

# K X A N

## MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – 1st Quarter 2008  
January 1 – March 31

DATE: April 4, 2008

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The major significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

1. Education
2. Crime
3. Economy

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed these issues. Additionally, as an NBC affiliate, we broadcast network programs that discuss these problems and needs from a national perspective. These include “Dateline” and “Meet the Press.”

### EDUCATION

1/5/08 Kinder Cramming

Duration: 2:00 minutes

On any given afternoon, millions of American children are busy in tutoring programs. “Reading, Writing, and Rithmeticking.” Sruthi started coming to the Kumon center at the ripe age of 3. She is the face of a new wave in what some call “Kinder Cramming.” And a recent Developmental Psychology” study of 36 thousand pre-schoolers in the U.S., Canada and Britain showed that students who entered Kindergarten with basic math and reading skills did better in school later on. Santa Clara University professor of Psychology Thomas Plante says that parents should watch their child’s reaction. Do they have fun doing the extra work or is it a chore? And on the path to sharpening those young minds, remember that learning programs are not “one size fits all.”

2/2/08 Pflugerville Lockdown

Duration :20 seconds

What turned out to be a “Fake Gun” led to a lockdown today at two Pflugerville Schools. A parent reported a possible gun on the campus of either Dessau Elementary or Dessau Middle School. District leaders decided to only release students to parents or escort them to school buses as a precaution. Two students were taken into custody after school officials discovered they had a

“fake gun.”

3/7/08 Concordia Last Day

Duration :15 seconds

A chapter in Austin history is closing as we speak. After more than 80 years, Concordia University is moving from their current location north of the UT campus to far northwest Austin. Concordia's new digs will be just off of 620 north of 2222.

## **CRIME**

1/7/08 Burglary Hot Zones

Duration: 1:00 minutes

If you live in an area that has a high amount of rental properties, there is a greater chance that you could become a victim of a burglary. The reason you don't know your neighbors and aren't as inclined to look out for one another. Austin Police have determined the neighborhood around Riverside and Pleasant Valley is where the most of the burglaries occur. Three other high burglary areas are, Hyde Park, Rundberg Lane between Burnet and Lamar, and the area around I-35 and 290. Police say that the best way to avoid getting your home broken into is to know your neighbors, look out for each other, report anything unusual, have lights outside your home and make sure to lock your doors and windows.

2/5/08 Pastor Busted

Duration :25 seconds

A south Austin pastor charged with “indecent with a child” was arrested again this morning. Rodolfo Sosa is now charged with a second count of indecent with a child. Investigators tell KXAN this second case involves a 12 year old boy. In the earlier case Sosa is accused of fondling a 13 year old boy who attended the “Ciudad del Refugio” church in south Austin. Investigators say more charges are possible.

2/8/08 Millrace Murder

Duration :35

Two people are behind bars this morning after one person was found dead. It happened just before 1am Monday at “Millrace Drive” in Northeast Austin. A fight broke out between two men at a party and police say one stabbed the other multiple times. They do not believe the victim had a weapon. Police tracked the suspect to the 56 hundred block of Pinon Vista Drive. 43 year old Roberto Barrero Olivares is charged with murder in the death, and 25 year old Jennifer Najera was booked for evading arrest. The victim's name has not been released.

3/4/08 Pesina Life Sentence

Duration :14 seconds

The prosecution was only pushing for 55 years, but today confessed murderer John Anthony Pesina got a life sentence instead. He shot and killed Pedro Solis and Bertin Perez in December of 2005. Detectives say robbery was the motive for the murders.

## **ECONOMY**

2/6/08 Hungry People

Duration :20 seconds

As America's economic woes get fatter, we're losing our appetite for eating out. Researcher "NPD Group" says dinner traffic fell off two percent last year. Companies like Lone Star Steakhouse and Starbucks are all closing sluggish units. The notable exception is McDonalds, which saw a sales increase last year.

2/8/08 Small Cars

Duration :45 seconds

Maybe those high prices have you thinking of getting a more fuel efficient car. You're not alone. Mini cars are getting more and more popular. The 2008 mini cooper clubman is getting a lot of attention. It is still a mini wagon, but is now nine inches longer. There is also the smart car which has become popular in the U.S., but safety is one of the main concerns with the small vehicles. Even though the safety issues are higher, subcompact vehicle sales rose 20% last year.

3/6/08 Maintenance Budget

Duration :45 seconds

The state is slashing its road maintenance budget and it could effect your commute. The Texas Transportation Commission decided in a unanimous vote that more money needed to go towards highway construction. So, to pay for that, they cut the amount going to maintenance by 11 billion dollars. While you may not see an immediate change in road conditions, the commission believes eventually you will notice. This plan will take place over the next 11 years, but we are told highways will remain in good condition.