



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: KXAN Public Files  
RE: Issues and Programs Report – Third Quarter 2012  
July 1 – September 30  
DATE: October 5, 2012

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

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**

<b>NAME OF PROGRAM</b>	<b>DAYS AIRED</b>	<b>TIME AIRED</b>
Austin News Today	<b>Monday-Sunday</b>	(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.

## EDUCATION

### 7/16/12 School Bankruptcy

Duration 1:30 minutes

Children jumping for joy at Jackie's Private school, but little do they know they were very close to not seeing their playmates here again. "I love it here, the teachers are all great I like them." While kids smile and play owner Jackie Smith has been quietly fighting to stay afloat for several months after falling behind on payments due to hard economic times. The 33 year old landmark was at risk of shutting down with little notice. Jeana Ohlen a parent says "Right now a lot of disbelief and heart ache, the school has been very important in our lives and I'm just so sad" Tina Richards another parent says "Ahhh, Devastation, really, ah, my 11 year old has really cried for several day, we've shed lots of tears" But a last minute effort to save the school came late today, as parents, teachers and students packed the bankruptcy hearing supporting Smith. Late today, both sides reached an agreement which meant keeping the school doors open. A deal which including a purchase offer by a new owner was the last minute miracle parents were looking for. Tina Richards a parent says "Amazing, Amazing, Amazing, they worked together and they got it done." Now Smith wears a big smile, says she's ready to get back to work Jackie Smith, Jackie's Private School Owner "Everybody better show up to work tomorrow and bring my babies put them where they belong and just be grateful that Plains Capitol and Jackie's has been able to come together" Teachers are feeling high again. Treva Richardson a teacher says "Going back to work? Yea tomorrow morning 9am woohoo!! There's still deadlines and financial terms to be met, but judging from happy faces, happy times are here again. In South Austin, Ignacio Garcia, KXAN news

### 7/16/12 School Roof Blown Down

Duration :20 seconds

Severe weather last night left some high school students cleaning up a BIG mess today. Strong winds blew a metal roof off a barn on a farm behind McNeil high school in Round The wind tore support poles out of the ground and folded the roof in half. The barn housed more than a dozen sheep and goats. Members of the school's Future Farmers Of America are now building temporary homes for the animals.

### 8/14/12 Pink Bus Service

Duration :45 seconds

A new service can help women get mammograms no matter where they live in the city. Seton Healthcare rolled out their Big Pink Bus. It's a mobile mammogram operation that can make a difference in the lives of women who have little money or no insurance. It's equipped with digital testing equipment and an exam room. While Seton has provided mobile mammograms for nearly 25 years, this bus will allow for state of the art health-care that will travel to 140 locations. "We did 2,113 mammograms this year, we are now having a joint venture with Central Health and will be able to serve another 1,000 patients," said Dawn Parsons, RN, Clinical Manager Cancer Screenings Seton Health-care. You have to make an appointment to get a mammogram on this bus.

### 9/10/12 AISD Facilities Plan

Duration :30 seconds

Tonight, school leaders in Austin are looking at a plan that could dramatically change education for some students. One part of the "facilities master plan" getting the most attention is a proposal to turn two middle schools into single-sex campuses. Pearce and Garcia Middle schools both received a rating of "academically unacceptable" from the state last year. If approved, parents will have the option of sending their children to these schools - or transferring to other schools with both genders.

9/13/12 Nursing Disaster Drills

Duration :45 seconds

Today the U-T School of Nursing prepared students for the reality of what they might face on the job someday. A disaster drill used an industrial explosion as the "setup" for the exercise. The students learn how to work fast, and efficiently. Dr. Marilyn Pattillo R.N. PhD "There are 100 victims out there. They can't treat everybody. They have to figure out how the victims are categorized, so it's the greatest good for the greatest number. Some people will die. Jillian Ricciardi, a U.T. Nursing Student said "That's our job now, to respond to Hurricane Katrina, different things like that. I think that was really eye opening, I'm not only working the hospital when an emergency happens like this we're going to be out there responding." Last year UT-Austin won a national award from the Association of Nursing Colleges for their innovations in education.

