

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 83A FILMING TO THE CODE OF THE
BOROUGH OF BROOKLAWN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Brooklawn, New Jersey (the "Borough"), recognizes the need to regulate filming activities in the Borough of Brooklawn to minimize public inconvenience, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of residents while promoting economic and cultural benefits.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Brooklawn, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey as follows:

CHAPTER 83A - FILMING

§ 83A-1. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

FILMING - The taking of still or motion pictures either on film or videotape or similar recording medium for commercial or educational purposes intended for viewing on television, in theaters, or for institutional uses. The provisions of this chapter shall not be deemed to include the filming of news stories within the Borough of Brooklawn.

MAJOR MOTION PICTURE/TELEVISION SERIES - Any film which is financed and/or distributed by a major motion picture studio, including but not limited to:

1. Universal Pictures
2. Warner Brothers (including New Line Cinema, Castle Rock Cinema, Village Road Show, and Bel-Air)
3. Paramount (including MTV Films and Nickelodeon Movies)
4. 20th Century Fox (including Fox Searchlight)
5. Sony/Columbia
6. Disney/Miramax
7. MGM - United Artists
8. DreamWorks
9. Any film with a budget of at least \$5,000,000
10. Recurrent weekly television series programming

PUBLIC LANDS - Any and every public street, highway, sidewalk, square, public park, or playground, or any other public place within the Borough of Brooklawn that is within the jurisdiction and control of the Borough.

§ 83A-2. Permit Required.

A. No person or organization shall film or permit filming on public or private land within the Borough of Brooklawn without first obtaining a permit from the Borough Clerk. The permit shall set forth the approved location and duration of filming, specifying days and dates. No permit shall authorize filming for more than three consecutive days in any one location, nor shall filming at one location exceed a total of six days in any one calendar year. These limits may be extended only for a "major motion picture" as defined in § 83A-1.

B. All permits shall be applied for and obtained from the Borough Clerk during normal business hours, accompanied by the appropriate permit fee as set forth in § 83A-12.

C. If a permit is issued but filming does not take place due to inclement weather or other valid reasons, the Borough Clerk may issue a new permit for different dates at no additional fee.

§ 83A-3. Issuance of Permits.

A. Permit applications must be submitted at least five days prior to the requested filming date. The Borough Clerk may waive this requirement if all approvals have been obtained and adjacent property owners or tenants do not need to be notified.

B. No permit shall be issued for filming on public lands unless the applicant provides:

1. Proof of insurance:

- a. Bodily injury: \$500,000 per person; \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

- b. Property damage: \$300,000 per occurrence.

2. A written agreement indemnifying and holding harmless the Borough of Brooklawn from any liability.

3. A \$500 cash bond or maintenance bond to ensure the filming location is restored to its original condition.

4. The hiring of an off-duty Borough of Brooklawn police officer as required by the permit.

C. Permit holders must minimize interference with pedestrian and vehicular traffic and comply with all directives from Borough officials.

§ 83A-4. Interference with Public Activity; Notification Requirements.

A. Filming must minimize inconvenience to adjoining property owners and public activities. Vehicles must be parked off public streets when possible.

B. Businesses, merchants, or residents directly affected by filming must receive written notice at least three days before the scheduled filming date. Proof of notification must be submitted to the Borough Clerk at least two days before filming.

§ 83A-5. Filming in Residential Zones.

Filming in residential zones shall be permitted only Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Any request for night scenes must be specifically approved in the permit.

§ 83A-6. Refusal to Issue Permit; Requirement of Police or Electrician.

A. The Borough Administrator may refuse to issue a permit if the filming would:

1. Violate any law or ordinance.
2. Unreasonably interfere with adjoining properties.
3. Impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
4. Endanger public health, safety, or welfare.

B. The Borough may require an on-site patrol officer or electrician, at the applicant's expense.

§ 83A-7. Appeals.

A. Appeals from permit denials shall be filed in writing with the Borough Administrator and heard by the Mayor and Borough Council within 30 days.

B. The Borough Council's decision shall be final unless overturned by a court.

§ 83A-8. Waivers.

The Borough Administrator may grant extensions or special filming conditions based on factors including traffic, applicant history, and consultation with officials.

§ 83A-9. Copies of Permit; Inspections.

A. Copies of approved permits shall be sent to the Police and Fire Departments and the New Jersey Film Commission.

B. Borough employees may inspect the site and equipment at any time.

§ 83A-10. Reimbursement of Costs. Applicants shall reimburse the Borough for any lost revenue, such as parking meter revenue, repairs to public property, or other losses caused by the filming.

§ 83A-11. Special Regulations for Major Motion Pictures. Major motion picture filming may exceed the standard three- and six-day limits if approved by the Borough Administrator.

§ 83A-12. Fees.

A. Basic filming permit: \$75 (\$175 for expedited processing).

B. Daily filming fee: \$500 (\$1,500 for major motion pictures).

C. Nonprofit educational filming permit: \$25 (no daily fee required).

§ 83A-13. Violations and Penalties. Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to fines of up to \$2,000 per day or imprisonment for up to 90 days, or both.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that each section of this Ordinance is an independent section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective, shall not be deemed to affect the validity or constitutionality of any other sections or parts hereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

Introduced: April 21, 2025

Adopted: May 19, 2025

BOROUGH OF BROOKLAWN

BY: _____
JERRY D. GRANSTROM, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: _____
RYAN GILES, BOROUGH CLERK

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by Mayor and Council at a meeting held on April 21, 2025. This Ordinance will be considered for adoption on final reading and public hearing to be held on May 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, Brooklawn Municipal Building, 301 Christiana Street, Brooklawn, New Jersey.

.A copy of this Ordinance is available at no charge to the general public between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday (Legal Holidays excluded), at the Office of the Borough Clerk, Brooklawn Borough Hall, 301 Christiana Street, Brooklawn, New Jersey.