

AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – ^{Third}~~First~~ Quarter
July 1 - September 30

DATE: October 1, 2010

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

1. Transportation/traffic
2. Education
3. Crime
4. Family Values
5. Government/Politics

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

07/05/10 Alpine Airplane Crash
10pm News - Duration: 20 seconds

An air ambulance crash killed five people in West Texas. It happened early Sunday morning outside Alpine - about 200 miles southeast of El Paso. The twin-engine Cessna was trying to make an emergency landing, but hit a rut, then flipped and burned. The crash killed the pilot, two medics, and a couple from Alpine. Investigators are trying to find what caused the crash.

07/07/10 Disabled Freight Train

10pm News Duration: 25 seconds

A snag that halted Austin's *Metro Rail* service this morning won't affect tomorrow's passengers. A freight train's wheel got stuck in the curve of the tracks in Downtown Austin around 2 a.m. The derailment forced *Capitol Metro* to cancel the morning *Metro Rail* routes, and send out buses to get passengers to where they needed to go. By 7-30 this morning the train was moving again and all was cleared.

07/07/10 MoPac Improvements

10pm News Duration: 45 seconds

Tx Dot says it's getting closer to fixing the rush hour gridlock on MoPac. The agency wants to add two so-called "Express lanes" - one in each direction between Parmer and Cesar Chavez. Drivers would pay to use the lanes how much is still up in the air. State Senator Kirk Watson says the 250-million dollar project will help everyone who drives on MoPac.

07/08/10 Laredo Flooding

6am News Duration: 30 seconds

It's the worst flooding in 45 years along the Rio Grande in South Texas. Mexican authorities report several deaths from the rising water, and there have already been some evacuations in Laredo, on the U.S. side. Laredo's city manager says they're hopeful the World Trade International Bridge can stay open. But much depends on the incoming rain driven by tropical weather. Closing it would cripple the nation's busiest inland port.

07/08/10 Texas Flooding

6pm News Duration: 25 seconds

Before the rain begins, City of Austin crews clean out 120 flooding "hot spots". The idea is to keep the water running smoothly, so it won't rise as quickly and flood nearby roads. Crews pulled tree branches and trash from a tributary of Williamson Creek in southeast Austin. Once the rain starts, the crew is on stand-by waiting for instructions to block off flooded roads. New city barricades come with a warning to "Turn Around Don't Drown" If you go around a barricade you could be cited with a class "b" misdemeanor... the same as a D-W-I offense.

08/05/10 Capital Metro Back-sell

6pm News - Duration: 40 seconds

A KXAN investigation revealed that Capital Metro has been paying attorneys much more than their contracts allowed to the tune of several thousand dollars. The agency entered into the expensive agreements without the approval of the agency's governing board. All this, as Cap Metro tries to climb out of a budget crisis. As a result of our investigation, the attorneys are sending back the extra money. And the agency's leaders say the practice of handing out costly attorney contracts without any oversight will stop immediately. You can read our full report that aired at 6:00 tonight - and our extensive coverage that led up to these changes - online now at kxan.com.

08/05/10 Road Rage

10pm News Duration: 50 seconds

Austin Police said a man trying to protect himself from a reckless driver went too far when he began firing a gun. 30-year-old "Charlie Smith" says another man was aggressively tailgating and swerving at him while traveling southbound on MoPac Monday night. This continued for almost 7 miles from 35th street to *Southwest Parkway*. But rather than stop or call police, officers say Smith pulled out a gun and fired two shots at the other driver. He told police he was aiming for the man, but ended up misfiring and hitting the truck's tires. The other driver admits he was intentionally antagonizing Smith, but thought they were just messing around. Smith, who is a licensed gun carrier told police he thought he was covered under the "Castle Doctrine" - but police are charging him with "aggravated assault with a deadly weapon." *The Castle Doctrine* allows you to use deadly force in your home, car and business - but only if threatened.

08/09/10 Capitol Metro Ridership

10pm News Duration: 35 seconds

Capital Metro Leaders spent the day brainstorming ideas to get more people riding the *Metro Rail*. Cap Metro's *Board of Directors Rail Committee* talked about adding extra runs for the commuter trains at more convenient times for passengers. That could mean mid-day, Friday evening and even Saturday service. Right now *Metro Rail* averages about 800 passengers a day. Directors want to double that number as soon as possible. The committee also talked about increased advertising for the service. Any changes would need approval of the full board but *Capital Metro* hopes to have some changes put in place before the end of the year.

