

TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA
QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS
AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
JULY 1, 2010 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

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AFFAIRS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

(Mini-Series Documentaries are produced by WSB-TV's News Department and appear within the newscasts as a public service to the community. The Action News "mini-series" are aired one to four times daily Monday -Friday from 5am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 5-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 1:35-2:05am (repeat). On Saturdays, Action News is aired from 6-9am; 12-12:30pm; 6-6:30pm; and 11-11:35pm. Sundays: 7:30-11am; 12-12:30pm; 6-7pm; and 11-11:35pm. Segments are generally 1:00-6:00 minutes in length. The following, in date order, are the reports broadcast during third quarter, 2010)

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

- EDUCATION / YOUTH
 - HEALTHCARE
 - ECONOMY
- ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION
 - TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
 - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
 - COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOODS

Atlanta School Board TurmoilDate: **08/17/10 6am**

duration :23

Fred Blankenship

This morning, Atlanta Schools Superintendent Beverly Hall will address hundreds of community stakeholders about the state of Atlanta Public Schools. Late last night, angry residents expressed their frustration over a cheating investigation. Even the mayor called for a cool down on another controversy. Channel 2's Mike Petchenik is live at the Carter Center, where Hall will speak this morning.

Change in School Voucher Payments Could Cost Special Needs StudentsDate: **08/03/10 5pm**

duration 1:31

Diana Davis

"We are going to do everything we can to make sure this doesn't impact us adversely." Parents of scholarship students enrolled at Smyrna's private Center Academy, getting a briefing Tuesday on voucher payment delays for special needs kids. Steve Hicks: "All these things are going to kind of snowball down." Nearly 170 Georgia private special needs schools participate in the voucher program for kids with everything from ADHD to autism. Schools are paid an average of \$6000 dollars a year per student from the Georgia Department of Education. Now, instead of paying the money up front, the new DOE system delays payments several months into the school year after services are rendered. That means some parents may have to foot some of that bill themselves, and get the money back later. Robin Loch: "Why are our children being treated like little step-children of the Dept. of Education?" Center Academy says it can handle the delay without going to parents, but its administration says other schools may not be able to meet payroll. Hicks: "What we're hearing from other schools is that they are taking out personal loans, they're taking out home equity loans. They are doing everything they can to try and fund their payroll." Hicks worries that down the road that might mean fewer services for special needs kids. Parent Joy Martin: "I think that's really sad cause we don't want the private schools to pull out of the program." A spokesperson for the DOE says its new payment schedule is simply following the letter of the law and that in no way does it mean to diminish the program.

Overcrowding in DeKalb SchoolsDate: **09/01/10 12pm**

duration 1:00

Fred Blankenship

DeKalb Interim Superintendant Ramona Tyson: "We will close schools. The goal is to have that done and have that before the board by the end of calendar year, first of 2011." Tyson came to give a beginning-of-the-year DeKalb Schools update to the parents of the Dunwoody-Chamblee Parents Council. And parents jumped in with their own questions – some about over-crowding at Chamblee Charter High School, which has taken on hundreds of students who transferred from other schools because of "No Child Left Behind Choice." Parent Pam McCorkle Buncom: "...I'm really shocked you didn't mention Chamblee High School. That's a problem – a real problem. Kids are sitting on the floor, sitting standing, finding floor space. I think they need to address these concerns in a very real way, and that is to come out, not at an open house setting in the beginning of the school year and glaze over what concerns the parents have.

