

Emil Notti
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110800
Juneau, AK 99811-0800

www.commerce.alaska.gov



Angelina Burney
Special Project Manager
for Community Relations

907.269.8100

cell: 907.350.5451

angelina.burney@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2009

Contact: Angelina Burney, #269-8100

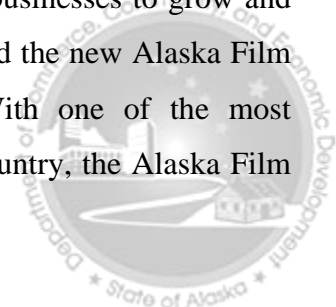
No. 09-09

State of Alaska announces film production incentive program and Alaska Film office Manager (Development Specialist)

(Anchorage, AK) - The State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development recently announced the appointment of Dave Worrell to lead the Alaska Film Office. He was previously the Director of Communications & Planning with the Alaska Travel Industry Association where he worked closely with travel media and filmmakers. As the Alaska Film Office's Development Specialist, he will oversee the State's Film Production Incentive Program, film industry marketing, and infrastructure development assistance.

Joe Austerman, Director of the Office of Economic Development said, "Dave comes to us well-grounded with experience in both government and the private sector. We look forward to working with him as he applies his creativity, talents and enthusiasm to lead the efforts of the new Alaska Film Office."

Re-established through legislation sponsored by Senator Johnny Ellis in 2008, the Alaska Film Office is charged with working closely with private sector businesses to grow and strengthen the film industry in Alaska. Senate Bill 230 also created the new Alaska Film Production Incentive Program and transferable tax credits. With one of the most substantial film production incentive programs available in the country, the Alaska Film



Office is poised to attract new film projects and welcomes the jobs, infrastructure development and economic growth that these productions can provide to Alaska's residents and communities.

Regulations for the incentive program, which offer production incentives of between 30-42% for projects filmed in Alaska, became effective on June 18, 2009. The Alaska Film Office is currently processing the first applications. The regulations can be viewed at www.alaskafilm.org.

One of the economic benefits the Alaska Film Office expects to see from implementation of Alaska's Film Production Incentive Program is a rapid growth in new businesses and infrastructure. "The program is already working, several film projects have already been pre-qualified for incentives and more are inquiring daily" said Worrell.

Infrastructure development is also in the works. Dave pointed out that, "an Anchorage production company is investing in technology to keep high-end post-production work in Alaska. A large sound stage for the film community is also being developed by private investors." Other Alaskans have created a business which will help train residents for the crew jobs needed on production sets. "We are eager to attract the film productions that, in the past, have gone to other states. With a re-established film office and an industry leading incentive program, Alaska has the tools necessary to make that happen" he said.

A list of Alaskan business providing film production-related services can be viewed at www.alaskafilm.org.

###