## **POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

7/16/12 President Obama's Visit

Duration :30 seconds

The final security preparations are under way ahead of President Obama's fundraising visit to Central Texas. Tomorrow, the President will speak in San Antonio and Austin. His event at the Austin Music Hall will mean several downtown streets will be closed to traffic. Those include Second, Third, Guadalupe, Lavaca, and San Antonio Streets. President Obama will take to the podium at 5:45 tomorrow evening. The tickets range in price from 250 dollars per person to 75-hundred for a couple to get a picture with the President.

7/18/12 The Administration Seeks Drought Help From Congress

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The Obama administration called on Congress Wednesday to assist farmers suffering from the worst drought in 25 years. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said three-fifths of the U.S. land mass and much of the country's corn and soybean crops have been affected by the lack of rain. Vilsack met with President Barack Obama Wednesday to discuss a response to the disaster. Vilsack said farmers need Congress to pass a five-year \$500 billion farm and nutrition bill that is awaiting action in the House of Representatives or at least approve additional disaster programs or provide more flexibility in the availability of credit. The administration has declared drought disasters in one third of the counties in the country, making them eligible for assistance such as low interest loans. Vilsack cautioned consumers about potential price gouging in the short-term, saying any

increase in retail costs would likely come late this year and next year. In fact, he said, the price of beef, chicken and poultry could well go down in the short term as producers reduce their stocks in the face of higher feed costs. Vilsack also said that despite the drought, corn crops are on track to having the "If in fact people are beginning see food price increases now, it is not in any way shape or form related to the drought and we should be very careful to keep an eye on that to make sure that people don not take advantage of a very difficult and painful situation," Vilsack said. The farm bill passed the Senate and cleared the House Agriculture Committee on a bipartisan vote. House Speaker John Boehner has not scheduled a vote on the legislation, but lawmakers representing rural regions were pressing him to accelerate action on the bill. Reps. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and Peter Welch, D-Vt., were collecting signatures from their colleagues urging passage before the August congressional recess. Asked about the role of prayer in addressing the drought, Vilsack said "If I had a rain prayer or rain dance I could do, I would do it."

#### 8/13/12 Perry Campaigns for Romney

Duration :30 seconds

The presumed Republican Nominee for president is enjoying support from a former foe. Mitt Romney and Governor Rick Perry squared off for the Republican presidential nomination. But now Perry is making a campaign appearance on Romney's behalf. Perry is headlining the opening of a Romney campaign field office in Elko, Nevada. Romney will not be at the event. Perry dropped out of the G-O-P race in January and, at first, endorsed Newt Gingrich before switching his support to Romney.

#### 8/13/12 Obama Tour Begins

Duration :20 seconds

Mitt Romney and Governor Rick Perry squared off for the Republican presidential nomination. But now Perry is making a campaign appearance on Romney's behalf. Perry is headlining the opening of a Romney campaign field office in Elko, Nevada. Romney will not be at the event. Perry dropped out of the G-O-P race in January and, at first, endorsed Newt Gingrich before switching his support to Romney.

#### 9/10/12 City Council Budget

Duration :45 seconds

Austin Mayor "Lee Leffingwell" raised some eyebrows and then was quickly voted down at city council. Saying Austin homeowners are overburdened with taxes, the Mayor proposed a budget cut that would significantly decrease the city's proposed property tax hike. But Leffingwell got zero support for spending cuts during today's budget workshop. Council members said that the proposal that asked for an across-the-board budget slash for all city departments - excluding public safety - was too much to ask. Even public safety officials say they are walking the line with the budget give and take. The overtime is something we use to address any new threat or emerging pattern. Our budget on overtime used to be about 10 million now it's down about 2/12 million to what's allocated. The council is also set to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday as they try to finalize the budget by the end of the week.