INTERIM DEKAlb Superintendant Strives to Stabilize SystemDate: **07/21/10 5pm**

duration 2:06

Carol Sbarge

Ramona Tyson: "I think the biggest challenge today is ensuring we work hard to insure we regain the trust." Interim DeKalb School Superintendant Ramona Tyson knows gaining trust isn't easy. The previous superintendant

is facing serious criminal charges including racketeering. Tyson: "What I am hearing from the public is they want more transparency, open communication." Tyson says parents also want changes in how the school system operates. Some people criticized the board for not having more oversight over construction. It was headed by Pat Reid, who is criminally charged for allegedly steering projects for profit to her husband's architecture firm. We are reviewing every single board policy that is associated with the school district – not just with construction, but every policy. We have 257 to the exact number. Tyson says it's time to do a better job of reaching out to parents. Some felt left out when DeKalb considered closing schools. We can actually form community forums for parents. We can get parents on additional task force when we're about to make decisions and not just come to them after decisions are made. Tyson started her career as a teacher in business Ed here at Lakeside High School and then worked her way up the administrative system in DeKalb County. I asked her if she wants the superintendant job permanently. Her answer? No. Tyson: "I do have small kids and they play very heavily into that decision." Tyson says with upcoming court dates for Lewis and Reid, the past won't disappear but she says it's students that are priority. "As I told staff, we have to leave it in its respective place and when we get here at 7:00 o'clock in the morning to the time we leave at the end of the day, our focus – our laser-like focus – has to be about the kids. Now, will we bleed in private? Probably so.

Atlanta School Board Charged with Investigating CRCT Cheating Allegations

Date: 08/16/10 5pm

duration 1:30

Tom Jones

This is the school district's response to that blue ribbon commission's probe into the high number of erasures on the CRCT in the Atlanta Public School system. Dr. Hall has already reassigned 12 principals at the 12 schools involved – and 78 individuals are being referred for investigation to the board that governs teachers. But at today's board meeting, Hall went a step further. She told the board how she plans to address all 29 recommendations of the investigative panel. Part of her plan is to implement test monitoring and ethics training. There will be security measures put in place and additional training for staff who administer the tests. Also, there will be internal and external monitoring. Dr Hall: "The audits will be periodical and unannounced and they will occur before and during every CRCT administration." Hall says the district will also conduct further in-depth analysis to determine the root causes that led to the high number of erasures.

Date: 08/17/10 6am

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

A new twist this morning to a power struggle in the Atlanta school system. Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed showed up at a board meeting last night to weigh in on a proposed policy change. Mayor Reed: "I ask that we have a cooling – off period before we cast the vote." Right now, Atlanta school board members are fighting about whether they can remove the board chair. The board initially decided to change a policy, making it easier to remove the chairwoman. But the mayor requested that members take time to think about the change before making it final. The board agreed to that request.

Date: 08/17/10 6am

duration :46

Fred Blankenship

Meanwhile, it was a cheating investigation that had some parents heated during last night's Atlanta School Board meeting. Superintendent Beverly Hall reassigned 12 principals after an investigation revealed possible cheating on CRCT tests at those schools. Several parents sounded off about the sudden removal of school principals. Parent: "How the heck are y'all gonna send our principals out a day or two before they have to be in front of these kids? What kinda respect are y'all giving them?" The superintendant says she had no choice but to remove the principals while the investigation continues into the alleged cheating. Later this morning we will be there when superintendant Hall is expected to give the "State of the Schools" address.

Atlanta Board of Education Coup

Date: 09/14/10 6pm

duration :38

Justin Farmer

The Atlanta School Board has approved major leadership changes. The board voted last night to *change* the rules. So it could decide issues based on a simple majority vote. Then, it narrowly voted to remove LaChandra Butler Burks as chairman and Cecily Harsch-Kinnane as Vice Chairman. Khaatim El: "I think it will look good to a whole lot of people. Folks are asking for accountability somewhere. Common sense tells us accountability starts at the top. Folks will see this change in leadership as our commitment to self scrutiny." The new chairman says leadership is crucial as the state investigates Atlanta's CRCT procedures. The former chairman and vice chairman remain board members.

Date: 09/14/10 7am duration :15 Darryn Moore

Mrs Burke had very little to say but did mention she'll continue to serve on the school board with integrity. Late last night the school board did three things. First, they changed the rules for removing the chair from two third majority to a simple majority rule. Second in a 5 to 4 vote, they ousted the chair and vice chair. And third, elected Khaatim El and Yolanda Johnson as new chair and vice chair.

