



MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files
RE: Issues and Programs Report – Fourth Quarter 2011
October 1 – December 31
DATE: January 6, 2012

KXAN serves the Austin, Texas television DMA. Issues important to the community addressed in programming this quarter are:

- 1. The Economy
- 2. Safety
- 3. The Government
- 4. Positive News
- 5. Crime

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed issues that are important to KXAN’s local community. 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	10:00-10:35 p.m.

	Saturday-Sunday	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.

Economy

10/10/11 Occupy Austin

Duration 1:05 minutes

To the economy and another sobering sign of the times: A new analysis of census data found Americans' incomes fell more in the two years after the recession ended in 2009, than they did *during* the recession. That painful reality is just part of what protesters are angry about as they gather around the country under the "occupy wall street" banner. This is a live look at the protests in downtown Austin. The people you see here - and many more during the day - have been spreading their message for five days now. The issues they're talking about include: corporate irresponsibility, outsourcing, taxing the rich and more. Glenn Sitton: I came out because I don't think the processes are working to protest average folk from corporate greed. Corporations are getting away with not paying their fair share of taxes among other things. A.J.: I figure at this point people need to do something. Just that we're all getting together and letting our voices be heard. Something has to change. The wet weekend weather didn't deter these protestors.

1011/11 National Occupy Event

Duration :45 seconds

Cold weather is on the way in New York, but protesters camped out near Wall Street's Financial District don't plan on leaving anytime soon. The Occupy Wall Street protest is in its fourth week, and it has cost the New York Police Department \$1.9 million. Some trouble at the Boston offshoot of the movement. Boston police arrested more than 50 protesters when they ignored warnings to move from a site. And at least six people were arrested today inside a Senate office building in Washington. People who are part of the occupy protests poured into the Hart building, chanting. No arrests so far in Austin protesters here are on "day 6" of their demonstration. They say they want to start a conversation about corporate greed and how it only benefits the richest one percent of America.

11/25/11 Economy Threatens the Back to School Program

Duration 3:00 minutes

Julie Ballesteros used to teach elementary school students in East Austin. The first day of school every year was exciting and fun, yes, but it was also laden with hurt, the hurt that comes from watching students show up with obvious disadvantages. There was this one student, in particular. "He came to the first day of school wearing a tee shirt that must have been his dad's," Ballesteros recalled. "He'd probably been wearing it for two or three days. And he came to school with a pencil in his hand." The teacher recalls being stunned as she looked at the boy. "He wants to come to school," she said. "He wants to learn; he's a smart child, but it's devastating to come to school and feel that way. His self-image was not a good one. It just broke my heart." What's worse: The boy was not alone. Lots of kids showed up every year looking just as vulnerable. "I saw children that came to school with very little sleep," said Ballesteros. "They wore hand-me-downs; they wore garage-sale clothing; they wore clothes that were two sizes too big or too small. They were hungry when they got to school. "They sleep with the windows open because the electricity to run air conditioning is too expensive." When the health of Ballesteros' mother began to decline, the teacher resigned and looked for a more flexible job situation so she could assist her mom. She found work at Manos de Cristo , a charity founded by a group of Presbyterian churches. A year later, she was tapped to lead the organization. Using a skeleton staff, Manos offers educational programs, food and clothing assistance and a dental clinic to low income people and families. "The goal of our program is that each child has the appropriate clothing, that fits them, and that they go to school well-prepared and are ready to start out on the same playing field as everybody else does," Ballesteros said. Along the way, the process, itself, becomes a big part of the benefit, as the children leave their parents behind, meet up with a volunteer and go, "shopping." "The volunteers interact with the children," said Ballesteros. "They learn what their likes and dislikes are. You know, they have a little bond going on." And as the kids pick out tops, shorts and socks, they actually get to make choices of their own. Ballesteros marvels at the good that gets done through "Back-to-School." Hundreds of people line up every day during the ten-day August distribution period, starting as early as 1:00 in the morning. If "Back-to-School" doesn't survive, children who depend on it will lose out on more than back packs, supplies and clothes. "In 2011, I really saw a population that looked so beaten," she said, "the look in their eyes, the look on their faces." It's

Christmas time in Austin, Texas, and at Manos de Cristo, but for the volunteers there, "Back-to-School," is bubbling away on the front burner."

