

**TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA**

**QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS**

**AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**OCTOBER 1, 2010 – DECEMBER 31, 2010**

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW ARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, AND ARE LOCALLY PRODUCED. WE ALSO CARRY ABC NETWORK AND SYNDICATED PUBLIC 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 430am-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 fourth quarter, 2010)

**QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST**

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

**BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS**

Date: 10/11/10 5pm

duration :25

Justin Farmer

We have more details on the controversy surrounding whether the trainee should have been driving the bus. Channel 2 Action News obtained a Department of Driver Services email that states Carroll County did nothing wrong when it allowed Kenneth Herringdine to drive the bus. The DDS stated the email referred to training in empty buses. To drive a bus full of children, the DDS says you need an "S Endorsement," which Herringdine did \*not\* have.

**GRADS LOCATION CHEROKEE**

Date: 12/02/10 6pm

duration :35

John Pruitt

Tonight, the Cherokee County School Board will take up a graduation controversy. For years, Cherokee County has held its graduations at Woodstock's First Baptist Church. School leaders say it's the only place in the county big enough. They also say it's much more affordable than other locations. But the group "Americans United for Separation of Church and State" says it will sue if the venue isn't changed, disappointing some students. Student 1: "We want this big facility and we are not trying to force religion on anybody." She and some others plan to speak out at tonight's school board meeting against changing the venue.

**COACH CONTROVERSY GWINNETT**

Date: 12/15/10 6pm

duration :31

John Pruitt

In about an hour, we'll be there when angry parents confront a youth football board over comments one of its coaches posted on his personal Facebook page. Brookwood Football Association Coach Frank Samuelson admitted to Channel 2 Action News he posted racially charged comments on the page about blacks, Hispanics and Asians. But, he says they were snippets of conversation between him and several minority friends and that he has apologized. Tonight, Association parents will meet to nominate new members and possibly remove Samuelson as a coach.

**Atlanta School Board Lawsuit**

Date: 10/28/10 5pm

duration 1:10

Jovita Moore

Reuben McDaniel is on the Atlanta School Board - one of four who filed suit against the other five. McDaniel: "If there are five board members who don't believe in these opinions and want to find out in a court of law what the real answer is, a lawsuit is the only way to get to that answer." McDaniel, Emmett Johnson, and the former board chair and vice chair believe those seats on the board were illegally overturned - the other five recently voted to change board rules regarding those seats - a move that's caused criticism and controversy. McDaniel: "We had three opinions: our attorney, an outside counsel, and the Attorney General saying it was illegal what was done and needs to be changed but they still have not decided to go along with that so the lawsuit is the only answer." Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall says, "The Atlanta Board of Education must come together to resolve its internal differences and move forward within the letter and spirit of the law to provide effective leadership." The accreditation of Atlanta's high schools is a stake - SACS has put the district on notice: get into compliance by

December 1 or else, something parents don't want to hear. Christina Gullet, Morris Brandon parent: "A lot of people are probably gonna move out or they're gonna be forced to do private schools and in this economy a lot of people can't do private schools so that's a big problem."

### **DOE Official's Contract Controversy**

Date: 11/09/10 5pm duration 2:37 Richard Belcher

The FFA camp in Newton County is 35 miles from the Department of Education's main office near the state capitol. That's a long way from headquarters. ON top of that, purchases related to groups using the camp were handled through the Newton County school board, also 35 miles from downtown. It's the kind of arrangement that could lead to abuses. Gerald Schaefer is the internal auditor for the state Department of Education. The state says Scott Carey very cleverly exploited that arrangement. Until he was fired this summer, Carey earned \$85,000 dollars a year from the state Department of Education and he managed a DOE grant of nearly \$1 million dollars for career tech student organizations that often use FFA camp. But Scott Carey was largely off the radar, spending money not by the rules, but as he saw fit. It may be impossible to know since there wasn't competitive bidding, but do your instincts tell you that money was wasted here? "Yes" Priced just too high? "Yeah, it's too high. It's exorbitant." Schaeffer says Scott Carey used no-bid deals to steer business to his family. Here's evidence of photography work to a company owned by his son. The company's business address is Scott Carey's home outside of Madison. Much more costly, says DOE, was the estimated \$300,000 dollars Scott Carey steered to a Texas printing company owned, Carey admits, by a friend. Gerald Schaefer says the printing costs were exorbitant. So Schaefer questioned Scott Carey. How did he respond? He was very passive, didn't really offer up any explanation other than 'this is how it's always been.' That's the worst possible answer. Schaefer says he's confident he would have uncovered Scott Carey's sweetheart deals, but he admits it could have taken another year and a half, maybe two years. Instead, an anonymous whistleblower sent this letter to the DOE, and it found its way to Gerald Schaefer's desk. When everything was done, so was Scott Carey's career at D.O.E. We tracked him down at his new job at Jasper County High School. Belcher: "We wanted to ask you about some of these allegations." Carey: "Okay, okay, let me get ahead - I can't answer now. I'm going to class." Belcher: "How about the \$300,00 dollars to the company in Texas? That was a friend of yours?" Carey: "I'm in the middle of class." Belcher: "I understand but these are pretty serious allegations."