9/11/12 UT Remembers Thousands Killed on 9/11/12

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3,000 miniature flags are a reminder of lives lost. The Young Conservatives of Texas planted thousands of miniature American flags on the highly trafficked South Lawn of the University of Texas as a prominent reminder of the lives lost 11 years ago on this day. The placing of the flags is something that the UT group has done every year since 2002 to remember the worst terrorist attack on American soil. "It is critical that we never forget those lost on that horrific day 11 years ago," said YCT UT Chairman John Horton. "This is a way of honoring those victims and ensuring that they will never be forgotten." It took about 30 people including students and even professors working at 10:30 p.m. Monday to finish planting the 3,000 flags in two hours. The organization often has outside citizens, other students, professors and staff show up to help plant the flags each year.

## **CRIME**

7/12/12 Soldier Represents Himself at Sentencing

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An AWOL soldier convicted of planning to blow up a restaurant full of Fort Hood soldiers will represent himself when he's sentenced next month. Army Private First Class Naser Jason Abdo told U.S. District Judge Walter Smith during a Thursday hearing in Waco, Texas, that he and his attorneys weren't communicating effectively. Smith granted Abdo's request to represent himself at his Aug. 10 sentencing. Abdo faces up to life in prison. He was convicted in May on six federal charges, including attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction. Abdo was AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky., when he was arrested last summer at a Fort Hood-area motel with bomb-making materials. As during his trial, Abdo was forced to wear a mask Thursday to prevent him from spitting on marshals.

7/23/12 Police Focus on Downtown Crime

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Austin Police are looking for a person who shot and injured four people on Sixth Street as the bars were closing early Sunday morning. Police said the shooter was captured on one of the department's Downtown cameras and officers are pouring over hours of video to locate the man, who is described as heavy set and Hispanic. "They're great. they're an asset- a deterrent? No I don't think they're so much a deterrent- I don't think we've got the signage up on them that makes it very clear that you're being monitored in this area," said Downtown Commander John Romoser. Romoser also said signs warning people the area is monitored by cameras should arrive soon. In the meantime, officers are using the cameras and extra lighting to help fight crime Downtown. "When there's more light in the Downtown area- we're noticing there's less crime in those specific areas," said Romoser. APD is working with Austin Energy to install LED lighting in higher crime areas Downtown. The police department is also making officers more visible by turning on their flashing lights when the bars close and a surge of people hit downtown. "We have undercover operations that go on Downtown because drugs draw a lot of people into the area so we do buy busts where we're buying from the dealers and then making arrests -

that causes reductions in crime, as well," said Romoser. Despite rising violent crime statistics, business owners and police are confident people will continue to visit Downtown. "We still maintain that there's no reason to be worried about it- crime is up but only a little bit- compared to last year," said Romoser. "Year to date- violent crime is up- but only by 17 crimes- so from our perspective it's not a horrendous amount." Police found a gun they believe was used in the Sunday morning shooting in a dumpster near the intersection where it happened.

#### 8/13/12 Murder at Govalle Home

Duration 2:00 minutes

Nina Ramos stood on her front porch Friday, her prayer book in hand and her thoughts were with her neighbors. Across the street, Javier Rodriguez Senior is talking to police who have returned to search his home two days after witnesses say his son shot and killed 19-year-old Ashley Perez in the street. Friday a crime scene unit was parked outside the Rodriguez home and officers took away several bags of evidence as detectives searched the property. Investigators say Ashley and Javier had an ongoing argument over money, and Wednesday Ashley and a friend show up to Javier's home. Scott says an argument ensued in the street in the 3600 block of Govalle in which resulted in Ashley being shot multiple times. Witnesses said Javier, Jr. shot Ashley several times and then ran away. But Friday, investigators dropped a bombshell about what else happened that morning. But police want to find Javier, Jr. who has been missing since the shooting. Nina said that she knew him since he was born and doesn't think he would hurt anybody. But he is no stranger to trouble. Rodriguez has been arrested several times- assault causing bodily injury- possession of a controlled substance- and possession with the intent to distribute all felony convictions. And because he is a felon, Javier Rodriguez, Jr. wasn't supposed to have a firearm. He faces charges now for that but any murder charges will be decided by a grand jury. For Nina the prayers continue for her neighbors and everyone involved.