12/10/11 Charter School Proposal

Duration 1:30 minutes

Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen seems convinced.. an in-district charter school in East Austin is a step in the right direction. Carstarphen says: We need to identify another entity to work in partnership with us to improve academic outcomes and implement our reconstitution plan. Parents and people who live in East Austin gathered today to show, they could not disagree more. Protester says: The message to the school board is the community says "no." Protester says: Our children are not lab mice, they do not need to be experimented on. Fernandez Jr. says: We as taxpayers should not be abandoned by AISD and giving it to a private entity. AISD wants IDEA Public Schools, a charter school group from South Texas to launch next year at Allen Elementary and they seem confident they'll succeed. Randazzo says: I think that when we launch, if we launch in the community and we partner with parents you'll see increased demand in the Austin School District as well. The IDEA charter points to success with low-income students and college-prep and a no-excuses relationship with parents. But critics say this is something that would never be tolerated in West or Central Austin and they want an equal education for all students no matter where they live. Noyola says: AISD will not take responsibility for its issues in the district, there's no reason why AISD should be allowed to educate one side of town but not the other. But you dont have to look far to know something must be done. The old Johnston High School was shut down for underperforming, re-opened under the name Eastside Memorial, and now faces closing again after an unsuccessful two years. Carstarphen says: You have a larger number of language learners, kids in poverty and other high needs that costs at a different level.

12/11/11 Hard Times For Brown Santa

Duration :45 seconds

Volunteers are running out of time at the *Brown Santa Headquarters*. That's because they need to drop off 2-thousand boxes of food for needy families next weekend. Right now they only have enough food to fill 500 boxes. Organizers say part of the problem is that they are trying to serve more families this year. Many are struggling with the economic situation and others are attempting to recover from the recent wildfires. But they say you can help with a simple donation. What is needed are non-perishable food items, canned goods, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and those types of items that we need to make the food boxes. We also give the families a turkey, so we need the money to pay for 2 thousand turkeys. It is going to run about \$15 thousand dollars to reach our goal.

Safety

10/9/11 Austin Police Dept. Safety

Duration :40 seconds

Firefighters, police officers and flight paramedics gathered at Barton Creek Square mall today. They weren't responding to an emergency but rather

providing the public with some education. Sears Department Store hosted the meet and greet with public safety personnel as well as military members. It gave people a chance to see the equipment our emergency crews use and ask them questions about how they perform their difficult jobs under stressful conditions. Sears hosted the event both yesterday and today. The company says it was the largest "multi emergency unit" get together in Central Texas history.

10/10/11 Bastrop Town Hall Meeting

Duration 1:20 minutes

Thirty minutes before the official start time, Bastrop County started showing up to the performing arts center expecting to head into the auditorium. Instead, tables lined the lobby with city, county and federal representatives ready to answer any question someone could throw their way. Ronnie Haberer says, "The station to station thing, I think is going to take a lot longer. It's more one on one." One on one communication is exactly what the county judge wanted. Ronnie McDonald, Bastrop County Judge says, "As we move forward in the recovery process, we want to ensure that everyone is getting the information they need." Sheri Burch and her two grandchildren are renting a duplex, and anxious to rebuild the home they lost in the wildfire. Sheri Burch who lost her home says, "I'm trying to find out about bulldozers and stuff to get my property cleared." Many others had questions about debris removal and pick-up, too, it was one of the longest lines. Others wanted to know what it's going to take to get one of the biggest attractions of the area back open Bastrop State Park. Todd McClanahan of Bastrop & Beuscher State Park Superintendent says, "We're hopeful that probably about the first of December we'll be able to open most of the campgrounds. This is all hinging on how much progress we make on the tree removal." While a lot of attention is on rebuilding, Suzanne Slipher is still worried about losing her home. She gave the county judge an earful about neighbors she says have been burning trash while the county is under a burn ban. Suzanne Slipher a concerned resident says, "And I'm going to try to get this stopped. Wherever I'll have to go I'll get it stopped."

10/10/11 Rain and Drought

Duration :15 seconds

A little bit of rain meant a lot of saving for Austin Water. The water utility says a little more than two inches of rain saved nearly 40 million gallons of water Sunday. They hope cooler temperatures will mean even more conservation. Jason Hill of Austin Water says "There has been definite and immediate impact for us for water usage over weekend because of rain, most people didn't use outdoor irrigation system because mother nature did it for us." Austin water customers are still under stage 2 restrictions.