Date: 09/15/10 5am duration 1:11 Monica Pearson

Mayor Kasim Reed: "I do not agree with the actions taken by the school board." Overnight we got Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed's reaction to a round of quick votes made by the Atlanta School Board. It started with a 5-4 vote to change to a simple majority rule. Yolanda Johnson: "This really does appear to be on some level an inability to accept that the democratic process has worked here." Right after the requirement change was official, the board voted to remove board chair LaChandra Butler Burks and vice chair Cecily Harsch-Kinnane. Within moments, Khaatim El was elected chairman with Yolanda Johnson vice chair. After the meeting, the former chairwoman had few words. "Mr El is chair of the board .. policies and norms. Thank you." Khaatim El says it's time to move forward.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Healthcare

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Economy

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Immigration

Wife Claims Husband's Deportation Was Illegal

Date: 07/12/10 6pm duration :20 Justin Farmer

We have an update tonight on a Hall county man who fought to stay in this country. Immigration officials deported Josue Castro to Honduras less than a week ago. In May, DNR officers caught Castro fishing without a license at Lake Lanier. Castro's attorney claimed the arrest was illegal. His wife, who is a US citizen, is preparing this afternoon to go see him

Local Students to Rally for Immigration Reform

Date: 07/15/10 5pm duration :17 Monica Pearson

Date: 08/13/10 12:01:16

File Master:	Length: 00:26	Writer: lm*	Editor: gt	Archcode:
[0] [1] (CAROL)				
>>MORE DEVELOPMENTS IN A CONTROVERSIAL RAID AT THE ATLANTA EAGLE BAR.				
LATE LAST NIGHT THE ATLANTA CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SUPPORT TWO [2] MEN'S ALLEGATIONS.				
[3] (V/O/DOWNTOWN ATL)				
BAR CO-OWNER ROBBY KELLEY AND ERNIE BUEHL SAY OFFICERS USED ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AND ANTI-GAY SLURS, WHEN THEY RAIDED THE EAGLE LAST SEPTEMBER.				
THE BOARD DECIDED TO POSTPONE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION ON DISCIPLINING THE OFFICERS.				
IT'S ALSO INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THE OFFICERS MADE ILLEGAL ARRESTS.				

Anti Religion Billboards Spark Controversy

Date: 09/09/10 6pm duration :15 Justin Farmer

There are more of the controversial anti-religion billboards coming. The Freedom From Religion foundation has targeted Atlanta with dozens of signs – some equating religion with slavery. [jeff dore]

Date: 09/10/10 6am duration :40 Erin Coleman

You may notice more and more anti-religion billboards going up during your morning commute. The “Freedom From Religion” foundation is posting 50 of the controversial signs around metro Atlanta. One quotes the late actress Butterfly McQueen as saying “I am free from the slavery of religion.” Another calls for separation of church and state. Now, leaders with the Georgia Baptist convention are weighing in on the controversy. Ray Newman: “Of course they have the right to say that but we would disagree with their conclusions in putting their billboards up cause that gives the wrong impression about what church is” Newman thinks the signs might do some good if they prompt someone who never thinks about religion to give it a thought.

Woman Charged Extra Fee at Nail Salon Claims Weight Discrimination

Date: 08/21/10 6pm duration :18 Eric Phillips

A local nail salon is under fire tonight, after a manager charged a client a higher price because she is overweight. And then, she was told not to return. Channel 2's Eric Phillips reports from off Covington Highway in DeKalb County. He has both sides of this case, of alleged weight discrimination. [customer is Michelle Fonville; Salon manager is Kim Tran]

Date: **08/21/10 11pm**

duration :34

Linda Stouffer

A metro area nail salon customer is outraged after the salon tacked on a charge she calls discriminatory. Michelle Fonville says "Natural Nails" in DeKalb County added an extra \$5 bucks to her bill because of her weight. She demanded answers from the manager. Fonville: "I was humiliated, I almost cried I turned my face, tears were forming in my eyes, but I refused I said I need to do something about this!" Kim Tran, manager: "If the customer weigh over 200 pounds they can not sit in the chair. [She] was she told that ahead of time. Is that posted somewhere in here? No" Tran refunded Fonville's \$5 dollars and told her not to come back.