#### 8/16/12 Air Force Scandal

Duration :30 seconds

Court-martial proceedings began today at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for Staff Sergeant Luis Walker. He is accused of sexually assaulting ten female recruits in basic training at Lackland. Military officials say Walker first flirted with the women, but then it turned to threats and intimidation and eventually rape. Walker is among a dozen instructors investigated for sexual abuse against at least 31 female recruits. It's considered the worst sex abuse scandal in the U-S military in more than 20 years.

#### 9/12/12 Dry Season Burglary

Duration 1:45 minutes

Last week, Ronnie Carlson came home from work to find his normally spotless home in disarray. Ronnie Carlson who was burglarized says, "I noticed my lights on in my house, and all the cabinets and drawers in my bedroom had been gone through." Damage shows someone tried to kick in the back door and when the plan failed, they threw a flower pot through his kitchen window and climbed inside. "He had passed up a laptop that was sitting on my couch, the normal TV's stuff like that an iPad, and went for the medicine cabinet likely hunting for prescription pills. My blood pressure kind of raised up. I got kind of mad at first and then I kind of settled down to called 911. Then, the computer

expert remembered he was prepared for a crime like this. There's three cameras, the front yard, the kitchen where we are now and the side yard. Not only were they recording when we pulled up and during our interview, but the burglar's movement triggered one of the cameras when he was leaving. An Hispanic man pulled around to the side of the house in an orange chevy hatchback and ran to the backyard to retrieve a bucket of painting materials he brought with him to make it look like he was working. Even if you don't recognize his face you might notice his ride. It's an odd car, a burnt orange hatchback that's definitely a car that sticks in my mind. Ronnie installed the surveillance system a few months ago after his North Austin neighborhood, Pioneer Crossing, suffered a string of break-ins. Police are working the case, and Ronnie has posted flyers around the neighborhood. He's also made some changes that could have prevented the crime all together adding a lock to his gate and using his security alarm. "I was kind of like this would never happen to me and of course it did."

9/13/12 Embassy Violence

Duration 1:00 minute

Tonight all American personnel have been pulled from the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. That follows the death of the U.S. ambassador and three others. At the same time the violence in the Arab world over a anti-Muslim film made in America is spreading. In Yemen rioters got out of control with a mob storming the U.S. embassy complex in Sanaa before police regained control. Similar scenes in Egypt and at least eleven other countries took place. The film called 'Innocence of Muslims' was made in the U.S. The movie mock's Islam's Prophet Mohamed and depicts him as a womanizer and killer. Originally published on YouTube in July, but it didn't receive attention until segments were aired on Egyptian television. U.S. officials have tried to point out that the government had nothing to do with this movie. Hillary Clinton/Secretary of State says: "Let me state very clearly and I hope it is obvious that the United States government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message." YouTube has since restricted the video in Libya and Egypt.

## **SAFETY & FAMILY VALUES**

7/18/12 With sun and heat returning, think UV Safety

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After a wetter than normal July so far, our weather pattern is finally turning drier and hotter. By Friday, a ridge of high pressure will set up over the Midwest. Central Texas will be on the southern periphery of it. That means our rain chances end and our temps will climb into the upper 90s each afternoon through the weekend. With more sunshine expected, now's the time to brush up on your sun safety! July is UV Safety Month. The sun emits radiation in the form of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. UV radiation is at its highest when and where the sun's rays are the strongest. This means that UV levels will be highest around noon on a clear sunny day, as well as during the summer months. UV levels will also be highest near surfaces that reflect sunlight, such as water, snow and sand. Exposure to UV can cause sunburn, skin aging, skin cancer and eye damage. While skin cancer is largely preventable, it is the most common form of cancer in the United States – over 3.5 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year. *Wear*

*sunscreens:* Sunscreens with SPF (Sun Protection Factor) 15 and above provide protection by preventing UV radiation from reaching your skin. *Wear sunglasses:* Protect your eyes with sunglasses that have 100 percent UV protection. Check the label for the protection level. *Work and play in the shade:* When you are outside, wear tightly woven clothing and a wide brimmed hat to reduce the amount of UV radiation coming into contact with your skin. Remember that pets need shade, too. Before you head outside, check the UV Index at [www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html).

