

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

BY-LAW

Filming

(Consolidated Version – Enacted as By-law 168-2020)

Last consolidated on October 31, 2023. City of Vaughan by-laws are provided online for convenient public reference. By-laws are consolidated on an ongoing basis, but recent amendments may not be reflected in the latest consolidated version. Check the [Amendment History](#) to get a complete listing of all pertinent regulations. For further information contact the Office of the Director and Chief Licensing Officer.

A By-law to provide for the issuing, revoking, and/or suspending of permits and for regulating and inspecting filming events within the City of Vaughan, and to repeal Filming Event By-law 371-2004, as amended.

WHEREAS subsection 8(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, provides for the powers of a municipality under the Act or any other Act to be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the municipality to enable the municipality to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality's ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS subsection 11(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, provides for a municipality to pass by-laws respecting the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality, including respecting climate change, and the health, safety and well-being of persons;

AND WHEREAS subsection 11(3)11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that a municipality may pass by-laws business licensing;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan has enacted this by-law, as amended, to provide for the issuing, revoking, and/or suspending of permits and for regulating and inspecting filming events within the City of Vaughan;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

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← **1.0 Short Title**

- (1) This By-law shall be known as the “Filming By-law.”

← **2.0 Applicability and Scope**

- (1) This By-law applies to all *Filming Events* within the *City*, except for:
- (a) current affairs and newscast programs.
- (2) Where there is a conflict or contradiction between this By-law and any other by-law of the *City* or regulations of Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario or other *Governmental Entity*, the provisions establishing the higher standard shall prevail.

← **3.0 Definitions and Interpretation**

- (1) In this By-law:
- (a) “Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law” refers to Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law 063-2019, as amended, or its successor by-law; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (b) “Applicant” means the *Person* applying for the permit; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (c) “Chief Building Official” means the officer or employee of the *City* appointed by Council as Chief Building Official pursuant to the *Building Code Act, 1992*, S.O. 1992, c.23, as amended; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (d) “Chief Fire Official” means the Chief of the Fire Department for the City, or a *Person* designated to act on his or her behalf; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (e) “Chief Licensing Officer” means the Director of By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services of the City of Vaughan, or his or her designate;
 - (f) “Chief of Police” means the Chief of Police of York Regional Police or a *Person* designated to act on his or her behalf; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (g) “City” means The Corporation of the City of Vaughan, its employees or agents when acting on its behalf, or the area within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan, as the context demands;
 - (h) “Corporation” means a body corporate incorporated pursuant to the *Business Corporations Act*, R.S.O.1990 c. B. 16, as amended, or the *Corporations Act*, R.S.O 1990, c. C. 38, as amended; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (i) “Fees and Charges By-law” means the *City’s* Fees and Charges By-law 010-2023, as amended, or its successor by-law; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (j) “Filming Event” means the creating, producing, recording or capturing of events on motion film with the intention of being presented;
 - (k) “Fire Chief” means the Chief of the Fire Department for the City of Vaughan, or a *Person* designated to act on his or her behalf;
 - (l) “Governmental Entity” means the government of a jurisdiction, any political subdivision of a jurisdiction, such as a federal, provincial, or municipal body, performing a function of the government;

- (m) “Highway” means a common and public highway, *Street*, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, any part of which is intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof;
- (n) “Land” or “Lands” means ground, soil or earth and includes any buildings or structures thereon, either above or below the surface; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (o) “Medical Officer of Health” means the *Medical Officer of Health* for the Regional Municipality of York; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (p) “Municipal Law Enforcement Officer” means a Person appointed or employed by the City as a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer under the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.15, as amended; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (q) “Notice to Comply” or “Notice” means a written direction issued by any *Person* authorized to enforce the provisions of this By-law, and made under the authority of a *Municipality* to make orders to discontinue a contravening activity or remedy a contravening condition, in accordance with sections 444 and 445 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, or any successor legislation; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (r) “Officer” means a Provincial Offences Officer or Municipal Law Enforcement Officer of the *City*, or any other person appointed by or under the authority of a *City* by-law to enforce this By-law, and such Officer is deemed to be a Peace Officer under the *Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.15*;
- (s) “Partnership” means an association of two or more persons to carry on, as co-owner, a business or other activity; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (t) “Permit” in the context of this by-law means permission from the *City* to have a *Filming Event* in accordance with this By-law; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (u) “Permit Holder” in the context of this by-law refers to a *Person* who has been granted a *Filming Event Permit*; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (v) “Person” includes a natural individual, and their heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives, a corporation, partnership or other form of business association or a receiver or mortgagee in possession;
- (w) “Police Chief” means the Chief of the York Regional Police Department or a *Person* designated to act on his or her behalf;
- (x) “Premises” means any *Land*, building or structure, place or other *Premises* licensed or required to be licensed under this By-law and includes any business, activity or undertaking required to be licensed under this By-law carried on at the *Premises*; [Added by section 1. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
- (y) “Sidewalk” includes all such parts of a *Highway* as set aside by the *City* for the use of pedestrians or used by the general public for the passage of pedestrians;
- (z) “Street” means that part of a *Highway* that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic;
- (aa) “Treasurer” means the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer for the City of Vaughan, or a *Person* designated to act on his or her behalf.