### **Fulton County Schools Charter Program**

Date: 10/18/10 5am duration :22 Fred Blankenship

The Fulton County school district will get parents' input on a major school restructuring proposal. The county could become one of the largest \*charter\* school systems in the country. Last week, seven districts asked the Supreme Court to overturn a decision allowing charter schools. If approved, it would write a charter or contract with Georgia to meet or exceed state and federal standards.

## **APS Protest**

Date: 12/06/10 6am duration :25 Fred Blankenship

The Atlanta School Board is expected to discuss a potentially controversial decision later today. The district is looking at three sites for a new high school. The sites include the IBM property on Northside Drive, the Dump Furniture store on Sidney Marcus in Buckhead, and this apartment complex. Homeowners near the apartment complex have been the most vocal \*against that site. The board is set to discuss the plan in executive session.

## **DeKalb School Board Chairman discusses Costs**

Date: 11/30/10 6pm duration :20 Richard Belcher

We've reported on those legal costs for well over two years, as they've risen from 8 to more than 15 million dollars. Chairman Bowen admits taxpayers are concerned about the costs. But he contends the system has a powerful case against former construction management firm Heery Mitchell, and a jury should hear the evidence sooner rather than later.

## **CRCT Cheating Investigation**

Date: 12/06/10 6pm duration :24 Richard Belcher

State investigators are in Philadelphia today to question the author of a report about the likelihood of cheating in Atlanta schools. That report is important, because it largely confirmed findings by the AJC.

**GRADY CEO APOLOGY**

Date: 11/03/10 6pm

duration :37

Justin Farmer

Grady Hospital's CEO apologized today to Fulton County commissioners. As we reported earlier this week, Michael Young told a civic group that the taxpayers of Fulton County should "shine his shoes." Because of the hospital's financial turnaround. Today, he and Pete Correll, chairman of the Grady Corporation Board expressed their regret about the remark. Rob Pitts: "They again expressed their concern regret about the unfortunate statement that was made and the context in which it was made and again we listened to the explanation from Mr. Correll and Mr. Young and the matter is behind us." By Grady's estimate, the hospital saved \$80 million dollars last year.

**HEALTHCARE REFORM LAWSUIT**

Date: 10/07/10 11pm

duration :25

Jovita Moore

A judge has ruled the federal government can require everyone to have health insurance. A lawsuit filed in Michigan claimed lawmakers exceeded their power under the constitution's commerce clause. A judge has ruled the requirement to get insurance by 2014 and the financial penalty for skipping coverage are legal. Georgia and 19 other states have filed a separate lawsuit in federal court in Florida challenging healthcare reform.

**MEDICARE FRAUD**

Date: 10/13/10 11pm

duration :20

Monica Pearson

Authorities bust a multi-million dollar Medicare fraud ring, with ties to Georgia. Today, officers arrested 73 people in raids in Georgia, New York city, Los Angeles, New Mexico, and Ohio. Prosecutors say a network of Armenian gangsters used phantom healthcare clinics and phony paperwork to cheat Medicare. They're accused of trying to steal \$163 million dollars.

**KIDS WEIGHT**

Date: 11/12/10 5pm

duration 2:45

15-year-old Kallum Shropshire is one of the millions of children in Georgia who are obese. The state ranks second in the nation – behind Mississippi – in the number of overweight children. Kallum: "I tried for years and years and weeks and days. I tried a lot of things and nothing worked. You're really insecure. You think about what people are thinking about you and saying about you behind your back. I lost 30 pounds in the