11/11/11 Airport Scanners

Duration :40 seconds

Controversial "full body scanners" will be up and running at Austin's airport by the end of the month. The T-S-A says these scanners use the latest technology.

You might remember the first generation of scanners showed a sometimes revealing picture of the passenger that passed through them. The feds say the scanners coming to Austin will only show an outline of the person's body. And to all the groups opposing them, Austin's mayor says there's not much the city can do. Mayor Leffingwell said that "If the city of Austin were to choose not to allow body scanners, people couldn't get on the airplane, they wouldn't be allowed to get on the airplanes." You can opt out of going through a scanner, but if you do, more than likely you'll have to go through a full body pat down.

12/14/11 Border Troops

Duration :40 seconds

Fewer U.S. Troops will soon be guarding the Mexican border. The Obama Administration plans to reduce the number of National Guard troops on the border next year. Right now, about 12 hundred troops are deployed in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. This comes at a time when Mexican border arrests are at their lowest rate in some 40 years. The move won't affect the number of border patrol agents. But Texas Congressman Michael McCaul, who serves on the House Homeland Security Committee opposes scaling back the troops. His office today said technology and intelligence is headed in the right direction... but is not a substitute for boots on the ground.

Government

10/10/11 Redistricting Candidate

Duration 1:05 minutes

A controversy is brewing right here in Travis County when it comes to a Republican House district. Critics say it's a conflict of interest, one of main people who helped draw the map is now running in one of the altered districts. Once a decade, state lawmakers re-draw district lines, deciding where you will vote. As top lawyer to the House Redistricting Committee last session, Republican "Ryan Downton" worked with members to create the state map eventually approved by the legislature. As a result, Travis County's only GOP-held district 47 soon grew to cover the entire western side of the county... and now includes Downton's home. Ryan Downton: "I don't think it's fair to criticize people for wanting to be involved and have a role in government, and that's what I was doing." Kirsten Gray, Texas Democratic Party: "Ryan Downton should absolutely respect that this is a tremendous conflict of interest and bow out of this race." The House Redistricting chair tells us Downton did not draw the map from scratch, that he worked with the Travis County delegation to come up with the best map. That group included Republican "Paul Workman" the man Downton is now challenging.

10/10/11 Occupy Austin

Duration 1:05 minutes

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part of what protesters are angry about as they gather around the country under the "occupy wall street" banner. This is a live look at the protests in downtown Austin. The people you see here and many more during the day have been spreading their message for five days now. The issues they're talking about include: corporate irresponsibility, outsourcing, taxing the rich and more. Glenn Sitton: I came out because I don't think the processes are working to protest average folk from corporate greed. Corporations are getting away with not paying their fair share of taxes among other things. A.J.: I figure at this point people need to do something. Just that we're all getting together and letting our voices be heard. Something has to change. The wet weekend weather didn't deter these protestors. Organizers say they had about 100 campers stay at city hall through the rain and overnight.

10/10/11 GOP Debate Preview

Duration :40 seconds

Tonight, Governor Rick Perry is getting ready for a debate he hopes will get his sagging campaign back on track. He'll face his opponents for the GOP presidential nomination tomorrow night in Dartmouth, New Hampshire. Perry is going through practice sessions, reportedly with a stand-in for Romney on the stage. His advisers are also said to be telling Perry to get more sleep after three disappointing debate performances. Political analysts say at this point, Perry needs to focus directly on his high points, the economy and job creation in Texas. "He prepares for everything he does. He's going to be in good shape tomorrow night and in the weeks going forward." Perry has come in third in a number of recent polls behind "Mitt Romney" and pizza magnate "Herman Cain."

11/13/11 Anita Perry Speaks About Campaign

Duration :45 seconds

Texas First Lady "Anita Perry" says her husband's opponents for the Republican presidential nomination are targeting him unfairly because of his religious faith. Anita Perry: "We are being brutalized by our opponents, and our own party. So much of that is, I think they look at him, because of his faith. He is the only true conservative - well, there are some conservatives. And they're there for good reasons. And they may feel like God called them too. But I truly feel like we are here for that purpose." The Perry campaign has struggled in recent weeks. Perry has finished in third and fourth place among G-O-P presidential candidates in a series of recent polls.

