

AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – ^{4th} ~~Final~~ Quarter
October 1 - December 31

DATE: January 3, 2011

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

1. Family Values
2. Crime
3. Government
4. Education

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.

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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.

Family Values

10/1/10 Elderly Task Force

Noon News - Duration: 45 seconds

Travis County is launching a special task force to go after criminals who prey on the elderly.

That task force will include County Attorneys, the D.A.'s office, Austin police and Family Protective Services who are often the first to spot the exploited elderly. "A lot of families have one bad egg. If you have that one bad egg and they know Grandma has Alzheimers and she's still in her home that is just an open target for jewelry, for bank accounts, for getting those checks cashed." These cases can be hard to prove, but the task force hopes banks will cooperate and "red flag" any senior's accounts that indicate suspicious cash withdrawals.

10/5/10 National Night Out

10pm News – Duration: 2:20 seconds

At block parties and cookouts across Austin, there is a purpose behind each party. It's really about being a community and taking care of each other. In the Northwest Hills neighborhood at least ten cat burglaries in the last year have alarmed residents. Across town in the Walnut Creek Neighborhood, people have experienced car and home break ins and seen prostitution near I-35 and Braker Lane. "This is part of our crime watch." On this National Night Out neighbors gathered to raise awareness to crime and drug prevention and build relationships between people who live in the neighborhoods and people who protect them. "We have to keep believing, and we have to keep working together." On this cool autumn night, neighbors were also encouraged to get to know

each other. "It's very important to have a close neighborhood." Knowing her neighbors is a life skill 12 year old Averi Pyka has practiced with everyone who walks by her home in the North Oaks neighborhood. "I'll just usually say hi and they kind of feel happy so they'll come back."

"I'm very proud of my daughter." Just a handshake, a smile and an introduction on National Night Out and all year long -- brings more safety and security. Pyka is convinced it will pay off for her family, should they ever need assistance. "If something happens to your home I know that one of my neighbors would help or do the best they can to help."

11/4/10 Austin Adoption Day

6pm News – Duration: 19 seconds

Dozens of Central Texas children found forever homes today. In all, 37 children were officially adopted in Travis County. Amid the smiles and happy tears, officials with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services say there are 150 more children awaiting adoption. That number is nearly 6-thousand statewide. 400 children are in foster care in Travis County at any given time and 15-thousand across the state. Julie Moody says "Its extremely important for children who are in the foster care system and are available to be adopted to find that forever home." 21 families were on hand to celebrate Austin Adoption Day.

11/4/10 Texting While Parenting

10pm News – Duration: 2:35 seconds

We're at Soccer practice at the West Austin Youth Association. These preschoolers go through the drills with proud parents watching it all most of the time. Admit it, moms and dads, most of us spend at least some time when we're with our children checking messages, texting or tweeting. Sometimes, even our kids have to try really hard to get our attention. Demian Fore says, "I'll be holding the phone, and they'll put things in front of me between the phone and my face, or they'll be talking constantly until I acknowledge them and put it down." At Playtime at Zilker Park we also find parents here interrupted by an email, text or tweet. Amy Brady says, "I always have in the back of my mind when I'm on my iphone, if I'm tweeting for my business or if I'm just checking email, I think oh my goodness. What are they doing?" Leslie Rhode says, "The benefits of these smart phones and social media sites like Facebook are huge for parents. We can stay connected to the adult world while spending time with our children, but psychologists are questioning more and more is all of this connection affecting the connection to our kids? Carrie Contey says, "The child is gonna take their cues from the parents, and if the habit of the parent is I'm busy, I'm busy, I'm busy. I have to do my work. I have to check my thing, then the child will eventually realize oh I better go be busy too, because they don't have time for me." Austin Psychologist Carrie Contey advises moms and dads to set schedules and time limits for when you want to stay "connected" and when you don't, train yourself to turn the phone and laptop off and put them away, physically in a drawer and parents should constantly remind themselves that the time they have to connect with their children is short. Carrie Contey says, "I've got a lifetime to check my devices and know what my friends are doing on the internet, but I've got a few moments of being with this child each day, so what am I gonna do to make those count?" Back at the soccer

field, the balls are going back in the bag. Parent Gina Hinojosa says she'll take her 5 year old son home and bag her smart phone too. Parent Gina Hinojosa says, "We kind of have this family policy of checking our phone when we get home like a coat check. You would check your coat, but you check your phone so you can have quality family time." Family time, connected to each other, instead of to a device.