first month. The impact is huge. like, I can't even explain like how big it is. I can do things I've never like, thought I could do. Mother: "every time he loses another 2 pounds, I'm crying for him. I'm happy for him. I'm more than happy for him. Shropshire's mother said she chose surgery for her son to give him a chance at being a normal teenager. She understood his struggle because of her own battle with weight. "it is an addiction. no different than a drug addiction. So many people don't realize. it took me a long time for me to realize that. *I'm sorry that I passed that trait on to my son/how can i help him when i can't help myself.* Kallum had his surgery at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Surgeon Mark Wolcon said they've done 40 bariatric procedures on kids. Wolcon: "If you ask me how many surgeries I could do, I would think that we would be doing 1 or 2 of these a week, easily. There's that many kids out there." Doctors are seeing more kids with adult diseases like diabetes and heart disease. Only children with these types of issues are candidates for surgery. Wolcon: "None of this is a quick fix. i want to be very clear. surgery is not a quick fix. it's not to make you skinny for the prom. it's really to improve your health. It's not a guarantee. you still need to change your lifestyle. Wolcon says the chances of an overweight child becoming an overweight adult is nearly 100 percent. Studies show if Georgia doesn't do something soon, the cost to treat obesity related health issues could skyrocket to \$11 billion dollars by 2018.

### **Healthy Babies Initiative**

Date: 12/10/10 6pm duration :22 Jovita Moore

State officials are getting ready to launch a program that will help women with family planning. The program "planning for healthy babies" or p-4-h-b offers prenatal planning, health education and vitamins to women. Right now, Georgia has very low rates when it comes to babies' birth weights. Women must meet family income limits for the program. They must also be u-s citizens and Georgia residents.

### **Fulton County Flu Cases**

Date: 12/13/10 12pm duration :26 Carol Sbarge

With the changing weather Fulton County health officials are urging residents to get the flu vaccine. The CDC is reporting a major increase in flu cases in Georgia. So far, Fulton County has given out nearly 4000 vaccines. But is advising everyone to get one at either a health center, doctors office or pharmacy. They say this year's flu strain seems to affect children more than adults. The CDC recommends a flu shot for anyone older than 6 months.

## **Gwinnett County Flu Cases**

Date: 12/31/10 6pm      duration :28      Linda Stouffer

Georgia health officials are seeing a surge in flu cases and new numbers released by the cdc are confirming their fears. Five states had widespread reports of the flu last week. There weren't any reported cases two weeks ago. We spoke to one doctor who has a theory about why cases in Georgia are increasing. "There wasn't a warning. So there's no scare tactic, so they tend not to take 'em." The CDC reports the circulating flu strains are well matched to this season's flu vaccine.

**MOVIE PRODUCTIONS DISRUPT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

Date: 12/09/10 12pm

duration :36

Fred

Blankenship

Some Atlanta businesses say "Hollywood" productions are costing them money! One movie studio is planning to shut down Mitchell Street this Sunday during filming. Businesses say they got little notice, and they're not getting any compensation like they did before. Maggie Sweeney: "I'm not sure what they compensated every business. Compensated us for lost sales - \$1000 dollars for lost sales. We're a small shop so that was consistent with what we do. That was fair and appropriate." The production company told us it will offer Mitchell Street customers free parking nearby. Other movie studios have paid businesses in similar situations.

**Unemployment Rates Down Slightly**

Date: 11/18/10 12pm

duration :20

Fred Blankenship

The latest unemployment numbers do show some signs of recovery. The Georgia rate remained at 9.9 percent in October. But the labor department says the number of payroll jobs increased. Most of those jobs were in retail, education, and healthcare. The labor department says the number of "long term" unemployed men and women did increase last month.

**Roy Barnes Economic Proposal**

Date: 09/30/10 5pm

duration 1:20

Lori Geary

Democratic nominee for Governor Roy Barnes is talking jobs and unveiled his plans to attack Georgia's 10% unemployment rate. Barnes: "For a period of two years, if you create a new job we will waive the state's portion of the payroll tax." Barnes says as Governor he would also eliminate all capital gains taxes for two years on Georgia investors. He would also focus on biomedical research and expanding broadband internet access. As the race heads into the final month, Barnes says you'll notice a difference on the airwaves. Any company that moves jobs overseas shouldn't be eligible for Georgia tax credits. Barnes plans a new focus on issues rather than just attacks on his Republican opponent Nathan Deal for not releasing all of his tax returns. In the meantime, former presidential candidate Mitt Romney was in town campaigning for fellow Republicans and announced his support for Deal. Deal's recent ad outlines his plans to retain and expand the number of jobs in Georgia. Deal's plan calls for tax exemptions for start-up businesses and a 1/3 reduction in corporate income taxes.

## **Film Industry Ready Counties**

Date: 10/06/10 5am      duration :19      Fred Blankenship

This week the state plans to designate 16 counties as “camera ready.” The designation comes as the film industry pumped more than a billion dollars into the state’s economy last year. The counties include Carroll, Coweta, DeKalb, Fulton, Hall and Newton in metro Atlanta. Crews shot more than 700 film and tv projects in Georgia last year.

## **Kasim Reed Fights for Transportation Money**

Date: 10/12/10 5am duration :34      Fred Blankenship

Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed is hoping a mayor’s meeting in Washington will help boost metro Atlanta’s and Georgia’s economy. He traveled there to meet with President Obama and to fight for transportation dollars for the area. Reed: “so I’m not as mayor of the city of Atlanta and as an elected official of Georgia not going to come to fight as hard as I can. Because that’s what the people of Atlanta in the state of Georgia deserve.” Georgia is facing a \$1 billion dollar budget hole because of the loss of stimulus funds. Congress is debating a \$50 billion dollar transportation plan that could help fill that gap.

## **Georgia Unemployment Numbers**

Date: 10/21/10 5pm      duration 1:25      Carol Sbarge

The latest unemployment rate in Georgia is 10.1% - unchanged from August. Tina Vogel: “Even in my company there’s not a lot of growth right now. With the recession they’re afraid to spend a lot of money.” Dr. Rajeev Dhawan on the Georgia State economic forecasting center says company CEO’s are nervous about expanding. Dhawan: “Right now they are not as optimistic as they were six months ago.” Dhawan says companies are waiting to see what happens in next month’s election. Walk in downtown Atlanta and you can see some areas of growth. Convention and Visitor business is up. The Economist says the problem is even with more visitors here it’s not enough to offset what is happening with the economy because of the type of jobs that are disappearing. One of the sectors really not working at all right now because of the financial crisis is the banks and depending upon them, it’s the real estate, commercial real estate, building of houses – everything is like shut down. That makes up about 20% of the economy in our area. Some people believe there are signs things will pick up. The housing market is even showing some signs of turning around and that’s where it all started.

**KSU Illegal Student**

Date: 11/15/10 6am

duration :20

Carol Sbarge

An appeal could postpone sentencing today for a local college student at the center of an immigration controversy. Kennesaw State University student Jessica Colotl faces up to a year in jail. She drew national attention after police arrested her for driving without a license. Authorities later learned Colotl was illegally in the US.

**IMMIGRATION CONTROVERSY GA**

Date: 12/10/10 6pm

duration :21

Jovita Moore

Seven members of congress from Georgia want to know why state with \*fewer\* illegal immigrants are getting enforcement programs \*ahead\* of Georgia. They invited the nation's top immigration officer – John Morton – to meet with them. The issue surrounds a federal fingerprint-sharing program called “secure communities” designed to deport violent undocumented immigrants.

**Park Atlanta Under Fire**

Date: 12/03/10 5pm

duration :19

Richard Elliot

The city of Atlanta wants to change the way, it handles some parking enforcement. Park Atlanta – the company that now does the job for the city – has come under fire. Now, city officials have a list of recommendations, it thinks could make things better.

**Parking Ticket Controversy**

Date: 10/27/10 4:30am

duration :41

Fred Blankenship\

Atlanta parking enforcers are again ticketing unsuspecting falcons fans. A couple weeks ago, Park Atlanta ticketed and towed cars parked on Nelson Street. That's a few blocks from the Georgia Dome. But after a series of reports on Channel 2 Action News, Park Atlanta promised to refund fines because there were no adequately marked "no parking" signs. Since then, they added a few signs, but they caught long-time fans by surprise. Falcons Fan: "Years! We've had season tickets from '97, since I was 7 years old." Reporter: "And you've always parked here?" Fan: "Or on the street over there." Park Atlanta is a company made from a union of a towing business and a parking lot company. It pays Atlanta more than \$5 million dollars a year to collect parking fees and fines.

**Douglas County Road Dispute**

Date: 10/21/10 12pm

duration :30

Fred Blankenship

There's a new local road controversy. Douglas County closed the "Bright Star Connector" one day after the city of Douglasville opened it in June. The county has safety concerns, but the city says it's safe as is. So Douglasville used orange barrels to shift traffic onto the half it controls. Drivers we spoke to would like to see the whole thing opened. Driver: "I just think they need to get their minds together and open the road. what's it gonna hurt? it's not gonna hurt anybody."