12/13/11 Holder Voting Rights

Duration 1:00 minute

Tonight, U-S Attorney General "Eric Holder" was in Austin to talk "voting rights." He discussed the importance of equal access to the ballot box during this address at the LBJ Presidential Library. The Attorney General also brought up the current fight over Texas election maps. Holder said those maps were drawn with the goal of reducing the impact of minority voters. Eric Holder said: The most recent census data indicated that Texas has gained more than 4 million new residents. The vast majority of whom are Hispanic and that this growth allows for 4 new

congressional seats. However, the state has proposed adding zero additional seats in which Hispanics would have the electoral opportunity envisioned by the Voting Right Act. Holder said that's why the Justice Department is now challenging proposed redistricting plans for both the State House and the Texas Congressional delegation. The case is going to the U-S Supreme Court which last Friday halted the use of judge-drawn maps that favored minority candidates in 2012.

Focus on Positive and Good News

11/11/11 Helping Hands

Duration :35 seconds

Several Central Texans were honored today as Champions for Children. They were recognized at the Helping Hand Home For Children's annual luncheon in downtown Austin. I was lucky to be a part of the event highlighting the work the honorees have done to better the lives of children. Some of the most abused and neglected children in Texas live at The Helping Hand Home for Children. Marsha Lockett with Helping Hand Home Board of Directors says, "They live there 24-7. Christmas Day they're there. We have wonderful things going on for them. Each child is so loved on and so secure. It's the best place they've ever been." The Helping Hand Home has been around since 1893.

11/12/11 Tree vs. Development

Duration 1:00 minute

Plans for a new high rise in downtown Austin are on hold thanks to a 70 year old tree. Last night the city's planning commission denied a request from the developer to cut the tree down. The 57 foot tall tree near the intersection of West 5th and Bowie is protected by the city's heritage tree ordinance. To cut down a tree 30 inches in diameter or more you have to get permission from the city. The chairman of the commission voted against allowing the developer to cut the tree down. But, he says the tree in question doesn't really serve the public because it's on private property surrounded by asphalt. He believes the city should look at changing the ordinance to allow some trees to come down, but only if other trees are planted in its place. Perhaps in the downtown area we should have some kind of formula where we look at the value of the tree and I don't mean the monetary value, but how much does it mean to people. The decision by the planning commission is final. The developer will have to work around the tree.

12/12/11 Traffic Fixes

Duration :20 seconds

Look for traffic to get even better at two other busy intersections soon. By March or April, the flyover at 290 and MoPac will be complete. And work is about to get underway at an improved intersection at William Cannon and 290. That won't be complete for at least another year, but it's expected to cut congestion in half.

12/13/11 Ft. Bliss Troops Return

Duration :40 seconds

It will be a special Christmas for some Texas military families. With spouses and children waiting, some 200 soldiers returned to Fort Bliss, near El Paso this morning, just in time for the holidays. The unit was deployed to Iraq in August and expected to stay for 12 months, until the decision came to remove all troops from Iraq by the end of the year. One wife was quoted "No more stress for me, because I do get stress when he leaves. I have to take care of everything. And now I'm happy because he's coming home, and I know he's coming home alive." Their mission was to train, advise and assist the Iraqi army. But now they get to celebrate, enjoy and relax with their families.

12/13/11 360 Trees

Duration :30 seconds

Take a drive along the northern stretch of 360 in West Austin, and you'll find a mile or so of Christmas cheer! Stealthy elves have decorated even more trees along the highway this year with tons of tinsel and ornaments. Some got creative, spray painting what look like water bottles to hang from the branches. There are also homemade cards and tributes to loved ones. All you secret tree trimmers out there, keep in mind, if you don't take down your decorations, the clean-up will fall to TxDOT.

12/13/11 Quieter Commercials

Duration :20 seconds

You know those loud commercials on your television? Well, they're about to leave quietly. The F-C-C is expected to pass regulations requiring commercials to maintain the constant volume levels as the programs they interrupt. President Obama signed a measure into law last year giving the F-C-C authority to address the problem.

