AUSTIN NEWS
kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – ~~First~~ 2nd Quarter
April 1 – June 30

DATE: July 1, 2010

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.

1. Transportation/traffic

4/5/10 Metro Rail Rides - Capital Metro's Metro Rail rider-ship dropped by nearly two-thirds last week once riders had to start paying. The first week of free service, more than 14-thousand people rode the rail line that runs 32 miles from Leander to Downtown Austin. Last week, when fares took effect, just over five thousand hopped aboard. But Capital Metro says passenger patterns can take several months to develop on a new transit system.

4/21/10 Bike Boulevard - The proposed bike boulevard downtown Austin will run on Nueces from 3rd to MLK, and on Rio Grande from 4th Street to MLK. In the city's final plan for the bike boulevard, businesses along Nueces would lose some parking to bike lanes. Many business owners along the route who have been opposed to the bike boulevard from the star are making sure their voices continue to be heard. At a Downtown Commission meeting Wednesday night, some property owners are attacking the results of the city-commissioned economic study which found that added bicycle traffic will generate an additional 96 to 274 thousand dollars in sales revenue every year by 20-20. The study concluded, based on current sales tax data, and the experiences of other cities with similar projects, that the Austin Bike Boulevard is likely to have a positive impact on property values, retail sales, and quality of life. But, opponents say there's no way to estimate those results. Scott says that the property value will certainly deteriorate if accessibility and parking is affected. Hill Abell says that when we put the facilities in, bicyclists will use them, and people who are not currently riding bicycles will become cyclists. And in turn alleviate congestion through Downtown. That's the argument FOR the bike boulevard. But some people continue to question if cyclists will even use the facilities once they're put in place. Scott says "I'm concerned about the narrowing of the streets caused by the bicycle lanes being added because I know cyclist are not required to use bicycle lanes if they are there." This project will cost 670 thousand dollars paid for by transportation bonds if approved.

4/22/10 Capital Metro Money - A financial crisis for Capital Metro - could affect YOUR safety. That conclusion comes after a review of the agency by the Texas Sunset Commission. The report calls Cap Metro's in-house costs "excessive." It also says the agency's board of directors took on financial liabilities without setting aside money to pay for them. And, Cap Metro greatly underestimated the expenses of its new commuter rail. On the last train to leave Downtown for Leander Thursday night just two passengers got on board. The Sunset Report questions whether these trains should even be running citing potentially unsafe bridges on the rail line. The report is also critical of the high cost of bus service- and says Capital Metro cannot sustain service at these costs. The criticism of the agency's money management is scathing citing reserves that plunged from more than 200 million in 2002 to just under 5 million at the start of 2010.

4/23/10 Capital Metro Bridge Safety - Looking in-depth at the Sunset findings - they focus on two major issues: Expenses and public safety. The Commission identified 3 risky bridges along the 32-mile Metro Rail stretch they said need to be completely replaced. But Cap Metro says that information is outdated. They hired a new consultant in December and have already been making repairs. Doug Allen: "We spent $70,000 to upgrade those three bridges to extend their life by five to ten years, so there's no safety issues at all associated with those." In addition to those three bridges, the commission said there are ten other bridges needing major repairs. Cap Metro plans to prioritize all dilapidated bridges and work around the Metro Rail's commuter schedule to make repairs. The Sunset report says, to make safety certain, Cap Metro must also: Create a Comprehensive rail safety plan and turn in regular reports to the Board and TxDOT, hire a Rail Director to protect public safety, and make bridge repair its priority.

4.26/10 Gilleland Bridge - Also today, the Capital Metro Board voted to pay more than 1.6 million dollars to replace a railroad bridge Metro Rail doesn't even use right now. The Gilleland Bridge in Manor is at least 80 years old, and freight trains are the only trains that use it now. But Cap Metro says it has an obligation to that service, plus it wants to expand its passenger service there in the future. Last week, a Sunset report told Cap Metro it should focus on the safety of its current line before any expansion projects. Cap Metro says, it's well on its way, already repairing three bridges. The replacement bridge in Manor will take 150 days to complete.