09/01/10 Bus Safety Law

6pm News – Duration: 40 seconds

A law requiring seat belts on Texas school buses was supposed to take effect today, but funding cuts and red tape are keeping the Texas Education Agency from being able to enforce it. After this crash in 2006 killed two Beaumont teens, parents worked with lawmakers to create the program. The original plan was to spend 10-million dollars to help districts buy new buses. But, in an effort to cut its budget, the T-E-A slashed the funding by 65 percent. That agency tells Austin News it can't begin the program unless the Legislative Budget Board gives it the go-ahead. The board needs to review the cuts made in all state agencies before it gives its approval.

09/03/10 Airport Delay

10pm News - Duration: 20 seconds

The holiday travel weekend got off to a stressful start for some Austin airline passengers. A gate that blocks off the Eastern security checkpoint at night malfunctioned. That meant passengers had to funnel to the West side of the airport to the other two security check-in areas. That created long lines and some minor travel delays. ABIA got that gate back open just before noon.

2. Government/Politics

07/05/10 Austin Energy Candidate

10pm News – Duration: 1:25 seconds

The General Managers job at Austin Energy is considered by many to be the second most important job at the City of Austin. The job requirements; to lead the nations 9th largest publicly owned utility company through a fundamental shift in the way energy is created and consumed. At the same time the manager will need to keep the cost of energy affordable for everyone in Austin.

07/06/10 Perry Democrats

10pm News – Duration: 38 seconds

Texas Democrats say Governor Perry has ethics problems. The party announced today it has filed two complaints against Perry with the Texas Ethics Commission. The Democrats say the Governor failed to disclose debts and income on a home he owns in College Station. Perry's daughter has lived in the house while attending Texas A&M and had roommates who paid rent to the family. The Democrats say Perry failed to disclose rental income of about 11-thousand dollars and two loans he took out for the property between 2007 and 2009. A Perry spokesman called the complaints a "desperate attempt" by Democrats to cover up failures of their own nominee, former Houston Mayor Bill White.

08/04/10 Proposition 8 Ruling

6pm News – Duration: 1:35 seconds

A decision today in California could have an impact around the nation. A federal judge overturned California's Proposition 8, a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. Noelle Walker looks at the decision and its potential impact. In 2008, eighteen thousand same sex couples were legally wed in California. Today, a judge said they shouldn't be the only ones allowed to marry.

08/05/10 Obama's Schedule

6pm News – Duration: 1:45 seconds

His last trips to Texas were campaigning for the presidency. His numbers were high, and his supporters in scenes like this were in the tens of thousands. But in the two years since, his administration has hit some hurdles, the oil spill, the bank crisis, and border security. A lot of bad press for the president who is now making his way back to Austin. A private fundraiser downtown and an impromptu invite-only speech on education at U-T is on his schedule. Travis County Democrats are ready. But they'll have some presidential protest, as Republicans from 12 counties are expected to gather the same day on the Capitol steps where Obama once campaigned. Republican Governor Rick Perry's campaign sees that as a way for White to distance himself from Washington to run away from the potential impact the president's visit could have. Democrats say, rather than make accusations, Perry should instead focus on what his state is facing in his current term. Problems Perry's campaign says he wants to face face-to-face with the president. He doesn't want to side with Washington but maybe offer some ideas for Obama. But his office is still waiting for an RSVP to a recent invite Perry made to the president.

08/05/10 Kagan Confirmation

10pm News – Duration: 25 seconds

The nation's highest court will soon have a new justice on the bench. The Senate approved Elena Kagan's nomination to the Supreme Court. Kagan will be sworn in on Saturday taking the place of retired Justice John Paul Stevens. Voting was primarily on party lines only 5 Republicans voted yes. Texas Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn both voted against Kagan's confirmation.

09/13/10 Governor's Poll

10pm News – Duration: 38 second

The governor's election is just seven weeks away. A new poll by the Texas Tribune shows the race between the top two candidates is pretty tight. 39-percent of people polled said they would pick incumbent governor Rick Perry if the election was today. 33 percent picked Democrat and former Houston Mayor Bill White. Considering a three-and-half percent "margin of error" the race is fairly close. When it comes to other candidates, five percent of people polled supported libertarian "Kathie Glass" for governor. One percent said they'd vote for *Green Party* candidate "Deb Shafte". More than a fifth of Texans surveyed said they have yet to decide who they'll vote for governor.