12/1/10 Cedar Park Safe

10pm News – Duration 40 seconds

Williamson County is home to two of the safest cities in Texas. For the last two years, Cedar Park ranked number two of the state's safest cities with more than 50-thousand people. Georgetown comes in third. Number one is Flower Mound, north of Dallas. Texarkana had the highest crime rate. Cedar Park Police say their close relationship with the community helps keep the crime rate low. Cedar Park Police Chief Henry Fluck says, "They are our eyes and ears. We don't have enough eyes and ears to be everywhere so we depend on the community to help us out and by helping us out we help them out." Cedar Park's most recent stats show 4 murders, 13 rapes, 12 robberies, and 41 aggravated assaults.

12/1/10 Downtown Trains

10pm News – Duration 40 seconds

Noisy downtown trains are waking up some downtown dwellers at night interrupting their sleep. The trains sound their horns at two crossings sometimes late at night. But, few cars actually drive over the crossings, and the city of Austin says the trains don't have to sound their horns there because the crossings are privately-owned. If its a private crossing and the rail road crossing has decided to start sounding their horn at those crossings, we would just need to have a conversation as to why. Union Pacific owns those crossings. They say they're researching why their conductors are blowing the horns at the two intersections.

Crime

10/1/10 Big Lots Shooting

10pm News - Duration: 25 seconds

For the second time this week, an Austin officer pulls the trigger on an armed suspect. Today, the shots killed a 16-year old. A 19-year old is in police custody, and officers are also questioning a 15-year old. It happened during a burglary call at the Big Lots store on William Cannon near I-35 in south Austin around six this morning. The officer who fired, James Derrick Bowman is a two and a half-year veteran at APD.

10/1/10 APD Resources

10pm News - Duration: 1:30 seconds

On Saturday, a suicidal man led police on a high speed chase through Austin for a while, A-P-D lost him when their back up helicopter needed to land. Tuesday, that same helicopter, a low tech 1969 Military surplus chopper, was A-P-D's only eye in the sky during the shooting on the U-T campus. And Friday morning, A-P-D had to rely on a medical helicopter to keep watch from above while officers on the ground searched for a

second suspect. Lt. Kirk Rothert is in charge of A-P-D's air support. He says Friday's situation is a perfect example of why A-P-D needs another well equipped and modern helicopter. Chief Acevedo made his case before the media Friday morning demanding an upgraded helicopter that could allow pilots to see in the dark below and better spot a fleeing suspect. When compared to other cities roughly the same size of Austin A-P-D falls behind when it comes to air support. Indianapolis PD has four helicopters. Columbus, Ohio has six. Ft. Worth and Charlotte have two each. And Memphis and San Antonio also have four.

11/1/10 Triple Homicide

6pm News – Duration: 1:50 seconds

On October 27th at 9:15 in the evening, a woman walks in the door of this Southeast Austin convenience store. She was wearing a striped T-shirt and walking calmly toward the ATM machine. The credit card she uses belongs to a dead man. Det. Greenwalt said “we are considering her a witness at this time.” But detectives don't know who she is. Only that she uses Ed Stout's credit card to get cash from the ATM. Stout had already been reported missing and investigators found him dead at his East Travis County home the day after this video was recorded. Det. Greenwalt says that we don't know the extent of her involvement, at this time, we consider her a witness because she was with Tony Garcia or had some sort of communication with him. Tony Garcia is charged with Stout's murder. He worked odd jobs for him. And detectives tracked him down because he was using Stout's credit cards. Now they want to know if he had an accomplice. Det. said we don't know where he was, but we do know the credit card ended up back with him after this incident so whether or not he was in the parking lot, around the corner, across town, we don't know. Garcia is also a suspect in the killings of his ex-girlfriend, Carla Alvizo and her 7-year-old son Sebastian. Their bodies were found in a room Garcia rented in this East Austin boarding house. Police believe the woman in the video might know something about those deaths. Det. Greenwalt said we need to look into it and find out, what did he tell her, how long was she with him, what did she see, what did she hear- it is very possible and quite common in these types of cases that she saw or heard something that she didn't realize was important. The mystery woman was driving this small passenger car... it's hard to make out if it's white or gray. But police hope someone recognizes it, and the woman in the striped T-shirt.