5/7/10 Quiet Zones - The city of Leander is ready to silence noisy Capital Metro trains running through neighborhoods. The city council there has approved a quiet zone to stop train horns from blaring at US 183 and CR 2243. Now the council will move forward with Cap Metro on this intersection, which will require special gates and signals to stop oncoming vehicle traffic. It won't be that easy for seven intersections in Austin. The city's transportation department originally told residents they'd have "quiet zones" by this summer. Some work has gone forward, but a safety study Union Pacific Railroad requires is holding up the rest of the process. The city says that "study" will cost taxpayers about a half million dollars, money it doesn't have right now - meaning it could still be several months or more for residents.

5/17/10 Cap Metro Finalist - The final two candidates for Capital Metro's new CEO faced the last round of interviews today - answering directly to the public in an East Austin forum. Deborah Finn has 30 years of experience in the transportation industry with what Cap Metro calls a record of effective leadership. Linda Watson is the CEO of LYNX, the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority, covering more than 25-hundred square miles.

5/20/10 TXDOT Travel Count - according to the Central Texas regional mobility authority 150-thousand cars travel mopac everyday and during peak times it's a parking lot. It' is extremely frustrating to not be able to move. I guess it's not so bad as some cities but it's getting bad. It's getting worse. A solution is on the way. These TX Dot researchers have been parked at various entrances and exits along Mopac this week. With the push of a button they manually count each car coming on and off Mopac at eight different locations. It's called an origin and destination study, a collaborative effort by Tex-Dot and the CTRMA. In addition to counting the cars, the device records your license plate to figure out where your trip started. It's all part of figuring out the future of an express lane on Mopac. It's a quick way to provide a fix. It's not rebuilding the entries to the freeway but it does mitigate the traffic congestion." This is a preliminary look at the lane's location. They will run from north and south from Parmer lane all the way to downtown. The railroad tracks will stay. You'll likely pay a toll to use the lanes. You'll pay more during peak morning and afternoon rush hour.

5/20/10 CAR2GO - The new *Car2Go Program* will be available to the public starting tomorrow. At a kickoff event, Mayor Lee Leffingwell called the car-share program essential to the city's mass transit. The program has been successful through its trial period with 3-thousand members. They used 200 *Smart Cars* to log more than half a million minutes through the first quarter of 2010. And all of that time, no reports of

accidents, break-ins, or misuse. *Car2Go* thinks they can support 40-thousand members in Austin and say the amount of vehicles could increase with the popularity. We will start with 200 vehicles. During the coming months access membership demand put more vehicles in fleet. You can register online to get a membership card. After that, it is 35 cents a minute to rent a car.

6/2/10 I-35 Truck Traffic - Four years after the State Highway 130 toll road opened - and it still doesn't seem to be easing I-35 traffic enough. Tx DOT is now working to create some incentives for truck drivers to use SH 130. They include increasing the speed from 70 to as high as 85 miles an hour, and reducing toll fees. Truck drivers could pay about 25-percent less on the 37 mile toll road. *The Bond Review Board* would have to approve the toll fee change. And the speed increase would have to pass the Texas Legislature next session.

6/4/10 Mobility Project - What's the number one change that would help you move around Austin more easily? The public's answers to that question helped city transportation planners put together a "priority list" of mobility projects. There are 45 "priority A" projects - the highest on the list. Half involve "bicycle access" and "safety". Nine are aimed at easing vehicle traffic congestion. And seven more relate to bus or rail - including rail from downtown to the airport and the Mueller development. Capital Metro's new "rapid bus service" along Guadalupe and Lavaca downtown is "number one" on the list. The city must move some utilities before it can begin. Second is the controversy concerning the bicycle boulevard along Nueces and Rio Grande. And number three is the I-35 corridor - with any and all solutions to ease congestion welcome. *The Strategic Mobility Plan* should help the city put together new bond recommendations. But the cost of those 45 "priority A" projects is estimated between two and three billion dollars - far above the 85 million the Mayor set as a goal for that bond package.

2. Education quality

4/3/10 RR ISD Choking Game - A letter went home with parents Thursday from school administrators asking parents to monitor their children at home because of the seriousness of this so -called "game." The Choking game has grown in popularity and involves students choking themselves and each other to experience a feeling of euphoria. In the letter the school administrators explain they are taking action after hearing a group of students may have been involved in the game during the YMCA after school program on campus. Round Rock ISD is clearly committed to educating parents about the choking game maybe because they've been impacted so personally. In 2006, 15-year-old Marc Morales, a Stony Point High School student, died from the choking game, and back in February- the district hosted an educational seminar for parents on the activity. Administrators say they are providing individual support to students they know have participated along with contacting parents, but they caution parents about describing the game explicitly.

4/11/10 No Teacher Left Behind - They call them Generation Next, and the students of today take a different approach to learning. Today in Austin, author Bryan Fiese shared

his ideas on the best ways to teach those students. He wrote the book, "No Teachers Left Behind." The educational expert shared tools and techniques with teachers to better motivate and engage students in the classroom. Bryan Feise, author says, It's not a soft type of book that talks about concepts and awareness; it's a practical hands-on book for the frontline teachers."

4/16/10 School Rankings – Rather than depend solely on the state rankings schools put so much stock in, a non-profit organization decided to do their own research. This is the second year, Children at Risk has conducted their own rankings. They ranked schools statewide including elementary, middle, and high schools in Austin based on 14 different factors including graduation rates, scores, and attendance just to name a few. Westwood high school supplanted Westlake atop the greater Austin area schools, but at the bottom, five Austin ISD schools. President of Children at Risk, Dr. Bob Sanborn says those schools are in economically challenged communities and the system there does not work as well as it does in other places.

4/20/10 Obesity Recruits - A new report claims too many fat Americans now threatens national security. A group of retired generals and admirals presented the report today in Washington. The headline - nearly a third of Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 are now too fat to join the military. The report says the problem starts during childhood and blames school menus. Rear Adm. Jamie Barnett\U.S. Navy Ret.: "What children eat and drink during school hours can constitute up to forty percent of their daily nutrient intake. The retired military brass say the solution is as easy as one, two, three: Get junk food out of the schools, increase funding, and get schools to do what they do best, teach.

4/24/10 Stand Up For Reagan High School - Students, parents, and teachers from Reagan High School marched today to support their school, which is in danger of closing. The Reagan Marching band led the way from Webb Middle School to the St. John Community Center. The "Unity Walk" is an annual event but this year organizers put a special focus on Reagan, which is threatened under state accountability laws. Parents and students want the word out that they're working to improve performance at Reagan, and keep it open.

5/2/10 Golf Cart Death - The halls at Hays High School in Buda were filled with tears Monday. A team of counselors were on hand to help dozens of students deal with the sudden death of junior Alyssa Bargsley described as a student who was friends with everyone. Paint on Laramie Lane in Kingsland marks the spot on the street where her weekend went terribly wrong. Saturday night around seven DPS says the 17-year-old was standing on the back of a moving golf cart. The driver another Hays High School student was driving and swerving back and forth when they hit a bump. Alyssa fell off and hit her head on the pavement and was pronounced dead on scene about half an hour later. Neighbors say they watched the cart go up and down the street all day hauling people from a nearby home out to a pier on Lake Buchanan. Comments have been pouring in all day on a new Facebook page created in the teenager's memory. More than 200 people have joined and are spreading the word about a candlelight vigil Tuesday night at Buda City Park.

5/3/10 ACC Tuition - Tonight, Austin Community College's board approved the schools first "in-district" tuition increase in five years. The board says ACC needs the extra cash for immediate funding needs and to support a growing number of students. "In-district" tuition will go up three dollars per credit hour and a total of 13 dollars per credit hour for out-of-district tuition. The changes will take effect this fall.

5/6/10 Bedichek Amber Alert - The principal here at Bedichek says Karen Anastacio was walking with other students on the way to school. When the group reached that corner, the principal says the suspect pulled up in his car, and Anastacio got in. In the hours that followed, the Amber Alert went out for the 13-year-old. Parents got a call from the principal on an emergency automated phone system. And he also sent home a letter with students explaining what happened. This afternoon, as students left school, one AISD police cruiser was stationed at the campus with a few other officers patroling the grounds. But former students and parents I spoke with say the school and the district should do more to make sure this kind of thing doesn't happen again. The principal's letter assures parents this was not random, saying: "This is not a stranger abduction, and no one else is at risk." He also urges parents to: "Talk to your child about the importance of telling us of any action they may witness that threatens campus security."

5/13/10 Solar Schools - Austin Energy will consider putting its "green" stamp on the Austin School District. The plan is to install solar systems at 21 schools. Total cost: 825-thousand dollars. Most of that money will come from the US Department of Energy, and the Solar America Cities Project. AISD would fund about 75-thousand dollars. In addition to the solar systems, the agreement would enhance the district's curriculum to promote the use of green energy.

5/21/10 SBOE Vote - Conservatives win the fight over what will be taught in Texas schools. The long, bitter curriculum battle ended this afternoon with conservatives outnumbering liberals on the *State Board of Education* by a 10 to 5 margin. Some long-time board members said the curriculum debate has never been as heated and drawn out as this go-round. Here's the thick agenda they've been picking apart word for word... one liberal board member said he'll be pitching his in the trash. History and social studies curriculum standards are now set for the next ten years. While the debate has been boiling for several months, colorful demonstrations by the state board of education were saved for the final hour. Liberals tried to delay the vote until July. But conservatives won the big idealogical battles...describing America as a "Constitutional Republic" instead of a "Democratic Society." Texas students will also learn to compare the Founding Fathers original First Amendment, to the Liberals modern day use of the phrase "Separation of church and state." The curriculum will reach nearly 5-million public school students. Publishers will also use the text to develop materials for kids across the country.

06/07/10 Pearce Middle School - The Austin school district says preliminary results show enough students at Pearce Middle School passed the TAKS test this year, and the state will NOT be closing the campus for a second year in a row. While final confirmation from the state is not expected until next month, the Austin school board approved a plan to turn the school into a college prep academy no matter what. Administrators are confident the college-minded campus will generate stronger students

entering Reagan and LBJ High Schools. In order to make the switch, all incoming sixth graders about 150 of them will stay on their elementary campus one more year which raised questions. Mark Williams/AISD Board President says, "Is there capacity in the sixth grade elementary schools to handle them all?" The district says yes. A team of teachers and administrators will visit other campuses where the college-prep model is working... and plan out how it will work at Pearce.

06/07/10 San Marcos ISD - The San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District says its TAKS scores are up district-wide especially in math and science. They attribute many of the improvements to a re-organization. Last year, they changed what were 4 elementary schools and one intermediate school to six elementary schools that include 5th grade. The San Marcos superintendent said those 5th grade students "excel in the smaller, more structured settings of elementary campuses."

3. Crime

4/3/10 Smash and Grab Burglary - Austin Police arrest a man accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise during nine different burglaries. They caught 21-year-old John Conner Travis Hudgeons after a burglary this week at a Target store on I-35. Police said Hudgeons smashed the front window with a large rock and stole dozens of electronic devices. When police caught Hudgeons, officers say he had iPod and iTouch devices on him.

4/3/10 Mower Scam - Deputies say a man going door to door asking to mow people's lawns is actually a thief casing homes to rob. 23-year-old Charles Justin Wilson Jr. was arrested after a neighbor spotted Wilson knocking on doors at several homes in the SH 130 - 290 area. Travis County Sheriff's deputies found fingerprints at two of the homes and say they matched up with Wilson.