4.0 Permits

- (1) No *Person* shall carry on, engage in, or conduct a *Filming Event* in the *City* without first having obtained a permit to do so.
- (2) Application for a *Filming Event* permit shall be made no less than three (3) days prior to the event.
- (3) Application for a *Filming Event* permit shall be made in person, on the prescribed forms to the *Chief Licensing Officer* and shall be accompanied by the following:

- (a) an application fee for a *Filming Event* permit, as per the [Fees and Charges By-law 171-2013](#), as amended, or its successor by-law;
 - (b) [Repealed]; [Deleted by section 2. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]
 - (c) a traffic control plan outlining the location and description of traffic control signs for both roads and pedestrian routes and parking areas for staff, crew, and production vehicles;
 - (d) confirmation, in writing, that the *Police Chief* has been notified of the *Filming Event* and, where applicable, the appropriate pay duty police officers will be present during the event;
 - (e) confirmation, in writing, that the *Fire Chief* has been notified of the *Filming Event* and, where applicable, pay duty fire fighters will be present during the event;
 - (f) a certificate of policy of insurance for general comprehensive liability in the amount of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) with the *City* named as additional insured;
 - (g) any other information as the *Chief Licensing Officer* may require.
- (4) The applicant shall clearly identify their intent to use special effects involving such substance as guns, gunfire, explosives, bombs/mockups, flash powder and detonators.
- (5) Notwithstanding subsection 4.0(3)(a), the *Chief Licensing Officer* may waive or reduce the fee where filming is being produced by students or non-profit groups.
- (6) If a fee for a particular year is not prescribed in the respective schedules and a budget has not been passed by January 1st in a given year, the *Treasurer* is authorized to apply a 3 per cent increase to the fee applied in the previous year to account for economic adjustment.
- (7) The *Chief Licensing Officer* may refuse an application for a *Permit*, refuse to renew a *Permit*, or suspend or revoke a *Permit*, if he or she is of the opinion that any of the following apply:
- (a) an *Applicant* for a *Permit* has not:
 - (i) completed the required application form or provided the required documentation;
 - (ii) paid the *Permit* application or other fees in full, as set out in the *Fees and Charges By-law*;
 - (iii) complied with any requirements in this By-law; or
 - (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the information provided on the application contains a false statement or information; or
 - (c) where past or present conduct of the *Applicant* creates reasonable grounds to believe that such *Applicant* will not carry on or has not carried on his or her business or other activity in accordance with the law or with honesty and integrity, including any partner in the case of a *Partnership*, or any director, shareholder or officer of the *Corporation*, or any party having a direct or indirect interest in the *Corporation*; or
 - (d) where the *Applicant* has failed to pay a fine or fines imposed by a court as a sentence arising from convictions for breach of this By-law or any other *City* By-law; or
 - (e) where past or present conduct of the *Applicant* creates reasonable grounds to believe that the granting of a *Filming Event Permit* to the *Applicant* would endanger the health or safety, or infringe on the rights, of members of the public; or
 - (f) if there are reasonable grounds to believe that activities associated with the *Filming Event Permit* by the *Applicant* may be adverse to the public interest, including any partner in the case of a *Partnership*, or any director, shareholder or officer of the *Corporation*, or any party having a direct or indirect interest in the *Corporation*; or
 - (g) where information provided to the *City* by or on behalf of the *Applicant*, whether oral or in writing, has ceased to be accurate and the *Applicant* has not provided up-to-date accurate information to the *City* sufficient to allow the *Chief Licensing Officer* to conclude that the *Permit* should be granted or maintained; or
 - (h) where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the *Applicant* does not meet all the requirements of this By-law or any other *City* By-law, or that the business or

other activity is carried on or intended to be carried on in an area where such business is prohibited by this By-law from being carried on, or if the issuance of a *Permit* is not permitted by this By-law; or

- (i) where the *Chief Licensing Officer* has received three (3) or more substantiated complaints against the *Applicant*; or
- (j) where an adverse report has been received from *Medical Officer of Health*, the *Chief Building Official*, *Chief Fire Official*, *Chief of Police*, other *City* departments, and any other Canadian government agencies;
- (k) there is any other matter that the *Chief Licensing Officer* is authorized by law to consider; or
- (l) where the *Applicant* has failed to pay an administrative penalty imposed in accordance with this or any other *City* By-law. [Added by section 3. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 5.0 Requirements

- (1) *Filming Events* in residential areas shall be restricted to the local hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- (2) Notwithstanding Section 5.0(1), an exemption may be granted by the *Chief Licensing Officer*, provided that all the affected residents are notified in writing and subsequently give their written approval.
- (3) No *Filming Event* shall be permitted until all affected residences, as determined by the *Chief Licensing Officer*, are notified in writing by the filming or production company as to the dates, times, duration, and nature of the *Filming Event* to take place. A copy of such notice shall be dated no less than 48 hours before the event and a copy of same shall be filed to the *Chief Licensing Officer* at the time of application.
- (4) Every *Person* who receives a permit or requires a permit shall ensure that:
 - (a) no *Person* shall allow the area residents and/or businesses as prescribed in Section 5.0(3) to be affected or interfered with by any product of the *Filming Event* such as, but not limited to, lighting and exhaust fumes;
 - (b) all generators are equipped with silencing attachments;
 - (c) access for emergency response is provided and maintained at all times during the *Filming Event*;
 - (d) all fire hydrants, private driveways, *Sidewalks*, access ramps, and/or the regular flow of vehicular traffic is not impeded;
 - (e) all filming personnel wear identification cards while on the filming location.
- (5) Every *Person* who receives a permit or requires a permit under this By-law shall ensure that prior to departing the *Filming Event* location, all debris, refuse and equipment has been removed and the *Filming Event* location is restored to the condition it was prior to the *Filming Event*.
- (6) At all times during the *Filming Event*, the *Permit Holder* must have on site the *Filming Event Permit* and any other permissions or exemptions granted by the *City* or other *Canadian Government Entity*. [Added by section 8. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 6.0 Enforcement

- (1) The provisions of this By-law may be enforced by:
 - (a) a municipal law enforcement *Officer*;
 - (b) *Fire Chief*, or his or her designates;
 - (c) *Police Chief*, or his or her designates.

← 7.0 Inspections and Right of Access

- (1) The *Chief Licensing Officer* and all other *Municipal Law Enforcement Officers* or officials authorized to enforce the provisions of this By-law are hereby authorized to:
 - (a) perform inspections relating to the *Filming Event Permit*, such as associated with:
 - (i) places or *Premises*;

- (ii) books, records or other documents;
 - (iii) each Motor Vehicle operated, provided or used in the *Filming Event*;
- (2) Any places, *Premises*, or vehicles for the *Filming Event*, at all times for the duration of the event, may be entered and inspected by a *Person* authorized to enforce the provisions of this By-law for the purposes of enforcing this By-law.
 - (3) No *Person* shall hinder or obstruct an inspection or investigation by any *Person* authorized to administer or enforce the provisions of this By-law by:
 - (a) preventing access to any places or *Premises* or vehicles for the *Filming Event* or part thereof;
 - (b) refusing to surrender any documents, samples or items requested;
 - (c) not following the directions of such authorized *Persons*. [Amended by section 9. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 8.0 Notices to Comply