11/7/10 Hernandez Trial

10pm News – Duration: 1:30 seconds

Throughout Martha Hernandez's trial she blamed her husband Kenneth for murdering Christy Espinosa then burning her body alongside a county road. Tuesday Kenneth admitted to half of it.

To the surprise of the courtroom, that was the plea entered for the tampering charge of burning Espinosa's body. His attorney Keith Lauerman hopes the jury sees a man owning up to what really happened. When talking about the murder charge, Kenneth wasn't about to take responsibility for that. Two weeks ago, a jury found his wife, Martha guilty of suffocating Espinosa from the backseat of a car while her husband was driving. The prosecution is trying to prove Kenneth helped her, but Lauerman says they can't do it. Just like in Martha's trial, the jury heard testimony from Christy's mother, and

surveillance tape of Kenneth buying orange juice from a convenience while Martha and Christy wait in the car. But some of the evidence used to convict Martha will be redacted from Kenneth's trial forcing this jury to make their own decision.

12/1/10 Over Due Books Jail

10pm News – Duration 35 seconds

A Texas woman spent Thanksgiving in jail after being arrested for overdue library books. Police in the Houston suburb of Baytown pulled over 25 year old "Jessekah Few" last Thursday for a traffic violation. When they ran her tag, they found a warrant had been issued related to the unreturned library books. The library director said charges are only filed if someone has more than \$200 of library property and repeatedly ignores requests to return it. Detective Alan Cliburn of Baytown Police says: "It's just like anything else, you can't take something that doesn't belong to you and just hold onto it." "Ms. Few" says she can't return the books, because they were destroyed in a fire 7 years ago.

12/3/10 New Braunfels Shoot

Noon News – Duration 50 seconds

In New Braunfels a woman dragged, run over and almost shot by her estranged husband. But police shot 39-year old "Glenn Shane Godden" dead before he could fire his gun. Residents heard screams through the neighborhood last night. And police arrived to find Godden trying to force his estranged wife into a van, and dragging her out the door in the process. The driver rammed into a police car, landing on the hood, and pinning the woman beneath both vehicles. Officers say the man tried to shoot his wife, but his gun jammed. Then he pointed the gun at police. Three officers were shot first killing the man. The woman survived and is expected to recover from her injuries. Neighbors say she had recently filed for divorce, and police say she had a protective order against her husband. The officers who shot him are on administrative duty while the shooting is investigated.

Government

10/1/10 Car Safety Ratings

10pm News – Duration: 45 seconds

The government is getting tough on cars. Today the transportation department outlined its new 5 star safety rating system making it more difficult for new cars and trucks to earn top grades. Under the old system, 90 percent of cars tested earned four or five stars. The new system combines front, side, and rollover tests with a new simulation that mimics striking a tree or utility pole. And for the first time ever that new rating system uses smaller, "female" crash test dummies. It also takes a closer look at new technologies. Ray LaHood, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. "It will recognize and reward vehicles with advanced safety technology like electronic stability control, lane departure warnings and forward collision warning systems."

Out of the first 2011 vehicles tested in the new program, only two earned a five star rating the BMW five series and the Hyundai Sonata.