4/11/10 Missing Child Dead - Five year old Julian Soliz was found dead in this grassy patch near the intersection of Wellsport Cove and Wellsport Drive Saturday morning. Julian went missing from this apartment he lived in with his father and father's girlfriend, along with his two younger siblings, a few hours earlier. Now, his family and friends are mourning the child they say was liked and always the center of attention. His mother is too grief stricken to talk. Ivan, the father, says he left his girlfriend in charge of watching Julian about a week ago, but has not talked to or seen her since Julian's body was found. Detectives are not yet saying this is a homicide investigation, but Ivan says he and his girlfriend are suspects. Ivan and his father told KXAN they have no doubt Julian met with foul play but say it was not at Ivan's or any family members hands.

4/12/10 Sam Bass Fire Chief - A volunteer for the Sam Bass fire department will spend the next 40 years in prison. Forty Eight year old Gerard Cheney pleaded guilty to theft and four counts of possession of child pornography. He was arrested in August of last year for stealing more than 200-thousand-dollars from the fire department, where he served as president and treasurer of the organization. Following that investigation, his

wife told police she found images of child pornography on a home computer. He will serve his theft and child pornography sentences concurrently.

4/14/10 Stassney Deaths - Five bodies found were found in Austin over the past seven days. A man's body was found just after three this afternoon at the "Stassney Woods Apartments" on Stassney at I-35. Young residents took a seat behind the crime tape strung up at the "Stassney Woods Apartments" Wednesday afternoon. They watched Austin police pull evidence from a neighbor's apartment where a maintenance man made a startling discovery. During a scheduled check he found a man dead inside. Multiple entrances to the complex off Stassney Lane are NOT gated, and a fence surrounds the property on all sides. This is the 5th homicide investigation detectives have launched in the last seven days. police say the other four have all turned out to be killings but none are connected.

4/14/10 Bluff Springs Death - Police are not only looking for a killer - but also a robber - after the death of a 59-year old man. Tuesday morning someone spotted the body of Elmore Allen, Junior covered in blood. He was near the swimming pool of this apartment complex on Bluff Springs Road in Southeast Austin. Homicide detectives are considering robbery as the possible motive in his killing. Allen's pickup truck was also found at the crime scene. Detectives want tips from anyone who saw Allen, his truck, or anyone else in his truck Monday night or Tuesday morning.

4/14/10 UT Child Porn - Another University of Texas employee arrested on child porn charges. This is the second U-T worker this year. 52-year-old "Clarence Anderson" was the one arrested. A tip from the *National Center of Missing and Exploited Children* led investigators to his Austin home where investigators searched his personal and work computers. They say they found images of young girls nude, and some having sex. Anderson worked in the University's information management department. UT says there's no indication any student's personal information was at risk.

4/15/10 Stassney Homicide - Police roped off the entire front entrance of "The Villas of Cordoba" apartment complex Thursday afternoon. Behind the crime tape, detectives collected evidence from the rainy scene...trying to piece together how a murder played out. Onlookers gathered around the gates near where the victim was lying outside the office where residents say she worked as the assistant apartment manager. After only working here a few months police say the woman got in a confrontation with a man she knew... who shot her to death. Thursday's shooting follows an unusual string of homicides in Austin police say are NOT connected. It's number six in April, and the eleventh this year. With the killer still on the run, residents remain on edge.

4/15/10 Fort Hood Report - The Defense Department issued a scathing report today, concerning the mass shooting at Fort Hood. In it, Secretary "Robert Gates" said most of the Defense Department's policies were "inadequate" to identify the threat and prevent the shooting. Army Psychiatrist "Major Nidal Hasan" is charged in the shootings that killed 13 and injured 39. The major finding of the report is that the military fails to work well with the *Joint Terrorism Task Force* resulting in "inconsistent" coordination with the FBI. *The Joint Task Force* knew well before the shooting that Hasan had communicated

with a radical al Qaeda sympathizer, but that was not reported to the military. Meantime, the Homeland Security Committee in Washington is threatening to subpoena the Obama Administration if it doesn't hand over information it needs to investigate the shootings. Senator Joseph Lieberman says, "The administration claims that this information could compromise the prosecution of Major Hasan and that congressional interviews of front line agents would chill the conduct of intelligence and law enforcement activities. We strenuously disagree." The Pentagon today revealed steps being taken to address the shortfalls. The report recommends that a number of individuals who failed to report Hasan's erratic behavior be relieved of duty or disciplined.

