFTB has determined that grounds exist to deny Film Permit applications and modify Film Permits involving the presence of more than 50 cast and crew members during the COVID-19 outbreak;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby directed:

Section 1. All Film Permits issued by OFTB prior to March 14, 2020, in connection with activity occurring on or after March 16 through March 31, 2020, are hereby modified to limit the total number of cast and crew members covered by the Film Permit to a combined total of no more than 50 persons.

Section 2. Until March 31, 2020, OFTB shall have the authority to deny any Film Permit application for activity in which more than 50 cast and crew members would be present.

Section 3. The terms of this Commissioner's Directive may be modified as necessary.

Section 4. This Commissioner's Directive shall take effect March 16, 2020 at 12:01 AM.



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Anne del Castillo  
Commissioner  
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment