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Sorvino: 'Cali' film a month or so away

BY DAVID SINGLETON (STAFF WRITER)

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Four years after the cameras started rolling, actor Paul Sorvino now says "The Trouble with Cali," the film he is making with a \$500,000 investment by Lackawanna County taxpayers, should be finished in the next month or so.

If county officials aren't exactly holding their breath as they await invitations to the premiere, it's because they've heard it before.

"We look forward to seeing it," county spokeswoman Lynne Shedlock said in response to Mr. Sorvino's latest timetable

for completion of "The Trouble with Cali," which has been repeatedly delayed since it was filmed in and around Scranton in 2006.

Lackawanna County initially invested \$250,000 in the movie in 2005 and gave Mr. Sorvino another \$250,000 in 2006.

The investment was spearheaded by then-majority Commissioner Robert C. Cordaro, who argued it would promote the Scranton area and possibly attract more film production to the county. Mr. Cordaro, who lost his re-election bid in 2007, has since been indicted on federal corruption charges unrelated to the movie and is awaiting trial.

Since then, the \$1.3 million film, which Mr. Sorvino is directing, has run into a number of problems, including budgetary issues.

Reached by telephone late last week, Mr. Sorvino told The Times-Tribune the film's editing was being completed but indicated he was busy and unable to talk.

Asked whether there would be a better time for the newspaper to call, Mr. Sorvino replied, "Not really."

He added, "When I'm finished, it will be finished, and that will be in the next month or so. I have to go."

He then ended the call.

On a number of different occasions in 2008, Mr. Sorvino said "The Trouble with Cali" remained in post-production, with projected completion dates ranging from two to five months (February 2008) to "soon" (April 2008) to "four or five months" (December 2008).

His daughter, Amanda Sorvino, who wrote the film's script, predicted in August 2009 that the movie would be completed by spring 2010.

Mrs. Shedlock said the county has not heard directly from Mr. Sorvino since Dec. 17, 2008, when he met with Commissioners Mike Washo, Corey O'Brien and A.J. Munchak. At that point, she said, it had been two years since the principal filming had been completed.

Mrs. Shedlock said Mr. Sorvino asked the commissioners during the meeting to commit more money to finish the movie, a request they denied. When he was pressed for a timetable and what he would do if he could not secure additional financing, Mr. Sorvino "stormed out," she said.

"He left in a fit of rage," she said, "and that was the last contact we had with him."

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