#### 7/16/12 Parenting Magazine List

Duration :25 seconds

Austin's schools and open parks landed it among some of the best cities in the country to raise a family. Parenting Magazine ranked Austin number four on their list. The magazine calls Austin a "unique oasis in the Lone Star State." The editors say Austin's family friendly outdoor festivals provide plenty to do for the kids. Three New England cities, Boston, Burlington, Vermont, and Portland Maine topped the list.

#### 8/13/12 Payne Avenue Explosion

Duration 1:40 minutes

The day the explosion happened, neighbors were saying that many including Ferrovocchio had been complaining to Texas Gas Service about the smell of gas, but nothing got fixed. Well now a 92-page report offers some scathing criticisms of how the gas service handled the whole situation. It all began on November 25th. That's the first time an odor was reported. On that day, workers found the leak and downgraded it. They then waited a month, to repair the leak on December 29th and found that it was under the driveway of Renald Ferrovocchio's house and that they'd need a permit to dig underneath. But, the report says although the repairs were rescheduled, it was not monitored to make sure it wouldn't turn dangerous. By now we know it did on January 9th. The report goes on and says there were three main areas where the gas service failed. The first has to do with how the leak was graded. They say they never accurately graded how dangerous it could be. Secondly, the workers doing that grading did not have the proper training or experience to investigate the leak properly. And finally, the correct procedure for analyzing accidents was not followed because they did not take samples of the pipe that was leaking. Before this report was released, Texas Gas Service said they thought the explosion was due to the drought and shifting soil causing the pipes breaks, and they say a third-party actually took a look at the leak. But the railroad commission report says during the original call in November that the leak was downgraded by gas service workers who were not even at the site at the time the investigation was going on.

#### 8/15/12 Local Dream Act

Duration :45 seconds

This whole program came about in June through an executive order by President Obama. Critics say this amounts to a backdoor amnesty idea and that it still isn't the big fix the nation's immigration laws need. But for students today at the University of Texas it was a cause for celebration. The cries were heard "Up up with education, down down with deportation." A few dozen immigrants who fall under all the criteria for the deferred action held a rally on campus. They say the two year reprieve gives them a chance to plan

their futures. Edilsa Lopez, a Guatemalan Immigrant said “we'll finally plan our lives to finally live without fear of deportation.” Members of the University Leadership Initiative say they will continue to fight for permanent amnesty and the passage of the Dream Act the immigration plan that was stopped by congress leading to the president's executive order.

9/13/12

Manor Bus Driver

Duration :55 seconds

*Manor Police* want parents to talk with their children tonight to see if they have any information following the firing of a bus driver who was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a elementary school girl. Manor Police said surveillance tape shows Gilberto Briseno sexually assault the young girl. According to the affidavit, the girl said the abuse has been happening for four years, and would happen while they were the only two on the bus. Other parents have begun to receive letters and voice mails from the district telling them about this situation. One parent waiting to pick his kids up told us the news is discouraging. John Guerra, a Manor Elementary Parent “it's heartbreaking. We moved to Austin from Manor hoping for a better school and better staff. It makes you wonder. The district says they do conduct background checks. Briseno is a 12-year veteran driver of the district.

9/13/12 APD Auto – Pedestrian Safety

Duration :25 seconds

Police in Austin are hoping new policies will help save lives after one of the deadliest summers for pedestrians hit by cars. So far this year 22 people have died in traffic accidents. That's on pace to set a record. With so many deaths, Austin Police started a campaign to reach out to pedestrians and drivers. Today, Chief Art Acevedo credited that program with cutting the death rate by two-thirds.