09/14/10 Primaries

10pm News – Duration: 30 seconds

Tea Party candidates are challenging the Republican establishment in two state primaries tonight. In Delaware, Christine O'Donnell rode a surge of support from tea party activists to beat Veteran Congressman "Mike Castle" for the GOP Senate nomination. And Tea Party supported candidate "Ovide Lamontagne" has seized an early lead in New Hampshire's Republican senatorial primary. In all, five states are choosing nominees for the Senate tonight, and six more have gubernatorial hopefuls on primary ballots.

09/17/10 Afghan Vote Preps

10pm News – Duration: 30 seconds

A rocket has struck Kabul just hours before citizens planned to head to the polls to vote in Afghanistan's parliamentary elections. The pre-dawn attack was an apparent warning shot from insurgents trying to scare people from going to the polls. These are the first Afghan-run elections since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Officials say they won't even try to open nearly 15-percent of the nation's polling places, because they can't guarantee security there. The other issue is ballot security. Last year's presidential election had about a million ballots thrown out because of fraud.

3. Crimes

07/08/10 Bastrop Human Smuggling

10pm News - Duration: 1:30 seconds

Four men from Mexico are accused of holding illegal immigrants hostage in Elgin. Concern for safety is a common feeling among neighbors who live near this Elgin home. Clothes are still hanging from the line outside. Inside, local and federal immigration agents arrested the four men believed to have been holding more than a dozen Guatemalans hostage. The Sheriff says the rural county, four hours from the border, is

becoming a more popular stop for smugglers. All he can do is count on the community and federal agents to help fight it.

07/06/10 Indecency Teen

10pm News Duration: 20 seconds

An Austin teenager out on bond on child porn charges gets arrested for another sex crime. This time it is at an Austin Elementary School. 17-year-old Dillon Wardian is charged with indecent exposure after an incident last week at Reilly Elementary in Central Austin. A secretary working through the summer spotted a young man outside the school last week. He was wearing only shorts and touching himself near a public park right behind the school. Wardian is in jail on this indecent exposure charge. It's a class b misdemeanor.

07/07/10 Laura Hall Jurors

10pm News Duration: 20 seconds

A juror in the Laura Hall case says Hall's own words helped the jury decide to send her to prison for the maximum punishment. 11 years for tampering with evidence and helping killer "Colton Pitonyak" escape to Mexico after the 2005 murder of "Jennifer Cave". That juror sat down today with KXAN's "Shannon Wolfson" for an in-depth look inside the jury room during deliberations.

08/03/10 Marble Falls Youth Gang

10pm News Duration: 1:40 seconds

Teresa Roman's 13-yr-old daughter was a one-time member of a street gang made up mostly of young teens in their Marble Falls apartment complex. But when she decided to leave the gang, her mother says other gang members beat her up. The beating lasted about four minutes, leaving the girl bloody with bruised ribs and several cuts. Roman called police who quickly arrested two thirteen year old boys and a 12 year old girl near her home. One of the suspects is related to Roman's daughter. Authorities say while Roman's case is rare, youth gangs are a real and growing problem, even in the rural outskirts of Austin and San Antonio. With working parents and little to do, joining gangs is gaining in popularity, something Roman is doing her part to put a stop to. Her daughter is done recovering and waiting for her day in court, but to be safe, she got a judge to grant her a protective order.

08/04/10 Open Drug Deals

6pm News - Duration: 55 seconds

Austin police are in the middle of a three month initiative aimed at improving quality of life in areas where drug deals and other crimes are happening. One hot spot is along I-35 between 4th and 6th street downtown. Austin Police are putting extra officers working extra shifts in that area, not just responding to crime calls, but proactively looking for them. They say they want to reduce crime in the area by 4 percent. We spoke to the owner of Rogue Running who recently had to hire her own security guard due to her customers cars being broken into, she also says she has seen drug deals happening in the alley behind the building The initiative began in June and will run through August 21st. A-P-D says previous quality of life initiatives have been successful in reducing crime.

09/02/10 Hays Homicide

10pm News Duration: 35 seconds

Hays County launched a homicide investigation after discovering a body in the bed of a pickup truck. It happened during a traffic stop in the 4800 block of I-35 in New Braunfels. Local police found the body wrapped in plastic in the truck bed. They questioned the two men in the cab, and then handed them over to the *Hays County Sheriff's Office*. Deputies have not released the identities of the suspects, nor the victim. An autopsy is pending to determine the cause of death.

09/03/10 Statue Destroyed

6pm News – Duration: 30 seconds

The Austin Police Department is trying to find out who destroyed a 12-hundred pound statue outside of Austin's City Hall. This is what the artwork looked like before it was destroyed. Now only chunks of the limestone remain. The statue-crasher was caught on surveillance video. A-P-D won't go into detail about what the video shows, but a source inside City Hall who has seen the footage says you can see two men walking past the statue. One of them turns around and pushes it over. The statue is valued at eight thousand dollars.