**Fayette Road Controversy**

Date: 11/08/10 11pm

duration :39

George Howell

Some people in Fayetteville say they plan to file a lawsuit over a road project this week. Sunday, the coalition against the "West Fayetteville Bypass" showed us plans for the road. Last week, Fayette County received a permit under the Clean Water Act for the bypass to ease traffic. But neighbors say the project will cut through yards and even cause the demolition of some homes! Sharri Greene: "This is our house here. The bypass is going to be going right along our fence. They're knocking down our neighbor's house. They built that house 20 years ago." Neighbors tell us they already sent out a letter of intent for their lawsuit. We tried to speak with other county commissioners but never got a call back.

## **Controversial Red Light Cameras**

Date: 12/09/10 6pm

duration :30

Justin Farmer

Some controversial red light cameras are about to start operating again in Atlanta. The city won an appeal to operate the cameras at Freedom Parkway and Boulevard in northeast Atlanta. The city had to prove to the state, the cameras improved safety there. The yellow light is up for 4.6 seconds. The public works commissioner says that is safe, but a local representative disagrees. The tickets start up again Monday night. In 2008, the city made nearly \$3.5 million dollars in revenue from tickets issued there.

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice**

**Dangerous Accident Involving Police Officer**

Date: 10/18/10 11pm

duration :48

Justin Farmer

The Atlanta Police chief is promising action in a chase that has outraged neighbors. The controversy centers around this ... take a look at where the police cruiser stopped this evening. Residents say an officer chased a suspect between buildings at the Brandywine Condos on Mt. Zion Road, he drove his cruiser over sidewalks as children played nearby. He eventually hit the suspect, knocking him to the ground. He came around this corner at a rate that would kill one of these little people instantly, and that's our only concern. Chief George Turner: "We were chasing a very violent individual as I understand it, but we'll go through the investigation and determine what we did and why we're able to do it." Chief Turner visited the neighborhood tonight, to talk to residents. The suspect was wanted on weapon charges. Police say he threw suspected drugs when he saw officers.

10/23/10 5pm

duration :24

Jovita Moore

Atlanta's mayor is promising a full investigation of claims police destroyed evidence connected to a controversial raid. Lawyers accused police of erasing text messages, emails and pictures that a judge ordered them to turn over. The lawsuit stems from a raid on "The Eagle" bar. Police said they raided the bar after reports of nudity and drug sales. Customers said officers used gay slurs while forcing them onto the ground in handcuffs.

**AGRICULTURE Commissioner Retiring**

Date: 11/15/10 5am

duration :17

Richard Belcher

Tommy Irvin is leaving after 42 years as state Agriculture Commissioner. And as he leaves, he's giving a handful of employees a going-away present. Irvin explains the raises, in part, by saying the employees are grossly underpaid. His replacement says he'd like the people who got the raised to give them back.

**Street Renaming in Atlanta Protested**

Date: 12/29/10 6pm

duration :32

Jovita Moore

Some Atlanta preservation groups and business owners are fighting a plan to change the names of some downtown streets. The city wants to rename Cone Street "Xernona Clayton Way" for the civil rights icon. Harris Street would be renamed "John Portman Boulevard" in honor of the architect who helped design Atlanta's skyline. "There has to be a better way to honor our heroes without the negative impact of street renaming." Opponents say the city is violating a 2003 ordinance – requiring the approval of 75% of residents and businesses affected by the renaming.

**BED BUGS ATL**

Date: 12/09/10 6pm

duration :40

John Pruitt

Residents of a senior living apartment complex in Southeast Atlanta are being evicted for talking to Channel 2 Action News about bed bugs. In October, Ruby Smith and neighbors told us about bed bugs in the Ashton Browns Mill Apartments, the management confirmed they had two apartments infested. Now an attorney for the complex has sent Smith a letter evicting her for what she said. Legal Aid is representing her. They're required to have specific legal cause to terminate their lease and from our perspective talking to the media is certainly not good legal cause to terminate a lease. Ms. Smith lives with her 80-year-old aunt and tells Channel 2 Action News she doesn't know where they'll live if they're evicted.

**12 CREMATORY FIGHT GWIN**

Date: 11/04/10 12pm

duration :34

Fred Blankenship

Opponents of a controversial crematory plan have won a significant battle. The Bill Head Funeral Home on Lawrenceville Highway in the Tucker area wants to add the crematory. Last night, opponents showed up to the Gwinnett County planning commission meeting. They're worried about property values and emissions. Tia Severino: "That smoke stack from the crematory would be 20 feet from the nearest property line and we've got kids, elderly." Ultimately the commission voted 4 to 3 to deny the request to add the crematory. Next, both sides will present their cases to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on November 16.