Crime

11/11/11 Terror Plot in Pflugerville

Duration 1:30 minutes

Outside the two story home decorated for Halloween--neighbors worry about something much more frightening. "To know that it's this close to where I live it's frustrating, it's upsetting." According to DPS, Manssor Arbabsiar, one of the men allegedly behind an ambassador assassination and embassy bombing plot, listed this home as his address. But Arbabsiar's estranged wife, Martha Guerrero, says he only used the address to get a drivers license. Martha Guerrero/Ex-Wife: "We've been separated for a long time, we don't have a relationship, we don't have anything to do with each other." Guerrero says she doesn't believe the charges against her ex, says he only stopped by every once in awhile to see his kids, and she worries what the media attention is doing to her family. This is going to jeopardize our jobs, our lives, the neighbors. We don't want that. My family and I just want to be in peace and move on like we were. We have absolutely nothing to do with this. But neighbors say they saw Arbabsiar just weeks before his arrest last month and say whenever he was in town, he acted

strangely. "He always was in the front yard talking on the phone, walking, pacing the front yard everyday." "He was really different. He would come outside at night talk really loud on the phone in a different language pace the sidewalks and smoke cigarettes."

11/12/11 Car Sales Scam

Duration 1:45 minutes

Last month, Michelle Chrisner was searching for a used car. Michelle Chrisner a Car Scam victim says, "I just needed something more reliable than the truck that I had." This bright yellow one caught her eye on Craigslist. "Me and my dad shot up to Austin and they had a bunch of other cars that were there." She decided to go with this Jeep after a test drive, and came back with 55-hundred dollars cash to pay for the s-u-v. The salesman from Urrutia Body Shop whose business card says his name was Jose Antonio told her the s-u-v was a 2004 model. "Got the car that day and I started driving home and realized this was an '02 vehicle." Michelle says a similar 2002 Jeep was listed on Craiglist for a thousand dollars less. When she called to get some money back - they told her that wouldn't be possible and that she'd had to give the car back. And the title they promised would come in the mail, never arrived. After some digging, Michelle discovered the car was still insured by someone else. She went back to the lot here on Prairie Trail near Braker and North Lamar. Only to find the shop shut down and an eviction notice on the door. Erin Cargile in North Austin says, "But what police say Michelle didn't know is the Jeep she bought actually belonged to somebody else who dropped it off here to just get some repair work done." The Jeep's owner had filed a report with Austin police. But the deceit didn't stop there. "Talking with the detective she said about six people had put money down on this vehicle, had come back to pay for it and the car's not there which is how I ended up with it." So far, 21 people either out of money or without a car have contacted police. Some scammed out of as much as 50-thousand dollars. And police believe there are many more they haven't met. "I just feel bad that I have the car and there's like six other people who lost out of a lot of money and they don't have the car."

11/12/11 Cartel Assassins

Duration 1:00 minute

The alleged terror plot to kill Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the U-S has put residents in Central Texas on alert. One of the suspects, 'Manssor Arbabsiar' called Pflugerville home. And the fact that the plot involved hiring hit men from Mexican drug cartels is also a big concern. Intelligence officials say that's not likely the cartels would actually carry out such an attack, because they don't want to hurt their business by jumping into international terrorism. But Austin Congressman Michael McCaul - the chair of the subcommittee on homeland security - says terrorists' presence just across our border is still a problem. Congressman Michael McCaul, R-Texas: "When you talk to the Mexican government, as I have, they will admit that there are many Iranian operatives in Mexico. They don't have a real accounting." McCaul also says there's evidence the Iranian government played some part in this foiled attack. He even went so far as

to say this latest move could "constitute an act of war" and might force "some type of retaliation."

12/12/11 Violent Crime Spike

Duration :45 seconds

While most of Austin is seeing a decrease in violent crime over the past year - that is not the case in Downtown Austin. According to new numbers downtown Austin has seen a 30 percent increase in violent crime since November of last year. Robberies are up 36 percent - while aggravated assaults are up 30 percent. *The Downtown Austin Alliance* works with A-P-D and the city to fund crime prevention programs. They think the increase is due to the fact that last year the numbers were at a five year low. We know coming off a very good year like that, even small increases in the number of crimes could represent more significant looking percentage increase. Across the city, overall crime was down almost five and half percent while violent crime was down almost eight percent.

12/13/11 Mexican Mafia Bust

Duration :40 seconds

The Central Texas leaders of one of the worst prison gangs in the country are now behind bars. 17 members of the Mexican Mafia all pleaded guilty last week in federal prison to an array of charges. They include extortion, robbery, burglary, engaging in organized crime, aggravated assault, and other weapons and drugs violations. Four of the men arrested were also charged in the murder of a Hays county man back in August of 2010. Ultimately this is a win for this entire community, and I think that the important message for the entire community is that they are our eyes and ears. When they see these issues going on in their neighborhoods they need to call it in. In all, the 17 arrested will spend more than 302 years behind bars.