4/18/10 Williamson County Hot Checks - Williamson County investigators have been cracking down since 2005 staging a criminal roundup of hot check writers once a year. This year's was successful, over a two week period, 67 people were arrested. In the amnesty period beforehand, $136-thousand was collected. They're noticing a spike in the problem. Businesses large and small have been hit, but in the past five years, the county has recovered more than $6-million. This year, 18 of the Top 20 most wanted were arrested. Now that this operation is over, culprits better not take anything for granted. There will probably be another amnesty period before the next round up...the county says you better take advantage of it and pay up.

4/19/10 Fort Hood Subpoena - The Senate Homeland Security Committee threatened last week to file subpoenas if military officials didn't turn over information about the mass shooting at Fort Hood. The Pentagon did not give up that info, and today Senators followed through on those threats to subpoena. Lawmakers have suggested the Obama administration may be covering up critical details on the case, including whether the government had information that could have prevented the shooting. The Defense Department has said it doesn't want to jeopardize prosecution of "Major Nidal Hasan" with killing 13 people at Fort Hood in November.

4/26/10 Teen Prostitution - Local police helped bust a multi-state sex-for-hire operation run by a traveling prostitute and pimp. Tonight, we know they are accused in Texas, Kansas, Nevada and Pennsylvania. Police say Quincy Gholar and Jennifer Russell tried to sell a 16-year-old undocumented girl for sex online. The sting happened in this room at La Quinta Inn hotel in South Austin Thursday. Police say, over a one-week period, undercover officers arranged to meet the girl for sex via a web site.

4/29/10 Chuck-e-Cheese Drug Deal - A drug deal in a Chuck E. Cheese parking lot leads police to large amounts of heroin and crack. Police say an informant tipped them off that Debra Lynn Fuentes was dealing the drugs. They set up an undercover operation to buy a gram from her at the Chuck E. Cheese at Ben White and South First. They later searched her home and say they found several balloons of black tar heroin and crack cocaine.

5/1/10 Stripper Murder - A local teenage stripper behind bars charged with murder. Austin Police launched an investigation two-and a half weeks ago to find Elmore Allen's killer. Clues led to 19-year-old Jessica Krause-Patterson. Police believe this is where their night began on April 13th. "Hot Bodies Men's Club" is in South Austin off Burleson Road. Dancers say Allen was flashing around a lot of money that night. The two were

seen on surveillance video leaving the club together 2 A-M in Allen's truck. Surveillance video from the HEB on William Cannon captured the truck go by heading toward the apartment complex where a resident discovered Allen's body 5-hours later near the pool. His wallet, cell phone and wedding ring were missing, and Allen's pocket linings were left inside out. An autopsy showed a blow to the head is what killed him, but police don't think Jessica pulled it off alone. They think others were there waiting at the complex when the two arrived. Jessica's boyfriend is named as an accomplice in the arrest warrant, but no charges have been filed. The strip club was a place the victim went nearly every week for years, but Jessica hadn't worked there much. The club does not condone patrons leaving with strippers. Police say more charges are coming.

5/7/10 2nd Street Attack - Police say the victim walked alone, starting at a bar on east sixth, then heading ten blocks away to her car. Along the way, she passed by Little Woodrow's on West 6th, where Ronaldo Velasquez, an illegal from Guatemala, worked and had just gotten off his shift. Police and the owner helped identify Velasquez following the victim in surveillance video. Since then, police have added more officers downtown at night, and they are urging other bars to add video cameras outside. They say the victim saw Velasquez following her and put up a fight when he attacked.

5/18/10 APD Badges Stolen - A crime alert - after recent cases of police impersonators. Someone stole an Austin police officer's personal truck - and made off with two different police department badges. The truck was stolen from *Kreig Fields* on Pleasant Valley Road in Southeast Austin, while the off-duty officer was attending a softball game. Investigators found it an hour later, about two miles away on South Lakeshore Boulevard. The gun was still in the truck, but the badges were gone. Now there is some concern about why the truck thief would want them. All Austin police officers have their identification cards with them as well as in uniform and a marked police car. If they don't have that stuff you can call 911 and request verification on who it is. The officer had the truck locked and is not facing any disciplinary action.