4. Family Values

07/09/10 Aquapalooza

10pm News - Duration: 1:15 seconds

Thousands of music fans are floating on Lake Travis tonight. The first "Aquapalooza" in Austin kicked off today. It's a free live concert only accessible by boat. Afternoon showers didn't phase these country music fans who already planned on spending their weekends surrounded by water. Life jackets are required in the water even dogs are wearing them.

07/10/10 Shakira and Soccer

10pm News – Duration: 45 seconds

Folks around the world have discovered a new love for soccer this past month as the World Cup has captivated audiences. Among those new fans, the woman who wrote the official anthem for the event, Shakira! The Pop Star will play a concert before tomorrow's final match of the Cup - she says she's developed serious World Cup Fever. Shakira says she's happy South Africa has had a chance to show the world how far it has come since Apartheid made the country an international outcast decades ago.

08/04/10 Jet Engine Power

10pm News - Duration: 25 seconds

The same engines that help power a *Boeing 747* jumbo jet also give 75-thousand Austin homes a boost during these hot days. *The Sand Hill Power Plant* added the two huge turbines in June. They add to the overall energy output for the city. The generators run on natural gas and can be fired up and fully usable within 10 minutes. Some of the

energy from this 76-million dollar plant is picking up the slack created by the closing of the *Holly Street Power Plant* 3 years ago.

08/06/10 Pre K Funding

6pm News – Duration: 1:40 seconds

"Casis Elementary" is one of 68 Austin schools gearing up for their full day pre-k program which kicks off in about two weeks. The state only covers the cost for half the day. A grant and stimulus money takes care of the rest at least one won't be around much longer. Teachers are hoping local taxpayers will agree to pay a little more so the district can stop relying on state and federal dollars to keep the full day program going. A Texas A&M study found that every dollar spent on pre-k generates \$3.50 back into communities. Because students are more likely to graduate, go to college, get higher paying jobs and produce more taxes.

08/07/10 Armadillo Anniversary

10pm News – Duration: 45 seconds

40 years ago tonight... a music venue planted the seeds that made Austin "The Live Music Capital." We're talking about the Armadillo World Headquarters - folks will tell you it was a place that brought diverse music, and diverse people together. Thousands of musicians took the stage during it's 10 year run. Local legends like Willie Nelson and Commander Cody to rock legends like the Clash and Bruce Springsteen. The Armadillo legend lives on. Tonight, Threadgill's, which sits near the site of the Armadillo, held a 40th anniversary show.

09/01/10 Samsung Donation

10pm News – Duration: 25 seconds

Samsung Electronics Company announced today that it's making a 1 million dollar donation to United Way Capital Area for the nonprofit's "Success by 6" program. Success by 6 helps expand early education for underprivileged preschool children. Samsung says the donation is a way of celebrating the planned expansion of its Northeast Austin "Fab 2" manufacturing plant. The \$3.6 billion dollar expansion will add 600 jobs in Austin.

09/02/10 Cedar Park Creeper

10pm News Duration: 1:10 seconds

Parents in Cedar Park are on edge tonight after two different strangers tried to lure kids into their cars. Police say, Saturday, a man pulled up and offered candy to three 9-year olds on bikes near 183 on *Buttercup Creek Boulevard*. This morning a fourth grader says he was targeted on his way to *Faubion Elementary*. "Connor" walked just one block when a man sitting in this cul-de-sac told him he'd drive him the rest of the way. The 10-year-old told him "no," but the man kept insisting and even opened his car door. The fourth grader sprinted to school and told a security officer. When he got home, his mother called police to tell them Connor recognized a possible suspect on the state's sex offender website. They are checking into it. The suspect is an older white man with gray hair - who was driving a dark blue, newer model 4-door *Chrysler* sedan. There was damage to the left front bumper and scratches on the driver's side. The other vehicle police are

looking for from Saturday's scare is a black or blue car that had damage to the left rear bumper. It also had a rusty hood.

09/03/10 Comic Book Show

10pm News – Duration: 1:20 seconds

Before movies or television, most people were entertained with radio programs. And many times those radio programs were performed before live audiences. Now an Austin group has transformed a graphic novel into a live performance that's premiering at the Long Center this weekend. With a two story screen, three actors, a foley artist, and keyboardist with the pages of the *Intergalactic Nemesis* are coming to life. Jason Neulander created the show as an on-stage radio project back in the 90's. He took the radio show, turned it into a graphic novel, and decided to add the visuals from the comic book into the show. But one of the most impressive aspects is the sound effects. It's certainly a unique way to enjoy a graphic novel.

