

AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

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

DATE: April 1, 2009

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

1. Transportation/traffic
2. Education quality
3. Growth
4. Crime
5. Gangs
6. High-tech Education
7. Teaching good citizenship/responsibility
8. Focus on positive/good news
9. Family Values
10. Poverty

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.”

PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

NAME OF PROGRAM	DAYS AIRED	TIME AIRED
Austin News Today	Monday-Sunday	(M-F) 5:00-7:00 a.m. (Sat) 7:00-9:00 a.m. (Sun) 7 & 9 a.m.
Austin News Today Show Cut-ins	Monday-Friday	7:26-7:30 a.m. 7:56-8:00 a.m. 8:26-8:30 a.m. 8:56-9:00 a.m.
Austin News @ noon	Monday-Friday	12-1:00 p.m.
Austin News @ 5	Monday-Friday + Sunday	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 6	Monday - Saturday	6-6:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 10	Monday-Friday Saturday-Sunday	10:00-10:35 p.m. 10:00-10:30 p.m.

All of these programs are produced locally and are a mix of news, weather and sports.

KXAN also airs NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, Monday – Friday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m., and NBC Nightly News on Saturday and Sunday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

NBC Nightly News has two ongoing reports that are relevant to the community we serve.

NBC Nightly News – Making a Difference synopsis:

”Making a Difference” stories air every Friday on “NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.” The series was conceived in response to viewers who complain that the broadcast features only "bad" news. Viewers can also read and watch the stories on the NBC Nightly News website and use the mailbag to tell NBC about someone they know who is making a difference.

NBC Nightly News – What Works synopsis:

“What Works” is a continuing series on "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams." These are "reports which spotlight ideas or innovations that are solving various problems in communities across the country." Viewers can read and watch all the stories from the series on NBC Nightly News website.

Transportation/Traffic

01/06/09 Red Light Cameras - Red Light Camera systems just got a "green light" from a U.S. Court of Appeals. The seventh circuit court ruled today that the systems, like the one in place in Austin, are constitutional. The court also held that issuing citations to vehicle owners, without any proof of who was actually driving the vehicle, is permissible as well. They were considering a case in which drivers claimed Chicago's red light camera system violated their due process rights. More than 50 Texas communities are now using similar programs.

01/31/09 MLK Reopened - If you travel through Central Austin often, you'll be happy to hear Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard just east of Lamar has finally reopened. Crews removed the cones this afternoon and traffic is flowing again in both directions.

Education Quality

01/27/09 Govl Perry's state of the state address - In Governor Rick Perry's state of the state speech today, he made a proposal that would affect every college student in Texas. Governor Perry wants the legislature to pass a tuition freeze for state funded colleges. So, when a student enters, they would have the same cost every year for four years. If a student takes longer to graduate, they would then pay the going rate. The president of UT says the university would have to make cuts if they were forced to freeze tuition at today's rate.

02/07/09 AISD Transfers - This was the first day to submit a transfer request for the new school year in Austin. With transfers on a first come-first serve basis hundreds of parents waited in line, some overnight, for a chance to get their child into another school. Not every parent will get their pick. Only two-thirds of parents will get their top choice. Twenty five Austin schools are having a transfer freeze, while another 5 campuses will allow transfers only for certain grade levels.

02/08/09 Black History Month – More than 230 students from Austin schools received special honors today. The school district hosted it's 26th Annual African American Heritage Celebration... coinciding with Black History month. Educators and community leaders are also being honored for their contributions to the success of Austin students.

03/05/09 Taks Tests - As Texas students sit down to take the TAKS test this week, lawmakers are filling bills that could change that test and its significance. The bills place more emphasis on overall readiness for life after high school. It provides two tracks for students to graduate: One would allow them to complete the typical four year diploma. The other plan would allow some students to graduate earlier and replace some of the math and science classes with career technical education courses. The goal is to prepare students for a variety of options after high school and discourage drop-outs.

03/24/09 Top 10 Percent - A bill to change the top ten percent rule at state universities passed its first big hurdle today. The senate voted 23 to 8 in favor of a bill that would cap the number of top ten percent students UT must admit at fifty percent. As of now, the university's president says more than 80 percent of the school's student body is there because they were in the top ten percent of their high school class. Lawmakers in favor of the bill say the top ten percent rule was meant to promote diversity, but instead it's excluding students. The Senate will have to pass the bill on a third reading tomorrow before it moves on to the House for a vote.

Growth

01/14/09 Economic Forecast - Looks like Austin's economy will take a dip before things improve. Experts with the economic research firm the Perryman Group released their forecast for our area today. They said the housing market will get even worse over the next few months, but it is expected to turn around. And the experts recommend expanding the high-tech and medical industries. If you would like to read the full report on economic forecasts for Austin, the state, and the nation go to our website at kxan.com and click on the "local section."

Crime

01/05/09 First Murder in 2009 - We now know the name of a man killed over the weekend in Austin's first homicide of the year. It happened at the Longhorn Landing Apartments in south Austin; that's on Riverside Drive just east of Pleasant Valley Drive. Police responded to a disturbance call just before three o'clock Sunday morning when they arrived they found 20 year-old Joseph Daniel Russo shot dead. If you have any information please call Austin Police.

01/06/09 Stolen UPS Truck - It started here at the intersection of 38th street and Red River... the UPS truck was waiting at the light, headed towards the interstate, when the suspect pushed the driver out of the truck." At this intersection known to be a busy one a man abandoned his SUV during the 5 o'clock rush hour traffic. The suspect, a man in his 30's, took off in the big brown truck and ended up at the 33 hundred block of the I-35 access road. Once again, he abandoned a vehicle, this time, the UPS truck leaving it to bump another driver in the middle of the road. Police arrested him at the intersection of 32nd street and the access road just a block away from where he ditched the truck. Police say the suspect was not hurt, but he was taken to Brackenridge Hospital for an evaluation before he was taken to jail. Witnesses say the UPS driver didn't appear injured... but definitely startled. The suspect is being charged with felony theft, although more charges are pending, in central Austin,

Teaching Good Citizenship/ Responsibility

01/19/09 MLK Rally - Millions of Americans are honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today by volunteering and participating in parades. This morning hundreds of Central Texans gathered on the University of Texas campus to march for Dr. King. The march started near the King statue on the east mall of the U-T campus then it moved to the state capitol, and will finish on the Huston Tillotson University campus.

02/18/09 Travis County Telecommuting - Travis County is considering a plan for workers to "telecommute" when the air outside gets hard to breathe. There are around 15 ozone action days each year here in Travis County. It's on those days employees could work from home to cut down on car pollution. Environmental workers say about 25% of Travis County workers would be able to stay at home. And they say that they have plans in place to make sure those workers are actually getting the job done. The county would also turn off its gas pumps from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The new plans are up for final consideration in two weeks.