10/7/10 Driving While Ability Impaired

10pm News – Duration: 1:00 seconds

Austin's police chief is pushing the state for a new law to cover "driving while tipsy." The new charge would go after impaired drivers, even if they haven't hit the legally drunk point-08 blood alcohol level. Under his "Driving While Ability Impaired" proposal, you could be punished for driving with a blood alcohol content between 0.05 and 0.07 as well. The chief says this is a way to deter drinking and driving by adding that alcohol-related point to the charge. Chief Art Acevedo: "If we arrest you, and you're going to plea bargain, the plea bargain would require it to be an alcohol impairment or related offense, so when you go back again and arrested again for driving under the influence, we can now treat you as the repeat offender that you are." Defense attorneys say people are already obeying the law by drinking responsibly at the current blood-content levels and that the law would only clog up the system further. The chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee tells KXAN he doubts the plan has a real chance of becoming law.

11/1/10 Final Day Push for Elections

Noon News – Duration: 1:00 seconds

At his campaign headquarters in San Marcos, State Representative Patrick Rose, a Democrat representing portions of Hays, Caldwell and Blanco counties, made personal phone calls asking voters for continued support. The 32 year old incumbent from San Marcos who's held the Texas House District 45 seat since the age of 24 is in a heated race to keep it. Rose's republican challenger is 38-year old small business owner Jason Isaac of Dripping Springs. Isaac spent Monday afternoon block-walking with family. Each candidate worked into the night in a tireless effort to win. In another closely watched house race in Williamson County, district 52 rep. Diana Maldonado, a democrat from round rock is facing off with republican challenger Larry Gonzales. They also walked blocks on the eve of elections - each excited about their campaign and for the results of their supporters efforts. Diana: It is a last-minute push. Again, it comes down to the voter contact. It's been a grass-roots campaign from the get-go. Gonzales: It is the most humbling experience that we've been involved with - when you see so much effort and so many people working on behalf of what you stand for - it's amazing to watch.

11/3/10 District 48 Recount

6pm News – Duration: 40 seconds

Military and provisional votes could shakeup the already tight race in House District 48 in northwest Travis County Democratic incumbent Donna Howard beat her Republican opponent Dan Neil by just 15 votes. Neil says it's too soon to call for a re-count, but he also says those extra votes could give him the boost he needs to take this seat. Military and provisional ballots have five days after election day to be turned in. On Monday, the Travis County election office will tally those remaining and announce an official winner. Howard: "Every vote counts, and it really is important that people exercise their right to vote." Dan Neil: "It was a long, hard road to get this close. It will be a long, hard road to turn over those 15 votes." As it stands now, Democrats are down to 51 seats in the House, and Republicans are one seat shy of 100, which would put them at that two-thirds majority. With that kind of power, Republicans would have a super-majority able to approve constitutional amendments and help override vetoes all without the input of Democrats.

12/2/10 Dan Neil Recount

6pm News – Duration: 1:15 seconds

That vote difference narrowed from 16 to just 12 votes - still putting Donna Howard as the House District 48 Representative. The recount started yesterday here at the Travis County Clerk's office and ended just a few hours ago. Dan Neil's campaign spent \$4,000 of their own money to do the count. A group of Democrats, republicans and libertarians were all present to count each vote hand-by-hand to see if there were any errors. While going through those ballots, there was some confusion with some overseas votes that some thought, were not counted in the election numbers in November. But, those ballots were considered invalid because the voters made errors. As for the votes that caused the difference in the count tonight - that was an issue with the electronic machines that read the paper ballots. Bill Aleshire says, "Sometimes the scan machine saw a vote that, when we looked at it with our human eyes - republicans, democrats and election workers looking at it can see, that's not correct and we corrected those." Dan Neil says, "I don't want to prolong it, and I understand that perception that can be made that hey, he's doing everything he can to get that seat. That is not my intent. I'm just here as an advocate for the voter. And whoever wins this seat, I'm completely fine with that result."

12/2/10 Don't Ask Don't Tell

10pm News – Duration 50 seconds

The Pentagon's top brass is telling Congress that *don't ask don't tell* has to go now. Defense Secretary "Robert Gates" says the courts are poised to strike down the law, and give America's fighting forces no time to adjust. Robert Gates: "That is the worst imaginable outcome as far as I'm concerned." Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs: "I believe making a change like this makes us better, it doesn't make us worse." A new Pentagon study suggests a change will cause minimal disruption. It also shows large numbers of combat soldiers and marines oppose a change. And Republican John McCain says the survey didn't ask the most important question of all. Senator John McCain, (R) Armed Services Committee: "Whether the law should be repealed." The House already passed a repeal but if the Senate doesn't act before the lame duck Congress ends, there may not be another chance.