Date: **08/29/10 11pm**

duration :32

John Pruitt

Protestors supporting a nail salon customer who says she was discriminated against held a demonstration today. They rallied outside "Natural Nails" on Covington Highway. The salon charged Michelle Fonville an extra \$5 dollars because of her weight. Michelle Fonville: "We just want to make sure that people are aware before they walk in that nail salon that these people discriminate against you because of your weight or for whatever reason." Salon manager Kim Tran told us people who weigh over 200 pounds cannot use these special chairs, because they may break. Fonville got her \$5 dollars back.

SAV MOSQUE CONTROVERSY DEK VO

Date: **08/23/10 6am**

duration :25

Carol Sbarge

Here in Atlanta, some Muslims spent Sunday's "Day of Dignity" helping the needy. They passed out hygiene kits, food and clothes, and gave haircuts. They are concerned about what's happening in New York City. Imam Nadin Ali: "We're living in very perilous times..where they're objectifying people...and objectification can lead to problems down the line." Muslims here and around the world are observing the holy month of Ramadan, through early September.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Politics/Government

Clayton County Tax Dispute

Date: **07/30/10 5pm**

duration :20

Tom Jones

New developments today in a dispute between Clayton County commissioners and the tax commissioner. Channel 2 was there today as the chairman of the commission collected \$1.6 million dollars in tax receipts. Commission members had asked the governor to intervene when they said the tax commissioner refused to turn the receipts over. Chairman Eldrin Bell says "enough is enough."

Husband and Wife Running Against One Another in Clayton Election

Date: **07/15/10 8am**

duration :33

Fred Blankenship

Controversy this morning in the race for Clayton County commission. A happily married husband and wife are running *against* each other for the same seat. Jewel Scott is running as a Democrat; Lee Scott is running as a Republican. Critics say it's confusing for voters. We talked to Lee Scott who says he and his wife just want to serve. Lee Scott: "All we care about is helping the county and helping to end the oppression that's here. for all of the people that are here." We found a lot of campaign signs just for "Scott." There's no way to tell whether they're for Jewel Scott, or Lee Scott.

DeKalb Housing Authority Fiscal Management Being Scrutinized

Date: **07/30/10 5pm**

duration :21

Richard Belcher

The DeKalb Housing Authority is a quasi-independent agency that handles tens of millions of dollars in federal money every year. The agency is already under pressure from federal housing officials and DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis because of questions about how the agency managers all that tax money. Now, an apparent violation of the agency's procurement policy at the highest level.

Georgia Woman Loses USDA Job After Political Blog Posts Video

Date: **07/20/10 5pm**

duration 1:26

Jovita Moore

The audio is fuzzy, but some say the message is clear ... former USDA Regional Director Shirley Sherrod discriminated against a white farmer asking for help. [Clip of Speech]: "While he was taking all that time to show me he was superior to me, I was trying to decide just how much help I was going to give him." Sherrod gave the speech in March to the NAACP chapter in Coffee County in South Georgia. The conservative website biggovernment.com just posted the clip on Monday. It's firing back after allegations of racism in the tea party, by trying to show racism within the NAACP. Sherrod says she's caught in the middle, and misunderstood. [More of clip]: "He was the first white farmer who had come to me for help. Everything I did working with him helped me to see that this isn't about race, it's about those who have and those who don't." Sherrod helped the Spooner family more than two decades ago while working for a non-profit organization. We tracked down the family in Iron City. In a phone interview, Eloise Spooner came to Sherrod's defense. Spooner: "I said great day, they have not done her right. They have not treated her right. Because she's the one I give credit to for helping us save our farm." But in a statement, the Agriculture Secretary defended the decision saying, "we have been working to turn the page on the sordid civil rights record at USDA and this controversy could make it more difficult to move forward on correcting injustices."

