

K X A N

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – Third Quarter 2008
July 1 – September 30

DATE: October 4, 2008

The top ten ascertained significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

1. Crime
2. Education
3. Health and Safety

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.”

CRIME

7/1/08 APD Blood Testing

Duration 1:40 minutes

First comes the field sobriety test before blood testing. If you fail and refuse a breathalyzer, an officer can get a search warrant and a court order to take your blood. In Travis County, a jail nurse is tasked with that job. But the clock is ticking. Acevedo says that your evidence is dissipating with time and the gathering of the evidence in a timely manner is critical. Police Chief Art Acevedo says training police officers to draw blood expedites the process. It's the same process that's in place now just with a different person holding the needle. But Texas Civil Rights Project Director Jim Harrington is already waving the red flag. Jim says I think people have got to speak out against this sort of intrusion because if we don't speak out it's going to get worse and worse and worse. Harrington says the practice will open the city up to lawsuits as it has in Arizona, where law enforcement officers have been drawing blood for years. It's the way it's gathered critics argue that makes all the difference.

7/2/08 Pedophile Protection

Duration :55 seconds

A motel manager accused of sexually assaulting two boys asked a judge for extra protection this morning. 46-year-old Douglas Ward was arrested last week for acts he allegedly committed while working and living at the Budget Lodge off of I-35 and Rundberg. He's accused of molesting a 10 and 12 year old, and then threatening to kill them. Ward's attorney was originally in court asking for an examination hearing that would allow him to question witnesses. That hearing was granted, and then Ward let the judge know, he fears for his life in jail. Bill Hines, Ward's Attorney says "Mr. Ward was concerned and ask the court to make recommendation to the sheriff that he be placed in protective custody." Judge says "Have there been any threats made to you, anything that you area aware of?" Ward says "just when I am here and around a lot of people and other inmates." The judge ordered extra protection for Ward, as he heads back to the Del Valle facility. If a grand jury indicts him on the six charges, the examination hearing won't be necessary.

7/2/08 Gas Pump Complaints

Duration :55 seconds

Gas station complaints have doubled from last year from wary consumers looking to squeeze every penny out of their pump. The Texas Agriculture Commission takes those reports. And Commissioner "Todd Staples" filed one himself recently when he noticed he wasn't getting the gas he should, based on his car's capacity and mileage. He said an investigation revealed that gas station was in violation. And about 30-percent of those inspected after complaints are not in compliance. We want all consumers to pay attention, to know what their vehicle holds, to know that it is a violation if you activate a pump and it immediately registers a charge. That's a violation! And with these prices you want to make sure you're getting what you pay for: The average for regular in the Austin-San Marcos area has risen to nearly \$3.95 a gallon. Across the state, it's about the same rising a penny from yesterday. The national average is a bit higher sitting at \$4.09 a gallon.

8/1/08 Fake Border Patrol

Duration :55 seconds

Austin Police say a fake border patrol agent has scammed people out of thousands of dollars.

It happened at the Southpoint Village Apartments in South Austin. They say a 35 year old illegal immigrant named Roberto Diosdado posed as a border patrol agent promising visas in exchange for 10-thousand dollars a person. Police also say he used an apartment worker at Southpoint Village to set up appointments with unsuspecting families. At least one family lost 13-thousand dollars. Apartment residents were shocked to hear the news. Austin Police say both the apartment worker and the fake border patrol agent are still on the loose.

9/3/08 GPD Chief Daughter Guilty

Duration :25 seconds

A Police Chief's daughter pleads guilty to possession of drugs and assault on a police officer. In a plea agreement, 19-year-old "Samantha Morgan", daughter of the Georgetown Police Chief, would spend 30 days in jail and pay a 25 hundred dollar fine. In a traffic stop on fathers day, officers found a bag of marijuana, crack cocaine and more

than 12-hundred dollars on her. Police say she ran, then struggled and kicked when they caught up with her.

EDUCATION

7/1/08 Children's Physical Fitness

Duration :45 seconds

Texas school children are surprisingly unhealthy. Their fitness levels have declined sharply through the years. Those are the first results of a new physical fitness review required of all public school students, beginning in 3rd grade. 32 percent of third grade girls and 28 percent of boys are considered in the "Healthy Fitness Zone." But by 12th grade, those numbers drop to 8 and 9 percent. Parent Cody Carlson of Austin: "It is time to wake up, it is time to take interest in their children and to work with the school administrators, the physical education departments to find out what is best for their child." "The Texas Education Agency" will analyze the results by school district. That data is expected to be available later this year.

7/2/08 Dropouts

Duration :55 seconds

A unique partnership is helping curb the dropout rate in one local high school. They inspired me from the very beginning. Whenever I felt like quitting, they were there to push me. "Hendrickson High School" in the Pflugerville district put students identified as "at risk" for dropping out with tutors who are disabled military veterans. And the results are remarkable getting a dozen students back on track with their classmates this summer. The program also has some benefits for veterans still on the road to recovery. By giving them a sense of accomplishment along with these kids, that's a pathway to healing. It helps them transition into civilian life. No matter what you do you should never, never, NEVER give up. That was Army veteran "Alan Babin" of Round Rock. He earned the "Purple Heart" and the "Bronze Star" for Valor in first days of the Iraq war.

