



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**New York City Council
Committee on Technology
Testimony of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams on transparency improving
transparency at the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment
Wednesday, January 21, 2015**

Thank you Chairman Vacca and members of the New York City Council Committee on Technology, for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Intro 84, a Local Law to require monthly and annual reports concerning film shoot permits.

According to 2012 data from Made in NY — the Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting – it was estimated that New York City's film and television industry employed 130,000 New Yorkers since 2004 and generated \$7.1 billion in 2011.

Brooklyn has become a hotbed of the film and television industry. Steiner Studios is the largest film and television studio complex outside of Hollywood and Brooklyn College's Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema will be the only public graduate school for cinema in the nation located on a working studio lot when it opens at Steiner Studios in September of this year. Both of these, as well as other Brooklyn-based entertainment industries like Broadway Stages and BRIC, add great value, economically, and culturally to our borough.

While this economic input is clearly a benefit to New York City, our residents, small businesses and taxpayers, the benefits that have been brought have also resulted in unintended impacts to many neighborhoods, largely as a result of film and television production in residential neighborhoods and along retail corridors. Late last year, my office convened a meeting with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) and numerous Business Improvement District's (BID's) from across Brooklyn – from Ditmas Park to Downtown Brooklyn – who have been impacted by the film and television industry.

While there was consensus among attendees that the economic benefits generated by the film and television industry were welcomed, what was also made clear was that while the economic boom that filming often creates in our cities, too often the quality of life concerns and impacts of residents and local businesses are overlooked.

These impacts are rarely quantified, something that will change as a result of this important legislation. That's because this legislation, if adopted, will serve to improve transparency in the film and television industry by mandating monthly and annual reporting standards. Monthly and annual reporting requirements in this legislation will:

- Identify the filming locations or locations authorized by each permit, including borough, community district, council district, and streets;
- Identify the duration of each permit;
- Identify the impacts to on-street parking; and
- The network, studio or company producing each film or television shoot.

In addition, the reporting mechanisms will also identify the number of jobs created, the mean and median compensation of jobs, the duration of employment, and the direct and indirect costs and benefits of the film and television industries in New York City.

The data that will be generated from this legislation will allow residents, businesses, and local policy makers to better plan and distribute the benefits and impacts of the film and television industries.

My office urges the Committee on Technology and the full City Council to pass this bill, and to continue to advance measures that will allow MOME and local residents and businesses to best capture the economic benefits of the film and television industries but also mitigate the negative externalities that also come along with these industries.