5/27/10 Pitonyak Appeal - Convicted killer "Colton Pitonyak" asking for a new trial - claiming someone else is the murderer. Pitonyak is serving 55 years for the west campus killing of Jennifer Cave in 2005. But his lawyer says new evidence proves he's innocent. In recently filed court documents, Pitonyak's legal team claims Laura Hall is the real killer. She and Pitonyak fled to Mexico after the murder. Documents say she confessed to several people that she killed and dismembered Cave who was found in Pitonyak's bathtub in the *Orange Tree Condominiums* on Rio Grande Street. One of those people, a man who lived with Hall's cousin, just came forward. Lawyers also say there is significant DNA evidence to prove that the killer was female. Hall is in jail awaiting sentencing which is expected next month. She is charged with tampering with evidence and hindering apprehension. As for Pitoynak, it could be months before his lawyer learns whether or not a new trial has been granted.

06/07/10 Public Safety Commission - Austin police are moving forward with their plan to install more than 2 dozen cameras in two high-crime areas in the city. We're talking about Downtown nd the Rundberg and I-35 areas of the city. Surveillance video from a security camera at a downtown business led Austin police to a sexual assault suspect. Police say

the video shows Ronaldo Velasquez stalking his victim as she walked to her car on 2nd Street. They tracked him down using that video. Now, they argue that public safety cameras will not only solve crimes like this one Downtown- but also prevent them from happening. But critics like John Goldstone argue the cameras violate privacy. There have also been concerns about who will have access to this video. APD plans to train officers to view the video and unless it captures a crime, it will automatically be deleted after 10 days. Others say they don't deter crime- just displace it.

4. Gangs

4/5/10 Gang Crime - Austin Police say there are more than two thousand gang members in the capital city. The threat they pose could grow over the next few years if we don't do something about it "now." Most of them are with street gangs committing low level crimes like burglaries. But, a big part of the rest are with transnational gangs, the Mexican drug cartels that police say could recruit those other less violent gang members and make things much worse fast.

4/17/10 Overnight Robberies - A gang of armed robbery suspects ran rampant on a crime spree across Austin in the wee hours this morning then held up in a neighborhood as the cops closed in. The group is suspected in 5 East Austin robberies in a 3 hour time span, as well as a 6th incident outside the city. Just a few hours later, officers tracked the suspects to the University Hills neighborhood of Northeast Austin. A-P-D sent in the SWAT team to handle the standoff. They surrounded a home on Vassar Drive. In the end, four men and two women surrendered to authorities. Police are now questioning the suspects. No one was injured.

5. Teaching Good Citizenship/Responsibility

6/17/10 Dump the Pump - Hundreds "dumped the pump" today and took advantage of a free ride on Capital Metro busses and rail. It was part of a national push to encourage drivers to use public transportation, instead of their own cars to save money and stress on the environment. During rush hour a full bus can take up to three dozen cars off the road.

6. Focus on positive/good news

4/11/10 Capitol 10K Race - Nearly 20-thousand people hit the streets in Austin today competing in the Capitol 10K. Organizers say it's the biggest running event in Texas. While the majority of the 20,000 people participating in this year's capital 10K come out for the fun of it, there are about 8,000 who come to compete, and two who win. It's also big payout for Meals on Wheels and More the charity benefitting from these runners. Last year the check topped 145 thousand this year the race was even bigger.

4/11/10 No Teacher Left Behind - They call them Generation Next and the students of today take a different approach to learning. Today in Austin, author Bryan Fiese shared his ideas on the best ways to teach those students. He wrote the book, "No Teachers Left Behind." The educational expert shared tools and techniques with teachers to better

motivate and engage students in the classroom. Today's free event at Barnes and Noble was intended to honor teachers. This is the beginning of Educator Appreciation Week.