8/1/08 AISD School Ratings

Duration 1:15 minutes

There are 113 schools in the Austin Independent School District, and this year most are making the grade. He's talking about a 30-percent increase in the number of schools taking academics to a new level. The school leaders are giving the teachers the credit. Jeanne Goka says "All of them gave up their free period to tutor their students in small groups, we found that really effective." Shannon Powell says "But not every student in every school got that special treatment and TLC. 11 Austin schools are rated academically unacceptable for 2008. One landed on that list for the fourth year straight." Forgone says "There are no easy solutions, but there are no excuses either." So, Texas Education Agency members say they will pay special attention to those 11 schools. Robert Scott, with the Texas Education Agency says "I'll visit the school and be in agreement to provide regular updates to the agency. We'll have monitoring teams in place

and then at the end of the school year we'll calculate their rating early and make a decision. "

9/3/08 Science Teacher Arrested for Sexual Assault

Duration :30 seconds

An Austin science teacher has been arrested and charged with sexually assaulting a child and possession of child pornography. Police say "Stephen Golka" performed sexual acts on a seven year old girl that he knew. The 42-year-old worked at the "Oaks Treatment Center" as a science teacher, but investigators do not believe any of his students were victimized. The victim told police that Golka showed her child pornography on a laptop. Then he made her mimic the scenes from the pictures. Police say they have no reason to doubt her. Detective Greg White, with the Austin Police Department says Just the information that the child was able to provide, just very sexually descriptive. Stuff that a normal seven year old wouldn't have knowledge of. She was also able to describe certain activities on his computer that she had looked at, that she termed gross stuff. "Golka" is scheduled to appear in District Court tomorrow for the sexual assault charge.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

7/2/08 Highway 71 Safety

Duration :30 seconds

After nearly 15 hours of clean up, all lanes along Highway 71 are now open in Southwestern Travis County. Crews cleaned up the diesel fuel spill from an overturned tanker near Bee Creek Rd. The area shut down around 2:30 yesterday afternoon when the driver of the truck lost control and crashed. The crash sent 9 thousand gallons of fuel into a ditch and sent the truck driver to the hospital. So far, we don't know the extent of his injuries. Crews say no one else was hurt, and they don't believe any of the fuel leaked into nearby Bee Creek. But highway 71 has proved to be a notorious spot for accidents, and despite trying to improve the road, drivers say more needs to be done. Shawn Kendall, a Gas Station Attendant: "Mainly accidents down by Bee Creek where the road starts turning where it gets hilly that's where most the fatalities happen."

7/3/08 Watercraft Ban

Duration :25 seconds

If you're getting your plans together for tomorrow's Fourth of July holiday...remember different rules apply to Lake Austin this weekend. Park police are prohibiting personal motor-craft, wet bikes, and motorized surfboards beginning tonight at sunset. The ban will last until Saturday morning at sunrise. Public Safety officials say the annual ban is to keep lake visitors safe on this high-traffic weekend. For links to the boating laws for Texas lakes head online now to the find it section on our website that's under the news tab.

8/1/08 DWI Death Update

Duration 1:50 minutes

Stephanie Serna says, "15 year old Joshua Gregg was hit by a drunk driver at this intersection.

He was in a wagon, being pulled by a bicycle. Now his family is remembering his life, with so many questions of why he had to die. "Looking at a photo of her 15 year old grandson, Ann Gregg says this is what she remembered Joshua to be full of a life and a lot of fun. Ann Gregg says, "He was just wonderful and he was beautiful and he had many friends and he was just what you would want in a child and a grandchild." But at this intersection on Signal Hill near his home everything changed. Ann Gregg says, "They had not been gone long from the house and they were doing a typical teenage stupid thing and a friend was riding a bicycle and pulling a wagon and Josh was in the wagon, when this driver hit him." But the wife of the driver is speaking out today, she says her husband, 62 year old Ronald Lair, was not drunk and was charged with a DWI because he did not take the test. Marianne Lair says, "It's a tragedy. We feel sorry for the parents. We feel sorry for anyone this has happened to, but it could have happened to anybody." And although reeling from the death, Ann Gregg says they also feel for the driver. Ann Gregg says, "We do have some sympathy for him because he did not do this intentionally or he did not do this maliciously, but at any rate, he cost us our grandson and our beloved child, we will never see again." Stephanie Serna says, Ronald Lair has been charged with driving while intoxicated, but DPS officials anticipate that those charges will be upgraded to "intoxication manslaughter.

9/1/08 Hurricane Gustov Update

Duration 1:15 minutes

Hurricane Gustav is moving over the Cayman Islands Friday night, and will likely strengthen into a Category 3 storm as it heads over Cuba on Sunday. Gustav is forecast to remain a major category 3 hurricane as it moves through the Gulf of Mexico Sunday and Monday, with projected landfall on the Louisiana coast on Tuesday. Across the city, the county, and the state of Texas preparations are underway for Gustav, wherever the hurricane decides to hit. KXAN's David Scott is at Austin High School, which could do it's part to shelter storm evacuees.