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MAYOR LEE SIGNS SUPERVISOR FARRELL'S LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE "SCENE IN SAN FRANCICSO" FILM REBATE PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO – At a signing ceremony this morning, Mayor Lee signed Supervisor Mark Farrell's legislation to help draw more film production to San Francisco, which passed unanimously at the Board of Supervisors last week. The legislation will extend the Scene in San Francisco Rebate Program for two more years and commit up to \$2 million in rebates to productions that qualify.

"I am pleased Mayor Lee signed my legislation to extend the rebate program. This legislation will continue to bring more jobs and direct economic benefits to our City, and will send a message to the television and film industry that San Francisco is open for business."

According to Susannah Greason Robbins, Executive Director of the San Francisco Film Commission, the extension of the rebate program is essential to drawing films and TV productions to San Francisco.

"Gone are the days when productions will shoot wherever the film is scripted. Instead, productions look to where they can get the biggest financial incentive for filming and will either re-write the script for that location, or fake the location and then shoot establishing scenes in the more expensive location."

In the past six years, the "Scene in San Francisco" Rebate program has rebated eight productions totaling over \$1.5 million dollars, while those productions hired more than 4,000 crew and background extras, paid more than \$6 million in local salaries, and spent over \$40 million dollars in San Francisco on items such as food, gas, car rentals, and hotels.

"The rebate makes it more cost effective to shoot here, and it benefits the City by providing jobs to local crew and actors, as well as pouring money into our local economy," said Greason Robbins.

The extension of the rebate program comes just in time for the upcoming Woody Allen film, slated to begin filming in August. Robbins says that the interest in the rebate program is growing, with three other films possibly applying and shooting in San Francisco this summer.