Education

10/5/10 AISD School Bus Incident

5am News Duration: 45 seconds

More Kealing Middle School students are coming forward tonight to share their fears about a bus driver who refused to let them get off the bus. It happened Friday afternoon in front of Lee Elementary in north central Austin. The driver wouldn't open the door for parents or the school principal until finally releasing students when police showed up. Several students told us today they'd complained to their parents for weeks about bus driver Lane Fakhredrine. But on Friday, when they started passing a petition around the bus to get him fired, he locked the doors and demanded they hand it over. Sarah Pringle, a Kealing Student said "He saw us passing the petition around and signing it. Then I didn't want to give it to him because I didn't know what he would do to us." Fakhredrine is now on administrative leave pending an AISD investigation.

10/5/10 DelValle Bus Follow up
5am News Duration: 15 seconds

We also learned today - Del Valle ISD fired one of its bus drivers, who slammed on the brakes, sending almost a dozen kids to the hospital. The district let Rene Nunes go on September 28th for "failing to report student injuries." Austin Police say they are still investigating, and have not filed criminal charges.

11/1/10 Astronaut Coin
6pm News – Duration: 45 seconds

The newest artifact at the Texas State History Museum is so hard to find, some people might just walk all over it! Take a close look at the mosaic on the rotunda floor the next time you are there. A coin made from metal that traveled through space is now embedded in the campfire mosaic you see when you walk in. Colonel Tim Kopra, an astronaut aboard that flight, gave the coin to the museum as a gift - Museum workers expect it to be a draw. The coin was unveiled in a presentation for school kids. Last year, Colonel Kopra talked to almost 300 students in a live downlink from the International Space Station.

11/7/10 Pearl Harbor Day
Noon News – Duration: 45 seconds

Almost seven decades have passed since Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Today, 120 survivors traveled to Hawaii to mark the 69th anniversary of that deadly day. They were joined by hundreds of friends, families, and service men and women for the ceremony, dedicating a new visitors center there. It's twice as big as the previous one and came at a cost of 56-million dollars. Closer to home, another ceremony was held at Fredericksburg's Nimitz Museum. Vernon said: "A few minutes after that bomb fell, I didn't know if I was alive or dead. I really didn't know." Vernon Kelly was only 19 and on board the U-S-S Honolulu during the attack.

12/3/10 AISD TYC Battle
5am News – 1:05 seconds

A-I-S-D wants to know more about the crime committed by an *Anderson High School* transfer student, who's a paroled felon. The T-Y-C only told officials at the northwest Austin school that the student committed a "weapon violation" with no other details. The school district says it needs to know specifics to evaluate potential safety risks. "It has also been our experience that the information we received is not as detailed as we need to make important decisions about supporting the student academically, supporting the student behaviorally and making safety plans." AISD says in 1994, the Attorney General ruled T-Y-C must provide the nature of the crime to the school. Three years later, the legislature enacted similar stipulations. "The way we read the law we're not certain we are allowed to release more information. We are charged with protecting the youth's confidentiality. That's why we have asked the Attorney General for an opinion." A-I-S-D says it has "five or six" paroled felons in Austin public schools.

12/3/10 School Police Chopper
Noon News – 40 seconds

Austin Police Department's chopper landed at *Covington Middle School* today to show students what it takes to operate one of their emergency response helicopters. Students talked with the aircraft pilots and got an up-close look. And this visit inspired new lessons for future classes. Candace Hughs, Principal of Convinton Middle School. "Just taking the calculations of the power of that lens can turn into a thousand math problems, and when the students are then sitting in the math class they're going to remember that they were out here and it's going to make it that much more interesting and exciting for them" The demonstration was part of a semester long course working with APD and other law enforcement agencies exploring unique law enforcement careers.