5. Education

07/07/10 Playground Cuts

10pm News - Duration: 35 seconds

There may be fewer sites in Austin's Playground Program come next summer. The *Playground Program* lets parents drop their kids off at playgrounds across the city during the summer time... free of charge. It's been around for more than 80 years with supervised activities taking place during the day. But the *Parks and Recreation Department* has recommended cutting the program at 11 of 26 parks to save more than 100 thousand dollars. If that happens, an average of more than 300 children and their parents would have to find a new place to play. Parks and Recreation says they tried to target parks with the lowest attendance.

07/13/10 AISD Lawsuit

6pm News – Duration: 35 seconds

The mother of a young girl is suing Austin ISD in federal court - saying a teacher physically abused the child. The suit also names Oak Springs Elementary teacher Janice Day as a defendant. In May of 2008, the 5-year old girl was in Day's class. Her mother says the girl asked to go to the restroom, and when the teacher said no, the girl urinated on herself and cried. The lawsuit claims the teacher then forced a paper towel down the girl's throat. The mother says, in a later meeting, the teacher admitted she did what the child said. The lawsuit claims the little girl suffered physical and mental injuries. AISD is not commenting on this pending case.

07/13/10 Teacher Sexual Assault

6pm News – Duration: 50 seconds

Out on bond on a charge of sexually assaulting a young girl... a man has been arrested again on the exact same charge. Gerald Laneaux was arrested last week on the latest charges, but again was allowed to walk out of jail. Last September, while teaching at the Goddard School, a 4-year-old student told her parents Laneaux sexually assaulted her during nap time. Then just last week, Laneaux was arrested after another 4-year-old says he did the same to her in his car. Each time, Laneaux came up with the \$100,000 bond.

The Goddard School let him leave after the first allegation and were shocked to learn about the latest. The Goddard school says they did a background check before hiring Laneaux. There were no red flags, and he used to be a youth minister.

08/04/10 EANES ISD Bond Election

10pm News - Duration: 25

The Eanes ISD Board of Trustees just approved a bond election this November. *Proposition 1* would put 72-million dollars toward school building upgrades as well as new buses. *Prop. 2* allots 57-million for a new elementary school and support services facility. And the last 20-point-5 million dollar proposition calls for the construction of a new swim center, student fitness facilities and parking facilities. The election is November 2nd.

08/05/10 AISD Fails Federal Standards

6pm News – Duration: 35 seconds

Texas education officials say school districts in the state's five largest cities including Austin failed to meet federal education standards. They say it's because of discrepancies in how the state and federal government count tests by special education students. To pass, 73 percent of a district's students must pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills reading test and 67 percent must pass the math test. State officials say they provide a modified test for special education students, but federal officials only count a portion of those test results as passing.

08/11/10 Healthier Lunches at School

6pm News – Duration: 35 seconds

As families approach the new school year, students at a number of schools across the nation will be eating healthier lunches. That's because hundreds of chefs are signing up for the government's "chef's move to school initiative. It encourages culinary experts to help schools prepare tasty and nutritious food for school children. About 31 million children eat school provided lunches every day and 11 million eat breakfast at school. They consume 30 to 50 percent of their calories from school provided meals. *Georgetown I-S-D* was recently recognized for its dedication to nutritional excellence.

09/01/10 Elgin Teacher Suspended

10pm News Duration: 25 seconds

A teacher in Elgin ISD is on administrative leave - while the district and Elgin police investigate an accusation of an inappropriate relationship with a student. Elgin school officials received the report yesterday. They would not identify the employee, nor the affected school, citing privacy concerns. They sent KXAN Austin News a statement today saying: "Any time we receive a report about misconduct, Elgin ISD takes all steps possible to assure the safety of our students."

09/13/10 AISD Meeting

10pm News Duration: 15 seconds

More cuts could soon be on the way for Austin Schools. Tonight, the AISD Board of trustees started work on next year's budget. The district estimates a more than 30-million dollar shortfall. Officials say right now everything is on the table including cutting personnel. Nicole Conley-Abram, AISD CFO says: "We've had two years of cuts and we've absorbed those cuts without touching local schools, and now we're at the point where we've gone after the low hanging fruit, and now we're potentially into core programming. The district says potential state cuts could make the budget crunch even worse.