- (1) In the event of non-compliance with any of the provisions of this By-law by any *Person*, a *Notice to Comply* may be issued and served upon such *Person*, by any *Person* authorized to enforce this By-law.
- (2) Every *Person* to whom a *Notice to Comply* is issued, or upon whom a *Notice to Comply* is served, shall take such steps as are necessary to comply with the *Notice* within the time provided for compliance.
- (3) Where any *Permit Holder* fails to comply with a request to inspect or fails to comply with the *Notice to Comply*, the *Chief Licensing Officer* may suspend or revoke the *Permit*.
- (4) Any *Notice* or other information required or authorized to be forwarded, given or served under this By-law is sufficiently given if delivered personally or sent by first-class prepaid mail addressed to the *Person* to whom delivery is required to be made at the address shown on the application or at last address shown or appearing on the records of the *City*.
- (5) Where service is affected by mail, it shall be deemed to be served on the fifth day after the date of mailing, unless the *Person* who the mail was sent to, can establish that he or she did not receive the *Notice* or order until a later date, such as due to absence, accident, illness or other cause beyond his or her control. [Amended by section 9. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 9.0 Administrative Monetary Penalties

- (1) Instead of laying a charge under the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.33, as amended, for a breach of any provisions of this By-law or failure to comply with a *Notice to Comply* under this By-law, an Officer may issue an administrative monetary penalty to the *Person* who has contravened this By-law.
- (2) If a *Person* is required to pay an administrative monetary penalty under section this By-law, no charge shall be laid against that same *Person* for the same contravention.
- (3) The amount of the administrative monetary penalty for a breach under this By-law is \$500.00.
- (4) A *Person* who is issued an administrative monetary penalty shall be subject to the procedures provided for in the *Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law*, as amended, or its successor by-law.
- (5) An administrative monetary penalty imposed on a *Person* that becomes a debt to the *City* under the *Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law* may be added to the municipal tax roll and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes. [Amended by section 9. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 10.0 Fines

- (1) Every *Person* who contravenes a provision of this By-law or direction provided by a *Municipal Law Enforcement Officer* in order to achieve compliance shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine, subject to the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, C. P.33, not exceeding one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).
- (2) Where a *Person* who contravenes any provisions of this By-law or a direction provided by a *Municipal Law Enforcement Officer* in order to achieve compliance is a *Corporation*, every director or officer of the *Corporation* who knowingly contravened any of the provisions of this By-law, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding

one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

- (3) In addition to the fines in section 10.0, a court may impose a special fine exceeding one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) designed to eliminate any economic advantage or gain from contravening this By-law.
- (4) Where a *Person* has been convicted of an offence under this By-law, a court of competent jurisdiction may, in addition to any other penalty imposed, make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence. [Amended by section 9. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 11.0 Recovery of City Costs

- (1) If a *Person* fails to undertake any work or other action prescribed by a *Notice to Comply*, the *City* or its agents, acting on the *City's* behalf, may enter upon the places, *Premises*, or vehicles associated with the *Filming Event Permit* at any reasonable time for the purposes of doing the things described in the *Notice to Comply*, such as remedial work.
- (2) Costs incurred by the *City* in doing the work in accordance with this By-law may be recovered by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as taxes. [Amended by section 9. of [By-law 136-2023](#) on September 26, 2023]

← 12.0 Severability

- (1) Where a court of competent jurisdiction declares any section of this By-law to be invalid, or to be not in force, or without effect, it is the intention of the Council of the City of Vaughan in enacting this By-law that the remainder of this By-law shall continue to be in force and applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the fullest extent possible according to law.

← 13.0 Repeal and Amendment of Other By-laws

- (1) The following by-laws are hereby repealed: [Filming Event By-law 371-2004](#), and all of their related amendments, including By-laws [175-2013](#), [020-2015](#), [206-2015](#), [193-2016](#), [021-2018](#), [193-2019](#), [102-2020](#).
- (2) Schedule 1 of the [Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law](#) is hereby amended by including this By-law as a Designated By-law.

← 14.0 Force and Effect

- (1) This By-law shall come into force and effect on the date enacted by Council.

Enacted by City of Vaughan Council this 17th day of November, 2020.

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor

Todd Coles, Deputy City Clerk

Authorized by [Item 6 of the Report No. 44 of the Committee of the Whole](#)
Adopted by Vaughan City Council on
October 21, 2020.

