

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

FROM: Economic Development and Corporate Strategy Department

DATE: May 21, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Report – GEP Chucky Inc. Film Request – May 25, 2021

LOCATION: 61 Chancery Lane East

WARD: Ward 3

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Section 17(2) of the Procedure By-law be waived to allow a new item of business to be added to the agenda.
2. That the GEP Chucky Inc. film request for night filming activity, as detailed in the May 21st, 2021 report from the Economic Development and Corporate Strategy department, be approved.
3. That the Director of Transportation and Engineering be given delegated authority to approve operational aspects of commercial filming including the use of special effects; hours of filming; and notification and consent.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Town of Oakville is supportive of film projects and recognizes that the film industry provides economic benefits to the community.
- GEP Chucky Inc. has submitted a film permit and noise exemption permit application that includes one night of filming activity on a municipal street and residential property from Friday, June 4 until the morning of Saturday, June 5, 2021.
- The Town's film procedure requires the approval of Town Council for any filming activities on municipal streets which occur between the hours of 11:00

p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; for the use of special effects; or when the requisite level of consent through the notification process has not been achieved.

- This report recommends approval of the overnight filming request on Chancery Lane and also recommends delegated authority to the Director of Transportation and Engineering for operational matters pertaining to future film requests.

BACKGROUND:

The Town has received a television series request from GEP Chucky Inc. for filming at 61 Chancery Lane East, a private residence. The film production involves scenes in the backyard and on the street in front of the house. Filming is proposed to begin on the street at approximately 4:00 p.m. and move to the back yard at approximately 1:00 a.m. To simulate moonlight, there will be a lighting lifts and generators near Bennington Gate and on Carrington Place. In accordance with the Town's film procedure, any filming activity during restricted hours requires approval by Town Council.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

GEP Chucky Inc.

GEP Chucky Inc. has submitted an application for a municipal film permit and noise exemption permit to undertake night filming at 61 Chancery Lane, from Friday, June 4 until Saturday, June 5. The company has signed a liability waiver and provided a certificate of insurance for \$5 million in liability, naming the Town of Oakville as an additional insured.

To safely conduct the film shoot, Chancery Lane East will be closed to through traffic on Friday, June 4 from 4:00 p.m. to approximately 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2021. This closure will safely allow picture vehicles to pass-by and production crew and equipment to occupy the street. Halton Regional Police Services will be present to oversee the closure and ensure that local traffic is maintained.

Municipal Enforcement Services staff recommended applying for a noise exemption permit. Notices were distributed to residents within 120 metres of 61 Chancery Lane East on Friday, May 21. If no public comments or concerns are received by Thursday, June 3, the department will approve an exemption to the noise by-law.

The type and level of activity in a film production impacts notification and consent guidelines. This production is considered level three, being a first unit film production

for one or more days, beyond the permitted hours. Level three requires a minimum of 14 days advance notice to the designated area which is determined by the Engineering & Construction department. In anticipation of approval of the film request and the planned filming date of Friday, June 4, notification was delivered to residents in close proximity to the filming activity on Friday, May 21.

Delegation of Authority

There are three circumstances for which Council approval is required under the town's current film procedure:

- 1. Special effects, explosives and similar devices**

Filming activities which involve the use of explosives, pyrotechnics, fireworks, detonators, guns, gunfire or other special effects, must be specifically approved by Halton Regional Police Services, Oakville Town Council, the Town of Oakville Fire department, and the department responsible for issuing the filming permit.

- 2. Filming hours**

Location filming shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Streets and between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Municipal Parkland. This time frame includes the time required for the arrival and departure of cast and crew, as well as setting up and dismantling sets, equipment and clean up. Any activity during restricted hours or days requires pre-approval by Town Council.

- 3. Notification and consent**

The Town of Oakville requires that the Film Company notify neighbourhoods/areas of their upcoming activities, and obtain consent. Applicants, who fail to achieve the levels of consent required, may submit their permit requests to Town Council for consideration.

Recent film requests that involve Council approval have been time sensitive and have highlighted the need for timely responses that cannot always be accommodated within Council's meeting schedule. Additionally, the requirement for Council approval in the above-noted situations relates to operational aspects that are reviewed by staff through the permitting process in accordance with current film procedure. In most instances, permits are issued by the Transportation and Engineering department as municipal roads are often involved in the filming activity; however, other departments are consulted and permits issued for filming that involves noise or the use of parks. A staff member in Economic Development provides a liaison role with the applicant and coordination of permits with various departments. Police and Fire are consulted where warranted, and may be involved in oversight of the film production.

In order to respond efficiently to future film requests, it is recommended that authority for operational approvals that currently require Council approval, be delegated to the Director of Transportation and Engineering. Ward councillors will be notified by staff when a film application has been received so that they are aware of the project prior to permit approval.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The production company has distributed notification letters to the general area around Chancery Lane. Service Oakville will be informed of this planned filming activity and its duration.

(B) FINANCIAL

The Town derives revenue from film productions as set out in the standard permit fees for filming in Oakville.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Film liaison staff coordinate film permit requirements with the Transportation and Engineering, Municipal Enforcement Services, and Parks & Open Space departments.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- enhance our economic environment
- provide outstanding service to our residents and businesses

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDIX A: Location Map for the GEP Chucky Inc. Film Request

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Recommended and Submitted by:

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