Date: **08/24/10 6pm**

duration 1:23

John Bachman

Shirley Sherrod lost her USDA job very publicly. Today, just as publicly, she chose not to take the new job they offered. Sherrod: "I just don't think at this point, with all that happened, I can do that." The controversy began in July, when conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart posted an edited internet clip of Sherrod speaking to the NAACP. In it, she explained her mixed emotions helping a white farmer more than 20 years ago. [From clip] Sherrod: Here I

was, faced with having to help a white person save their land. I didn't give him the full force of what I could do." Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack immediately fired Sherrod, then apologized when it became clear the tape was taken out of context. Sherrod had gone on to say that she helped the farmer. Vilsack says he is at fault. Secretary Vilsack: "I know I disappointed the president. I disappointed this administration. I disappointed the country. I disappointed Shirley. I have to live with that" President Obama said there was blame to go around during an appearance last month on "The View." Obama: "The media likes a phony controversy, but a lot jumped to conclusions, including in my administration." Shirley Sherrod says she was tempted by the newly-created USDA civil rights role, but would rather wait – perhaps consulting in the future if the agency enacts change. Sherrod: ""A new process is in place, and I hope that it works. I don't want to be the one to test it. (laugh)"

Residents Outraged By High Water Bills

Date: **08/30/10 11pm**

duration :32

Monica Pearson

We continue to receive viewer complaints about high water bills in Atlanta. Today we uncovered a bill that tops them all. It's the August water bill for this small condominium complex on Ponce de Leon in northeast Atlanta. It's more than \$69,000 dollars! That's more than 2.6 million gallons of water – about a third of what's in the Georgia Aquarium. Community Management Assoc President, Dennis Hoffman: "I don't think anyone read it. It was automatically generated and sent." The water bill for the complex the previous month was just \$345 dollars. A spokesperson for the water department says there was a meter problem.

DeKalb Man's Garden Being Regulated

Date: **09/13/10 5am**

duration :17

Fred Blankenship

A DeKalb county man is headed to court over how many vegetables he can grow on his land. Code enforcement says – until recently – Steve Miller had too many vegetable plants for his Clarkston property. As Chanel 2's Tony Thomas learned, the land is now rezoned, but the fight is far from over.

Court Reporter Expenditures Scrutinized

Date: **07/12/10 6pm**

duration 1:27

Richard Belcher

Clerk: "I think it needs to be stirred up." Long time Cobb County Clerk Jay Stephenson told me today a grand jury investigation is an excellent way to dig into the controversy over court reporters' fees. In its presentment, the outgoing grand jury acknowledged it has not had time for a full investigation of Jay Stephenson's double-dipping complaint, but it called the practice, "an unnecessary expenditure of funds as well as an unconscionable waste of taxpayer's dollars, particularly in a time of economic hardship. None of Cobb County's full-time court reporters would agree to talk to us for our initial investigation, but in emails we've gotten since our story aired, many have emphasized that the practice of accepting a salary – plus transcription fees – is perfectly legal. Stephenson isn't so sure. Clerk: "But even if it is legal, it's not fair to the taxpayers of Cobb County for them to be taking as much taxpayer funds as they are taking as compensation for the work that they do. And what about the court reporters' argument that taking down testimony and then having to transcribe it takes them 60 or 70 hours a week? Stephenson is skeptical of that claim, but even if it's true (clerk) "I don't imagine it would be too hard to find Assistant District Attorneys trying criminal cases that are working 60 or 70 hours a week either. But they don't get paid for every, every trial they complete. They get their salary, and that's it.

Clayton Cops Lose Take-Home Cars

Date: **07/13/10 5am**

duration :38

Carol Sbarge

Today, Clayton County officers will feel the effects of some drastic cost-cutting moves. An order we obtained, says effective July 10, "no county vehicle will be used on an off-duty part-time job." Cliff Grimes: "What the vehicles do is they deter crime and so the public should really be outraged cause it takes away from them." Lt Tina Daniels: "Unfortunately, we've got to cut back. The miles add up to over a million miles annually." Lieutenant Tina Daniels told our Mark Winne the 326-officer department has 148 take-home cars, and the chief will order most of them parked when officers are off-duty.

WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:

Community/Neighborhoods

Concerned Neighbors Try to Stop New Nightclub

Date: **07/16/10 6pm**

duration :31

Monica Pearson

We've learned a judge will not grant an injunction to keep a controversial nightclub from opening. Judge Alford Dempsey, Jr ruled just minutes ago that he will *not* grant a restraining order to close down "Spy" nightclub before it opens. One midtown resident said earlier today she wouldn't mind "Spy" opening so long as the club is a good neighbor. Susie Simpson: "I'm sure that before they open the gates the city will be involved in a noise mitigation plan. So there can be a balance between the two. Absolutely yes." The nightclub could get its liquor license very soon.

Milton Residents In Favor of Cell Tower Restrictions

Date: **08/03/10 6pm**

duration :21

Jovita Moore

Milton's city council is tweaking a proposal that would place new restrictions on cell phone towers. The city council was supposed to vote last night, but decided to wait another week. If approved, the new ordinance would place height restrictions on new towers – especially those near neighborhoods. The city ordered a temporary stop to cell tower applications in April.

"Art" Signs in Public Right-of-Ways Deemed "Eyesores"

Date: **08/27/10 5pm**

duration :33

Justin Farmer

A sign controversy is brewing in midtown Atlanta. The man who made these signs calls them art – others call them an eyesore. The group, "Flux Projects" is sponsoring these ads. There are about 500 of them hanging in Atlanta. Because they are in public right-of-ways, a city-sponsored organization is calling for the signs to come down. Peggy

Denby: "We call signs like this litter on a stick, the ones that are stuck in the ground. And then the ones on poles and so on generally will eventually fall off." The artist who made the signs potentially could face a fine if he does not remove them.

Fulton County Couple Unlawfully Evicted

Date: **09/03/10 5pm** **duration :33** **Erin Coleman**

A south Fulton county couple will have their day in court. They say a court *error* got them thrown out of their home. A week ago, marshals put everything Marcus Davis and his wife own on the curb. They were evicted for paying the July rent late at The Landings at Princeton Lakes. Davis: "It's a hurting feeling, especially when you find out later on that this should not have happened." Fulton County court officials say Davis failed to respond to an eviction notice. Davis says he has a receipt showing he mailed a response, and the court got it. A hearing on the matter is set for Tuesday.

Smyrna Residents Oppose Gun Factory Expansion

Date: **07/19/10 5pm** **duration :23** **Justin Farmer**

Smyrna residents opposed to a gun-maker's expansion plan head to the city council meeting tonight.... even though a vote on the project may not come up at the meeting. Neighbors are upset at yet another delay in the vote, which would allow Glock to level dozens of acres near a residential area for a new manufacturing plant. Channel 2's Ross Cavitt is live in the neighborhood with why neighbors are so fired up.

Date: **07/20/10 5am** **duration :30** **Fred Blankenship**

A delay this morning in a gun maker's plan to level dozens of acres near Cobb County neighborhoods. Glock wants to expand, near Prince Drive in Smyrna. Council members were initially scheduled to vote last night, but delayed their decision until August. Neighbors we talked to are against the plan. Many attended last night's meeting to make sure council members know how they feel. Jerry White: "We just feel like we're getting run over by the city of Smyrna and Glock." Glock requested the delay, since several city council members are out of town.

"Phantom of the Fox" Fights Lease Changes

Date: **08/30/10 6pm** **duration :18** **Justin Farmer**

The Fox Theatre Board of Trustees is meeting at the theater over a man and his apartment lease. The man is fighting to keep his home. He signed his lease to live at the Fox in 1969. He says the teater is now trying to kick him out.

Date: **10/04/10 11pm** **duration :25** **Justin Farmer**

The so-called "Phantom of the Fox" is asking for a judge to grant an injunction, so he can stay in his apartment. Joe Patten is accusing the Fox Theatre of discrimination. It has raised concers about the 83-year-old's health. Patten has lived rent-free at The Fox for 30 years under a lifetime lease. In August, The Fox board terminated the lease, and offered him a new one which can be canceled at any time. Patten has *not* signed it.