4/11/10 Willie Nelson Honored - The Red-Headed Stranger found himself on the red carpet tonight in Austin. Willie Nelson attended an event in his honor tonight at Austin's Four Seasons. The singer received the Nobility Project's "Feed the Peace Award" he received it for his positive impact on the world. Willie Nelson says "Everyone should know that peace will trump everything, and there's more prosperity and profits in peace than there is in war." Tonight's event attracted several Texas celebrities and featured a show with Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen, Joe Ely and Ray Benson. Money raised will go to education projects here in the U.S. and around the world.

4/15/10 Census by Phone - The US Census Bureau has released this 800 number for people to call and report their census information. So now if you haven't returned your census form- or haven't received one- reporting by phone- is another option. Travis County Constable Bruce Elfant says the time to be counted- is now. But nearly 40 percent of people in Travis County haven't filled out their Census forms. Each person represents 15 thousand dollars in federal money for the county over the next 10 years. The U-S Census Bureau just set up this helpline, operators like Naomi ask the same 10 questions you'd find on your census form. It takes an about 10 minutes. The message, there's no excuse NOT to be counted. Across the country, just one-third of people have mailed back their Census forms. Local governments are hoping the national help line will bolster the numbers. before Census workers start going door to door to gather information. Here's that number 1-866-872-68-68. Census officials are still encouraging you to mail in your forms if you've received one - that data will be counted more quickly than what is gathered over the phone.

5/2/10 Lemonade Day -It's one of Austin's tastiest traditions "Lemonade Day". Youngsters all over town Austin took advantage of this beautiful day to learn a few business basics. "Austin Lemonade Day" has kids out selling drinks and getting some early earning experience. There's also a contest to come up with the most creative "new flavor" of lemonade. These girls did not win the contest but they did win over a lot of fans with their "BeeSweet" variety - using real honey to add a special sweetness to their recipe. Organizers say this event mobilizes more than 10-thousand young entrepreneurs.

7. Family Values

4/14/10 Family Connections - With a million dollars in grant money lost, and its ex-director missing - the non-profit group "Family Connections" closed its doors this week. For 25 years, its partners and projects provided help to central Texas children and parents in need. Today many ex-staffers still came in to pack up, tie up loose ends, and try to find other groups to pick up their work. From their east Austin offices, "Family Connections" provided toys and books to children, and offered dozens of programs, from newborn counseling to reading projects, special ed needs and parenting guidance. They worked with 30-thousand children and adults last year alone. Today was filled with hugs and tears. Ex-Director "Louanne Aponte" has disappeared. She has two arrest warrants out on her, and prosecutors say they expect to file more charges.

5/15/10 Missing Kids Day - Almost 60-thousand children are abducted each year by people they don't know. Of that, 115 children are victims of serious crimes either murdered or sexually assaulted. That's why The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Farmers Insurance hosted a safety field day for students at Oak Springs Elementary School in east Austin Friday. The students visited a M-I-L-K or Managing Information on Lost Kids booth to get a digital I.D. made. The I.D includes fingerprints, photographs, and other vital information that is stored on a disk. Its important to have information and vital statistics on those children to give to police and really get that amber alert started. May 25 has been National Missing Childrens Day since 1983.

5/17/10 Pesticide ADHD - A health alert now for parents: A common pesticide used on the food we buy could have a link to your child's chances of developing A-D-H-D. A study in the journal Pediatrics suggests children exposed to higher levels of the pesticides known as organophosphates -- are more likely to develop attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The pesticide is found in a large number of fruits and vegetables sold in the US. And children are thought to get most of their exposure to it through commercial foods. Traces of the organophosphates were found in 28-percent of frozen blueberries, 25-percent of strawberries, and nearly 20-percent of celery. This is according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An Austin doctor who works with children with ADHD told us the study doesn't establish a direct link, but it leaves parents with something to consider. Researchers have looked at this link before in specific populations, but this study is the first to examine the effects of the pesticide exposure in the population at large. They measured levels of the pesticide in more than 11-hundred children from across the country.